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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 4-1-26

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Large load tariffs proliferate as states take more active role in data center regulation](#) - In 2025, state regulators approved 29 large load tariffs, and more are on the way. Experts say it's too soon to know if the tariffs are working as intended, but utilities should prepare for scrutiny.

[Utilities lobby for re-regulation across PJM: Timeline tracks private meetings, legislation, advertising](#) - Over the past two years, electric distribution utility companies operating in the PJM Interconnection region have mounted an aggressive lobbying campaign, urging lawmakers to allow them to own and build power plants once again.

[Homer City plant will boost local power supply](#) - A new Western Pennsylvania power plant will not only power a gargantuan data center campus, it will actually add electricity generation to the region's much strained grid.

[Generation declined 0.7% year over year in January while prices went up 9.5%](#) - The U.S. saw a 0.7% year-over-year decline in January electricity generation, in spite of Winter Storm Fern driving consumption significantly higher in particular areas, according to a report from the Energy Information Administration.

[PJM data center colocation plan takes fire from Vistra, data center group, others](#) - The PJM Interconnection's proposed framework for colocating generation with large loads was panned by multiple stakeholders, including a trade group for data centers, independent power producers and the grid operator's market monitor, according to comments filed at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[TMI owners affirm 2027 restart date despite grid readiness questions](#) - A Constellation executive told an energy industry conference Thursday his firm still does not have a green light to send power from a reopened Three Mile Island Unit 1 nuclear power station to the grid next year.

[PJM, Stakeholders Advance Initiatives To Reliably Integrate Data Centers](#) - PJM and stakeholders on Wednesday advanced several components of a plan to streamline the connection of data centers and other large-load customers while maintaining grid reliability.

[50 GW of data centers online at end of 2025, with MISO seeing strongest growth: FERC](#) - More than 50 GW of data center capacity was operating in the U.S. at the end of 2025, representing 24% compound annual growth since 2020, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

['Emergencies' requiring coal plants to stay open need not be imminent, DOE tells court](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy's secretary has broad authority under the Federal Power Act to declare emergencies to keep power plants from retiring, and those emergencies don't have to be imminent, DOE told a federal appeals court last week in response to challenges over its orders keeping a Michigan coal plant online.

[The first US coal plant in a decade is on shaky ground](#) - President Donald Trump is gunning to put coal back on the map with the nation's first coal-fired power plant in more than a decade in Alaska.

[FERC rejects RWE complaint over PJM interconnection practices](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday rejected a complaint by RWE Clean Energy that argued the PJM Interconnection violated its network upgrade cost allocation rules for generators seeking to connect to the grid.

[January's Winter Storm Fern was 'classic near-miss' for US grid, says NERC's Robb](#) - The U.S. grid withstood Winter Storm Fern in January without disruption to the bulk power system, but the electric sector cannot become complacent because reliability risks are rising, Jim Robb, president and CEO of the North American Electric Reliability Corp., told a House subcommittee on Tuesday.

['Clear warning signs' as PJM wholesale power costs jump 54% in one year](#) - There are "clear warning signs" for the PJM Interconnection's capacity market and for grid reliability in its footprint largely driven by data center development, the grid operator's independent market monitor said Thursday.

[PJM Announces Executive Appointments](#) - PJM Interconnection Interim President and CEO David E. Mills announced two executive appointments today.

[Utility profits rise as household bills soar, new analysis finds](#) - Investor-owned utility profits have soared as consumer utility bills have skyrocketed in recent years, according to a new analysis of dozens of electricity providers.

[NERC overstates reliability risks in long-term assessment: Grid Strategies](#) - The North American Electric Reliability Corp.'s latest long-term reliability assessment, or LTRA, overstates the risks facing the U.S. electric grid, partly by overestimating how much data center load will connect to the grid, according to Grid Strategies, a consulting firm.

[FERC: Small QFs Lose FPA Exemptions When Certifications Become Inaccurate](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or the Commission) on February 19 of this year issued an Order on Rehearing and Clarification ruling that qualifying facilities (QFs) that are 20 MW or smaller cannot rely on their exemption from Federal Power Act (FPA) Sections 205 and 206 during periods when their Form No. 556 certifications are outdated due to any material changes from the original certification, such as changes in upstream ownership.

