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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 1-2-26

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[2025 in Review: Operations Improvements See PJM Through Record Peaks, Growing Demand](#) - PJM maintained reliability through peak weather conditions amid growing demand and tightening reserve margins.

[U.S. Breaks 15-Year Run Of Coal Declines With Increased Demand](#) - The International Energy Agency (IEA) reports that global coal demand is expected to reach a new record high in 2025.

[FirstEnergy agrees to \\$275M settlement to end PUCO investigations into HB 6 violations](#) - FirstEnergy's \$275 million settlement would compensate Ohio customers and end investigations into the House Bill 6 scandal. The settlement must be approved by PUCO.

[Large load tariffs could streamline interconnection by shrinking queues: Enverus](#) - Three dozen U.S. utilities have adopted new large-load tariffs, with three to five of those tailored specifically to data centers, according to recent analysis by Enverus Intelligence Research.

[PJM Auction Procures 134,479 MW of Generation Resources](#) - PJM Interconnection today announced the results of its 2027/2028 Base Residual Auction (BRA), which secured 134,479 MW of unforced capacity generation (UCAP) and demand response (DR) to meet projected electricity needs for more than 67 million people across 13 states and the District of Columbia.

[PJM Outlines Long-Term Transmission Plan in FERC Filing](#) - PJM detailed in a Dec. 12 filing a new process for long-term planning of regional transmission facilities in compliance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Order 1920.

[What will it take to rebrand coal? This UW team is trying to find out](#) - When a product becomes really known for a particular thing, it can be hard to envision it for anything else.

[EIA cuts 2026 power generation forecast by more than a percentage point](#) - The Energy Information Administration revised down its projection based on how much large load electricity demand has come online so far this year, particularly in Texas.

[PJM Reviews Preliminary Recommended Projects for 2025 RTEP Window 1](#) - PJM reviewed the proposals being considered for the 2025 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan Window 1 during the Dec. 8 meeting of the Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee (TEAC).

[Old Man River and the Lackawanna River Conservation Association \(LRCA\) Awarded \\$1945 ARIPPA EPCAMR Mini-Grant](#) - EPCAMR would like to announce an early Christmas present to the Lackawanna River Conservation Association before the Holidays.

[PJM, others challenge large load interconnection filings at FERC](#) - The Data Center Coalition and the PJM Power Providers Group, or P3, on Friday asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to dismiss a complaint that asks the agency to find that the PJM Interconnection can deny large load interconnections if they threaten grid reliability.

[Surge in natural gas prices sets the stage for coal comeback](#) - As U.S. natural gas prices jumped to a three-year high, coal has become a cheaper power-generating fuel for utilities, which are set to run coal-fired generators harder this winter.

[Electric grid covering Pa. failing to plan for responsible data center load growth, observers say](#) - Power grid observers say the operator responsible for the regional flow of electricity is not doing enough about energy-hungry data centers.

[NextEra Energy Transmission and Exelon Power Pennsylvania and West Virginia's Energy Future](#) - The regional grid operator, PJM Interconnection, has recommended NextEra Energy Transmission and Exelon to deliver a critical energy infrastructure project as part of its 2025 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan.

[Spark and dark spreads indicate improved profitability of natural gas, coal power plants](#) - Higher average daily wholesale electricity prices between January and November 2025 may be improving the operational competitiveness of some natural gas- and coal-fired generators in the PJM Interconnection compared with the same period in 2024.

[With antitrust settlement, Constellation set to become largest US wholesale power provider](#) - Constellation Energy has agreed to sell six power plants and a minority stake in a seventh power plant to settle an antitrust complaint filed by the U.S. Department of Justice and the state of Texas, clearing the way for the company's \$26.6 billion deal to buy Calpine, the parties said Friday.

[The US power market is getting messy. Here's why.](#) - Electricity markets used to be predictable. In 2025, they're anything but.

