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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 5-1-26

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[FirstEnergy opposes key part of PJM data center backstop procurement plan](#) - The PJM Interconnection's planned backstop auction is flawed, said CEO Brian Tierney.

[Over 800 New Generation Projects Seek To Connect Under PJM's Reformed Process](#) - PJM Interconnection today announced that 811 new generation projects, capable of generating 220 gigawatts of electricity, have applied to connect to the grid through the first Cycle of PJM's reformed interconnection process.

[Eastern PA Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation 30th Anniversary Celebration Sept. 19 In Luzerne County](#) - The Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation will hold a 30th Anniversary Celebration on September 19 at Sand Springs Country Club in Drums, Luzerne County.

[PJM market monitor opposes 1.3-GW gas plant deal between Hull Street, Rockland Capital](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should consider how power plant deals could draw capacity out of the PJM market to serve data centers, Monitoring Analytics said.

[PJM market monitor opposes waivers for Constellation's Three Mile Island nuclear restart](#) - The waivers from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are needed by the company to expedite its plans to restart the Crane nuclear power plant as part of a deal with Microsoft.

[Report: High costs, long timelines for network upgrades scrap power projects](#) - Rising electricity demand and affordability concerns are putting pressure on policymakers to add new generation to an aging, overburdened grid – a challenge compounded by delays in transmission upgrades.

[Sudden data center load losses prompt NERC alert, recommendations](#) - The North American Electric Reliability Corp. is in the "final stages of preparing to issue a Level 3 essential actions alert" related to large computational loads unexpectedly disconnecting from the grid, a NERC official confirmed to Utility Dive in an email Monday.

[PJM Releases 2025 Annual Report, 'Meeting Each Moment'](#) - The PJM Interconnection 2025 Annual Report is now available on PJM.com.

[FERC orders American Efficient to pay \\$1.1B for 'brazen fraud'](#) - American Efficient; its owner, Modern Energy Group; and affiliated companies must pay about \$1.1 billion for "one of the largest and most brazen frauds" in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's history, the agency said Wednesday.

[PJM's emergency backstop auction won't be an auction at all](#) - AI is overtaxing the grid so much that it's forcing power markets to improvise. And so far, the primary example of this improvisation has been the PJM emergency backstop auction.

[Rising energy costs force some states to reassess ambitious climate goals](#) - Seven years ago, New York lawmakers set ambitious goals for slashing greenhouse gas emissions with clarion calls about saving the future. Now, with slow progress made and political realities shifting, Gov. Kathy Hochul is seeking a delay, saying she wants to save consumers money.

[Construction begins on \\$10B natural gas power plant and data center in Indiana County](#) - Construction has begun on a proposed \$10 billion project to create a 4.4-gigawatt natural gas-fueled power plant and hyperscale data centers on a hilltop outside Homer City in Indiana County.

[U.S. coal-fired generating capacity retired in 2025 was the least in 15 years](#) - During 2025, the U.S. electric power sector retired 2.6 gigawatts (GW) of coal-fired generating capacity at four power plants, the least since 2010.

[Coal's fortunes shift as Trump uses orders and taxpayer money to keep plants operating](#) - Before Donald Trump returned to the White House, the Biden administration and many electric utilities were building a future dominated by renewable energy.

[NERC is 'actively monitoring the grid' following Iran-linked cyber threat](#) - Hackers have disrupted critical U.S. infrastructure by targeting programmable logic controllers, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency warned.

[EIA releases the Annual Energy Outlook 2026](#) - The Annual Energy Outlook 2026 (AEO2026) explores medium- and long-term alternative futures in the United States through 2050. AEO2026 enables the public to explore a suite of alternative pathways for our energy future depending on assumptions made about markets, technological breakthroughs, and policy.

[US power use to beat record highs in 2026 and 2027 as AI use surges, EIA says](#) - U.S. power consumption, which hit its second straight annual record high in 2025, will rise further in 2026 and 2027, the Energy Information Administration said in its Short-Term Energy Outlook on Tuesday.

[Minnesota, Illinois AGs challenge federal orders to keep coal plants running](#) - Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison is challenging the Trump administration over orders requiring coal-fired power plants in Indiana to remain open past their planned retirement dates.

[Duquesne Light asks feds to lower costs customers pay to power plants](#) - Duquesne Light is making the case that power plants are paid too much for the promise of providing electricity, a cost set through auctions run by grid operator PJM Interconnection — and shouldered entirely by consumers.

[FERC urged to reject TeraWulf's power plant purchase due to undisclosed Google ownership stake](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should reject TeraWulf's planned power plant purchase in Maryland because the seller failed to disclose Google's 14% ownership stake in the data center company, Public Citizen and other groups said.