[DOE-funded project helps states fast-track grid capacity](#) - As electricity demand surges across the United States, a Johns Hopkins University initiative is helping states move faster—and more affordably—to expand grid capacity.

[PJM market monitor opposes Maryland power plant sale to data center company](#) - The PJM Interconnection's market monitor on Wednesday urged federal regulators to reject an application from GenOn to sell a 216-MW power plant in Maryland to TeraWulf over concerns the data center developer would remove the resource from PJM's market.

[Drone attack simulation exposed a grid vulnerability, utilities say](#) - U.S. electric utilities need new tools and regulatory authorizations to protect the power grid from drone attacks, experts and industry groups say.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Sanders, Ocasio-Cortez push bill to impose AI data center moratorium](#) - Two high-profile progressive lawmakers introduced a bill Wednesday that would pause new data centers in the United States until national safeguards are in place to protect workers and consumers and ensure the technologies don't harm the environment.

[DOE extends emergency operations at 2 Indiana coal plants](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy on Monday issued emergency orders further extending the operation of three generating units at two Indiana coal plants that were slated to retire last year. The first orders to keep the units online were issued in December.

[Trump's EPA is paving the way for haze to return to national parks, conservationists warn](#) - A year ago, federal environmental regulators told West Virginia officials that their plan to clear sulfur and smog from skies over the state's national wilderness areas wasn't good enough because a dozen coal plants didn't analyze whether they needed better pollution controls.

[Two dozen states, 10 cities sue EPA over repeal of 'endangerment' finding central to climate fight](#) - Two dozen states, along with more than a dozen cities and counties, sued the Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday, challenging the Trump administration's repeal of a scientific finding that had been the central basis for U.S. action to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.

[DOE emergency orders for fossil plants complicate utility planning, experts say](#) - In 2025, the U.S. Department of Energy ordered at least 10 fossil-fueled generating units to remain available past their scheduled retirement dates.

[13 DOE emergency orders have cost Americans \\$235M, Sierra Club says](#) - The Trump administration's emergency orders to keep six retiring fossil-fueled power plants online have cost ratepayers more than \$230 million, according to an analysis the Sierra Club presented to an energy price roundtable hosted by Senate Democrats on Tuesday.

[Democratic House bill aims to overturn Trump electricity policies](#) - Democratic Reps. Sean Casten of Illinois and Mike Levin from California — and 120 other Democratic cosponsors — introduced a broad clean electricity bill Wednesday that would undo key Trump administration priorities, such as providing fast-track grid access for gas-fired power plants and keeping fossil-fueled power plants from retiring through “emergency” declarations.

[Schumer promises energy affordability agenda](#) - Lawmakers clashed Tuesday over the benefits of renewable energy versus fossil fuels as Democrats seek to amplify concerns about affordability ahead of the midterm elections.

[Trump EPA Releases Strongest Enforcement and Compliance Results in Years](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing enforcement and compliance assurance results for Fiscal Year 2025 and preliminary results for the first year of the Trump Administration.

[EPA properly awarded \\$1.5B of now-terminated grants, inspector general says](#) - A new report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of the Inspector General found the EPA conducted a rigorous and proper process to award approximately \$1.5 billion in environmental grants for disadvantaged communities that were canceled by the Trump administration.

[How Trump's EPA rollbacks give US states new tools in climate suits](#) - By rolling back a bedrock climate legal determination, the Trump administration has undercut its attacks on a groundbreaking state climate accountability law, green groups have argued in court.

[EPA delays greenhouse gas reporting as it moves to shut down program](#) - The U.S. EPA on Friday extended the deadline for major industrial sources of greenhouse gas emissions to report their 2025 totals to the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program.

[Sen. McCormick introduces bill to cut permitting delays, meet demand for electricity](#) - U.S. Sen. Dave McCormick (R-PA) recently introduced bipartisan legislation to meet the nation's growing demand for electricity by speeding up the permitting process and accelerating the deployment of innovative grid technologies.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[DEP Issues Request For Information On Proposed Electric Generation Or Storage Projects Eligible For State Sponsorship Under PJM Expedited Interconnection Track](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the March 28 PA Bulletin issuing a Request for Information on proposed electric generation or energy storage projects eligible for state sponsorship and connection to PJM as an Expedited Interconnection Track Project.