[U.S. data center power demand could reach 106 GW by 2035: BloombergNEF](#) - U.S. data center power demand could reach 106 GW in 2035, BloombergNEF said Monday in one of the more aggressive load growth estimates to date.

[Why blocking new data centers may not fix PJM's price crisis](#) - As the grid transitions from decades of surplus to a new era of shortage, PJM has become ground zero for a debate over whether data center load is uniquely responsible for the current capacity crunch — or simply a forcing function that's accelerating a shift the region has long seen coming.

[Americans lost more power last year than any year in previous decade: EIA](#) - U.S. electricity customers experienced an average of 11 hours of power outages in 2024, nearly twice as many as the annual average across the previous decade, according to a new report from the Energy Information Administration.

[How AI Is Breathing New Life into Aging Coal-Fired Power Assets](#) - For years, some folks have considered coal-fired power plants relics of a bygone era, overshadowed by the rise of natural gas and renewables.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[DOE Uses Emergency Powers to Freeze More Than 2 GW of Coal Retirements as Opposition Intensifies](#) - The Department of Energy (DOE) issued four additional Section 202(c) emergency orders in December, directing utilities and grid operators to halt the retirement of coal-fired units—a combined capacity of more than 2 GW—across three regions: the Pacific Northwest, Midwest, and Mountain West.

[How Trump transformed energy, environmental policy this year](#) - Since President Trump's inauguration in January, the administration has embraced fossil fuels while eschewing renewable energy, climate actions and regulations.

[Senate Democrats end permitting reform talks over offshore wind freeze](#) - Senate Democrats ended permitting reform discussions after the Trump administration on Monday ordered work to halt on all offshore wind farms under construction, which total 7 GW.

[Trump administration halts all large-scale offshore wind projects under construction in US](#) - The Department of the Interior announced Monday that it is pausing the leases for "all large-scale offshore wind projects under construction" in the United States due to "national security risks" identified in "recently completed classified reports."

[FERC members raise alarms about PJM failure to meet reliability target](#) - The PJM Interconnection's failure to buy enough capacity to meet its reliability target in its most recent auction raised alarms among Federal Energy Regulatory Commission members at the agency's open meeting Thursday.

[House passes permitting reform bill with anti-offshore wind amendment](#) - The U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday passed permitting reform legislation, the SPEED Act, with an amendment that prevents the bill from applying to offshore wind projects.

[Feds pave the way for Big Tech to plug data centers right into power plants in scramble for energy](#) - Federal regulators will allow tech companies to effectively plug massive data centers directly into power plants, issuing a long-awaited order Thursday, as the Trump administration urges it to help the U.S. lead the world in artificial intelligence and revive domestic manufacturing.

[Court agrees to rehear \\$14B climate funding freeze case](#) - The nonprofit recipients of \$14 billion in climate grants frozen by the Environmental Protection Agency can have their case reheard, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said in a Wednesday ruling.

[EPA hears competing views on new rollbacks for wetlands, water protections](#) - This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency heard testimony in Pittsburgh from environmental groups, scientists and industry representatives about proposed changes to the enforcement of the Clean Water Act.

[US Energy Secretary says Three Mile Island restart delivers on Trump administration promises](#) - Microsoft and Constellation Energy's effort to restart the nuclear power plant at Three Mile Island to power artificial intelligence is a poster child for the Trump administration's agenda, U.S. Energy Secretary Christopher Wright said Wednesday.

[House passes bill to allow FERC to keep power plants from closing](#) - The House passed a bill Tuesday that would give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission authority to require retiring power plants to remain open if their closure could pose reliability concerns.

[Why EPA might purge climate skepticism from its endangerment repeal](#) - Deepening legal woes surrounding a Trump administration report that casts aspersions on climate science presents legal risks for EPA's effort to repeal the endangerment finding — unless it gives up its attempts to challenge the tenets of climate change.

[Energy secretary predicts that electricity prices will stop rising 'very soon'](#) - Energy Secretary Chris Wright expressed optimism that electricity prices will eventually come down.

