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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 3-2-26

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[More interregional transmission could save consumers billions: study](#) - Adding transmission capacity between U.S. regions could save consumers billions in power supply costs by allowing lower cost power flow to high cost areas, according to a research paper released Tuesday.

[PJM, Stakeholders Begin Work on Board's Plan To Reliably Integrate Large Loads](#) - PJM and stakeholders are making headway on the six components outlined by the Board of Managers in its Jan. 16 plan to reliably meet the unprecedented growth in electricity demand from the rise of data centers and other large energy users in the PJM footprint.

[White House to host Big Tech in pledge to rein in power costs](#) - The White House said on Thursday it will host leading data center and artificial intelligence companies next week including Microsoft (MSFT.O), opens new tab, Anthropic and Meta Platforms (META.O), opens new tab to formalize a deal to shield consumers from rising power costs.

[PJM proposes behind-the-meter reforms in data center colocation effort](#) - The PJM Interconnection on Monday asked federal regulators to approve changes to its retail behind-the-meter generation rules as part of an effort to facilitate collocating generating resources with data centers.

[Retirement delays of U.S. electric generating capacity may continue in 2026](#) - U.S. power plant owners and operators plan to retire nearly 11 gigawatts (GW) of utility-scale electric generating capacity from the U.S. power grid this year, according to data reported to us in our latest Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory.

[Supreme Court takes up climate case testing local lawsuits against oil companies](#) - The Supreme Court announced Monday that it will hear a significant climate lawsuit in which oil companies are seeking to avoid being tried in state court.

[New Whitepaper Identifies Coal and Coal Waste as Strategic Source of Rare Earth Elements](#) - A new national-security–focused whitepaper, Unlocking Strategic Rare Earth Elements from Coal and Coal Waste Streams, presents a commercially grounded pathway for strengthening America's domestic rare earth element (REE) supply chain using coal-derived materials concentrated in Central Appalachia.

[Plans for 10-year park project advance in Swoyersville](#) - Plans for a new park in Swoyersville with land donated from where the Harry E. Colliery Coal Breaker once stood are moving forward.

[New U.S. electric generating capacity expected to reach a record high in 2026](#) - U.S. power plant developers and operators plan to add 86 gigawatts (GW) of new utility-scale electric generating capacity to the U.S. power grid in 2026 in our latest Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory report, a record if realized.

[US succeeds in erasing climate from global energy body's priorities](#) - The United States has succeeded in removing climate change from the main priorities of the International Energy Agency, following a tense ministerial meeting in Paris that reflected a dramatic shift in political mood around the clean energy transition.

[Pa.'s electric grid operator plans to cap some costs for 2 more years](#) - The regional operator for the electric grid that covers Pennsylvania has agreed to cap certain prices for the next two years, following pressure from Gov. Josh Shapiro.

[PJM Board Approves Transmission Improvements Needed for Grid Reliability](#) - The PJM Board of Managers on Feb. 12 approved multiple transmission projects to reinforce the reliability of the electric grid.

[Grid operator PJM touts performance during January, citing proactive communication and coordination](#) - Grid operator PJM and its transmission and generation owners said they maintained reliability of the electric system during the strongest sustained cold period that the PJM system has experienced since the 1990s, because of proactive communication and coordination that helped maximize generator and transmission availability and performance.

[US Power Grid Sees Dramatic Surge in Electricity Costs Amid Winter Freeze](#) - In January, electricity prices on the nation's largest power grid soared to more than twice their previous levels as a severe cold snap swept across the US, driving up heating needs and prompting grid operators to bolster energy supplies to prevent outages.

[New Report: 2025 Coal Use Saved Americans \\$30-\\$40 Billion](#) - A new report by Energy Ventures Analysis (EVA) finds that, in 2025, coal generation served as an important buffer against energy inflation due to rising natural gas prices, electricity demand growth and infrastructure-related costs, delivering \$30 to \$40 billion in total savings, lowering Americans' power bills an average of \$100 to \$150 per household.

[Bitfarms Announces U.S. Redomiciliation Plan and Intent to Rebrand as Keel Infrastructure](#) - Bitfarms Ltd. (NASDAQ/TSX: BITF) ("Bitfarms" or the "Company"), a North American digital infrastructure and energy company, today announced that its Board of Directors has approved a plan of arrangement (the "Arrangement") under which the Company will redomicile from Canada to the United States (the "US Redomiciliation"), subject to receipt of shareholder, stock exchange and court approvals.