[Spanberger creates new cabinet position, appoints SELC's Josephus Allmond chief energy officer](#) - Gov. Abigail Spanberger on Wednesday signed an executive order creating the cabinet position of chief energy officer and has appointed Josephus Allmond, a Charlottesville-based staff attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center, to the new role.

[PA House lawmakers approve data center regulation bill](#) - Lawmakers in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on Tuesday voted 104-95 to approve legislation that would task the state Public Utility Commission with developing statewide regulations for data centers as local concerns grow over their effects on communities – and electricity bills.

[Pa. House Democrats introduce identical budget proposal to Gov. Shapiro's](#) - Appropriations Chair Rep. Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia) formally filed the bill with legislative services on Tuesday, emphasizing his caucus' alignment with Pennsylvania's chief executive.

[Precedent-setting Pa. rate case would protect residential electricity customers from data center costs in PPL territory](#) - It's the first time a Pennsylvania utility agreed to shield average ratepayers from data center costs. Data centers will pay \$11 million for low-income rate relief.

[Electric power 'superhighway' proposed to cut across 200 miles of southwestern and Central Pa.](#) - The extra-high voltage transmission line would lead from W.Va. to an emerging 'data center alley' in Eastern Pa.

[Pa. awaits information about announced new \\$17B southwestern Pennsylvania power plant](#) - Details remain scarce a day after the Trump administration announced plans to build a \$17 billion natural gas-fired power plant in southwestern Pennsylvania.

[Shapiro Administration Invests over \\$10 Million to Strengthen Electric Grid Infrastructure and Help Prevent Power Outages](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded more than \$10 million to six companies to improve electric grid reliability and resiliency through the 2026 Pennsylvania Grid Resilience Grants (PA GRG) funding.

[Pa. lawmakers seek to build on infrastructure to meet energy demands](#) - As data centers working to develop artificial intelligence increase the demand for power in the commonwealth, Pennsylvania lawmakers have sought solutions to stem the associated rise of electricity costs.

[Shapiro Administration Invests an Additional \\$15.2 Million to Address Largest Inventory of Abandoned Mine Lands in the Nation, Keep Pennsylvanians Safe While Supporting Local Jobs](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has invested an additional \$15.2 million for the environmental restoration of 15 abandoned mine land (AML) projects as part of the Abandoned Mine Land and Abandoned Mine Drainage Grant Program.

[Electricity consumer protection a work in progress for lawmakers](#) - Higher supply prices and weather-driven swings in energy use contributed to high electric bills for many Pennsylvanians over the past year, prompting lawmakers and energy stakeholders to take a closer look at whether state policies and retail electric choice programs provide enough protection for residents.

[Bills incentivizing increased operation of coal-fired power plants in doubt](#) - A bipartisan majority of the West Virginia House of Delegates sent a clear message to the state Senate Tuesday by rejecting the Senate's efforts to require coal-fired power plants to operate even when it makes no economic sense to do so.

[Pennsylvania power load buckling under neighboring renewable energy goals](#) - As states across the mid-Atlantic adopt aggressive goals for renewable energy generation, most look to Pennsylvania's natural gas and nuclear plants to back them up.

[Amid Global Tensions, PUC Encourages Utilities to Strengthen Cybersecurity Defenses](#) - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) has issued a cybersecurity advisory to all regulated utilities and licensed electric and natural gas suppliers across the Commonwealth, encouraging heightened vigilance and stronger cyber defenses in response to increasing global tensions and concerns about potential cyber activity targeting critical infrastructure.

[Faster Permits—Or Your Money Back? It Worked in Pennsylvania.](#) - Several years ago, Pennsylvania had a permitting problem. Thousands of applications for building permits and environmental approvals sat in bureaucratic limbo.

[Energy prices questioned at PUC budget hearing](#) - State senators on Tuesday questioned leaders of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission about rising electricity prices and whether Pennsylvania consumers are paying more than their fair share.

[Virginia, Indiana lawmakers pass surplus interconnection bills](#) - Lawmakers in Indiana and Virginia last week passed bills that aim to encourage the addition of generation or storage resources at power plants that have spare interconnection capacity — a pathway for bringing capacity online quickly.