[House Passes Bill to Protect Energy Supply and Lower Energy Costs](#) - Today, the House passed H.R. 3638, the Electric Supply Chain Act, led by Rep. Bob Latta (R-Ohio). The bill requires the Department of Energy to regularly review risks and vulnerabilities in the supply chains for electricity generation, transmission, and key grid components, helping prevent outages and lower energy costs for American families.

[Lawmakers oppose greens' call for data center moratorium](#) - Over 200 climate groups are urging Congress to pass a moratorium on new construction and approval for data centers.

[Federal judge declares Trump wind memo unlawful](#) - A federal judge on Monday ruled in favor of Massachusetts and more than a dozen states that sued the Trump administration in May over President Donald Trump's day-one offshore wind memo.

[FERC urged to reject AEP waiver request for PJM capacity sale](#) - Independent power producers and the PJM Interconnection's market monitor are urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reject a waiver request from American Electric Power utilities that would allow them to sell up to 750 MW in an upcoming "incremental" capacity auction.

[Trump admin will reconsider part of rule to protect miners from lung diseases](#) - The Trump administration says it will reconsider aspects of a rule that aims to protect miners from exposure to cancer-causing silica dust on the job.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Map shows growing number of data centers planned across Pennsylvania](#) - Emilia Doda didn't set out to map the data center boom. But after reading about a data center proposed across from her childhood home near Scranton, she decided to build a public map showing where data centers are planned in Pennsylvania — a tool for residents to learn more.

[Virginia Democrats hint at re-embrace of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative](#) - Virginia joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI, years ago with the hope of sharing the cost of improving environmental resilience and green energy across multiple states. But Governor Glenn Youngkin never liked the agreement and tried to pull the state out.

[Gov.-elect Spanberger outlines energy priorities with focus on efficiency, battery storage](#) - Gov.-elect Abigail Spanberger detailed how she plans to work with legislators to make utility bills more affordable, as the cost of electricity continues to rise across the commonwealth.

[PUC Votes to Advance Rulemaking to Modernize Electric Interconnection Regulations](#) - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today voted 5-0 to advance the development of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) aimed at modernizing the Commission's electric interconnection regulations to reflect today's evolving energy landscape.

[Springdale Council approves data center despite resident resistance](#) - Saying its hands were tied, Springdale Council approved an application to construct an AI data center in the borough.

[Virginia regulators weigh expanded use of data centers' polluting generators](#) - This past summer, a fire at an electrical substation forced data centers in Loudoun County to rely on backup diesel generators as their power source.

[Pa.'s Sunday, lawmakers contend with Trump order blocking state AI regulations](#) - In the wake of a Trump administration executive order striking state-level AI regulations, Pennsylvania will continue to prosecute its laws related to artificial intelligence in the interest of its residents, said state Attorney General Dave Sunday on Monday.

[Shapiro urges feds to consider comments on data centers connecting to PJM grid](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro is urging federal energy officials to consider comments from consumer advocates, state utility regulators and power companies before deciding a case that could determine how AI data centers and other large electricity users connect to the grid.

[Yaw Proposes Overhaul of EDGE to Promote Reliable Energy Investment](#) - Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23), chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, recently introduced legislation to restructure the Pennsylvania Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) tax credit program to prioritize and incentivize investment in baseload power generation.

[Lane says PSC has no plans to approve shutdown of coal-fired power plants](#) - State Public Service Commission Chairman Charlotte Lane says she has no plans to vote in favor of closing any coal-fired power plants in West Virginia.

[Chesapeake Bay council elects Shapiro to oversee new water pollution reduction agreement](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro touted Pennsylvania's achievements in reducing pollution, restoring streams and improving farming practices, as he was elected Tuesday to lead the multi-state program restoring the waters and ecology of the Chesapeake Bay.

[Focus of environmental policy shifts to lawmakers after Pa. exits clean energy compact](#) - What was once the centerpiece of Pennsylvania's clean energy push is dead. Long live clean energy?