[Coal plant owners say DOE 'emergency' order to run it violates Constitution](#) - The owners of a Colorado power unit say the Department of Energy violated their Constitutional rights when it ordered them to continue running a coal-fired generator they had been planning for years to retire at the end of 2025.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[The problem with Trump's PJM data center capacity auction](#) - The White House proposal for an emergency auction in PJM, which would require data centers to pay for new power plants, isn't likely to resolve the structural challenges facing the region.

[Court Revives Lawsuit Challenging Implementation of Endangered Species Act for Coal Mining Projects](#) - A federal court has revived a dormant lawsuit challenging a fundamental procedure for implementation of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) for coal mining projects.

[Secretary of Energy Orders Pennsylvania Power Plant Units to Remain Available](#) - U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright on Feb. 23 issued an emergency order directing the PJM Interconnection, in coordination with Constellation Energy Corporation, to ensure Units 3 and 4 of the Eddystone Generating Station in Pennsylvania remain available for operation "and to employ economic dispatch to minimize costs for the American people," the Department of Energy said.

[Interior claws back NEPA regs](#) - The Interior Department on Monday unveiled a final rule that pulls back more than 80 percent of the agency's regulations tied to implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, the nation's bedrock environmental law.

[DOE 'emergency' power plant orders help grid reliability: NERC official](#) - Overall, the U.S. Department of Energy's "emergency" orders preventing power plants from retiring have helped the power system, a top official with the North American Electric Reliability Corp. said Thursday.

[EPA Continues to Reverse Democrats' War on Beautiful Clean Coal, Finalizes Repeal of Costly Restrictions on Baseload Power Generation](#) - While at Mills Creek Power Plant in Kentucky, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the finalization of a deregulatory action to ensure affordable, dependable energy for American families and restore American energy dominance.

[States sue Energy Department for terminating \\$8B in clean energy funding](#) - A coalition of 13 state attorneys general on Wednesday filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California challenging the Trump administration's termination of funding for energy and infrastructure programs created through the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

[Health, environmental groups sue EPA over repeal of endangerment finding](#) - A coalition of health and environmental groups on Wednesday sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Administrator Lee Zeldin for rescinding the 2009 "endangerment finding," a key underpinning for greenhouse gas regulation under the Clean Air Act.

[How Trump's order to have the military buy coal would actually work](#) - President Donald Trump says the military will start "buying a lot of coal" as part of a new push to boost domestic coal production and strengthen what he describes as the reliability of the U.S. power grid.

[Trump's EPA revokes scientific finding that underpinned US fight against climate change](#) - The Trump administration on Thursday revoked a scientific finding that long has been the central basis for U.S. action to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change, the most aggressive move by the Republican president to roll back climate regulations.

[Energy Department Announces \\$175 Million to Modernize Coal Plants, Keeping Affordable Reliable Power Online for Americans](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced \$175 million in funding for six projects to modernize, retrofit, and extend the useful life of coal-fired power plants that serve rural and remote communities across the United States.

[FERC rejects AEP request to sell capacity in upcoming auction](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Tuesday rejected a waiver request from American Electric Power utilities that would have allowed them to sell up to 750 MW in an upcoming "incremental" capacity auction.

[OSMRE grants nearly \\$120M to reclaim abandoned US coal mines](#) - The US Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) announced Monday nearly \$120 million in fiscal year 2026 abandoned mine land reclamation fee-based grants for eligible states and tribes.

[EPA Strengthens Grid Reliability & Energy Security with Extended Compliance Deadline for Several Coal Combustion Residual Management Unit Requirements](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a final rule extending key compliance deadlines for coal combustion residual management unit (CCRMU) and groundwater monitoring requirements.

[EPA reconsiders Good Neighbor Plan that limited power plant emissions](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Jan. 27 proposed phase one of its reconsideration of the Good Neighbor Plan, which was adopted in 2023 and required upwind states to limit emissions from power plants and industrial facilities so downwind states could meet Clean Air Act requirements.

[White House launches environmental review permitting tool pilot](#) - The Council on Environmental Quality, a government body that provides guidance on the enforcement of the National Environmental Policy Act, has launched the pilot of a tech platform to help federal agencies speed up the environmental review process, the White House announced Jan. 29.

[House lawmakers press FERC on affordability, reliability and gas](#) - House lawmakers on Tuesday grilled members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission about electric affordability, grid reliability and the agency's reviews of natural gas pipelines and liquefied natural gas projects.

[FERC Approves Streamlined Process To Replace Retiring Facilities](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has accepted PJM's proposal to create a process separate from the traditional interconnection process for transferring Capacity Interconnection Rights from a retiring facility to an equivalent replacement resource at the same site.

[Inspector general outlines 'significant challenges' facing OSHA and MSHA](#) - OSHA and the Mine Safety and Health Administration both face “significant challenges” in ensuring workers’ safety and health, according to a report from the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Senators grill Pa. DEP head on efforts to speed up new power plant permitting](#) - With energy affordability and reliability dominating headlines, state lawmakers peppered Pennsylvania Environmental Protection Secretary Jessica Shirley about the administration’s strategy to speed the addition of new power sources to the electric grid.

[Senators debate bill about coal-fired power plant capacity and then pass it overwhelmingly](#) - Senators debated for about an hour Friday before finally voting overwhelmingly for legislation focused on coal-fired power plant capacity and how costs for rate payers could be affected.

[Virginia's return to Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative picks up steam](#) - Virginia's government is nearing completion of a yearslong 360 — the commonwealth will rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative less than three years after leaving through amendments Gov. Abigail Spanberger signed to the state budget.

[Pennsylvania Democrats win state House special elections, keeping majority intact](#) - Pennsylvania Democrats are projected to win two special elections for state House, keeping their majority intact, according to Decision Desk HQ.

[Nuclear Regulatory Commission panel hears worries, but mostly support for Three Mile Island restart](#) - The commission will start accepting public comment and requests for public hearings this week.

[Team PA Gets \\$2 Million Grid Study Grant](#) - Pennsylvania recently won a \$2 million federal grant to study the state’s electric grid infrastructure. The study results can keep strategy front and center as energy demand keeps rising.

[Fiscal office disputes Shapiro’s promise for no new taxes](#) - Pennsylvania’s Independent Fiscal Office disputed Gov. Josh Shapiro’s (D) claim that his \$53.3 billion budget proposal won’t require a tax increase in the next five years.

[Governor Shapiro Continues Effort to Lower Pennsylvanians’ Electricity Prices, Pressing PJM Leadership to Protect Consumers](#) - This week, Governor Josh Shapiro took new steps to protect Pennsylvanians from soaring electricity prices, pressing the grid operator’s leadership to extend existing consumer protections that would prevent billions of dollars in unjustified rate hikes.

[Attorneys issue legal demand to Pa. to cut carbon emissions across the economy](#) - Pennsylvania must act to require industries across the economy to cut — and pay for — climate-warming pollution they release, a group led by prominent state environmental attorneys said in a legal demand to state regulators on Thursday.

[Independent Fiscal Office Reports PA Electricity Prices Increased 46.1% From 2018 to 2025, More Than Other PJM States, Largely Due To Pennsylvania's Reliance On Natural Gas-Fired Electric Generation](#) - On February 4, the Independent Fiscal Office released its latest Pennsylvania Electricity Update reporting electricity prices in the Commonwealth increased 46.1% from 2018 to 2025, largely due to Pennsylvania's reliance on natural gas-fired electric generation.

[Pa. Gov. Shapiro says investor-owned utilities are making too much profit at the expense of ratepayers](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro said the state’s investor-owned electric utilities make too much profit at the expense of ratepayers. The governor laid out a plan to tackle rising costs during his annual budget address Tuesday in Harrisburg.

[Pa. Gov. Josh Shapiro wants more data centers but they need to bring their own power](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro said the state should play a leading role in the development of AI and data centers but proposed a list of requirements to get through what he described as a “selective” process.

[Virginia House OKs electric grid review bills](#) - Two bills seeking to paint a clearer picture of how effectively Virginia's electric grid is used passed the House of Delegates on Monday.