[Reject Talen-Energy Capital power plant deal, PJM market monitor tells FERC](#) - Federal regulators should reject Talen Energy's plan to buy about 2.6 GW from Energy Capital Partners because it would increase the power company's market power in the PJM Interconnection market, according to the grid operator's market monitor.

[PJM Launches Microsite To Share Facts on Key Issues](#) - PJM has launched a new microsite, Reliable Power, Today & Tomorrow, to share facts and provide clear information on key issues affecting the energy industry and the actions PJM is taking to support reliability and affordability.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[EPA Proposes to Approve Virginia's Coal Combustion Residuals Permit Program](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the approval of the Commonwealth of Virginia's coal combustion residuals (CCR) permit program application.

[Environmental Protection Agency boss backs big budget cuts but Congress will get the final say](#) - Senate Democrats accused the Trump administration of abandoning the Environmental Protection Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment at a congressional hearing Wednesday, slamming agency leadership over a proposal to cut its budget in half.

[Congress Raids a Fund for Cleaning Up Coal Mining's Toxic Legacy](#) - As rural communities seek to move on from polluted pasts, funds to address thousands of abandoned mines and wells are coming up short.

[House Republicans introduce bill to extend renewables tax credits](#) - Republican lawmakers in the House of Representatives are trying to restore clean tax credits for wind, solar and other clean energy technologies that were curtailed by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

[Cities sue EPA for failing to uphold soot standard](#) - A coalition of 10 states, the District of Columbia; Harris County, Texas; and New York City on Friday sued the Environmental Protection Agency for failing to implement a 2024 Clean Air Act rule strengthening National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particulate matter, also known as the soot standard.

[Trump invokes war powers to juice fossil energy, grid](#) - President Donald Trump invoked the Cold War-era Defense Production Act on Monday to shore up federal funding for a host of energy projects — involving oil, gas, coal and the grid — as the White House moved to buffer climbing electricity and fuel costs.

[When is a Trucking Facility a “Mine”? Federal Appeals Court Upholds MSHA’s Broad Interpretation and Employers Should Take Note](#) - The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals just upheld MSHA’s broad interpretation of what constitutes a “mine” — any facility “necessarily connected with the use and operation of extracting, milling, or processing coal and other minerals” — that offered lessons for facilities serving the mining industry across the country.

[Groups sue Trump’s Office of Surface Mining over rollback of coal mining oversight rule](#) - Appalachian Voices, Citizens Coal Council and Sierra Club are suing the Trump administration over a new rule making it harder for individuals and communities impacted by coal mining to hold state regulators and mining companies accountable for environmental and public safety violations.

[‘The absolute edge of precedent’: FERC prepares to take on data centers](#) - The White House wants federal energy regulators to act on data centers. They’re gearing up to take a big swing.

[FERC Sets June Deadline to Rewrite Large-Load Grid Rules for AI-Era Power Demand](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has set a June 2026 deadline to act in a high-stakes rulemaking that could redefine how massive new power users—including AI-driven data centers—connect to the U.S. interstate transmission system.

[Wright defends actions on coal plants, funding cuts in testy House hearing](#) - When pressed, the energy secretary said that money for home energy efficiency rebate programs, which has been frozen since last year, would “probably” be released in a “few weeks.”

[To Advance U.S. Energy Dominance, EPA Proposes Several Amendments to Coal Combustion Residuals \(CCR\) Requirements](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a rule proposing several revisions to the federal regulations governing the disposal of coal combustion residuals (CCR) and the beneficial use of CCR.

[States sue Trump administration over toxic air rule rollback](#) - A coalition of 21 state and local governments filed a lawsuit Tuesday challenging the Trump administration’s repeal of a 2024 rule that established limits for toxic air pollutants.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[PA Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee Examines Urgent Challenges to Pennsylvania’s Electric Grid](#) - State Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23), chairman of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, recently convened a public hearing to address escalating concerns about resource adequacy, reliability and the rapidly changing demands on Pennsylvania’s power grid.

[Electricity grid maps could speed addition of renewable energy sources in Pa., panel hears](#) - Requiring electricity companies to publish maps of their systems could speed the addition of sustainable energy sources to the grid, state lawmakers heard Tuesday.

[Shapiro names first special counsel for energy affordability](#) - Pennsylvania’s first energy affordability watchdog took office Monday.

[ROE cap in PA Democrats’ energy package raises investment concerns](#) - Pennsylvania House Democrats have introduced a sweeping package of energy bills aimed at lowering costs for consumers, but a key proposal to cap utility returns on equity (ROE) is drawing concern from industry voices who warn it could undermine investment and raise long-term costs.

[Shapiro Administration Files Motion to Enter Consent Decree to Maintain Reliable, Affordable Power by Allowing Keystone and Conemaugh Plants to Continue Operating with Improved Environmental Controls and Upgrades](#) - Keeping the Keystone and Conemaugh Generating Stations in operation will allow the facilities to continue generating more than 3,400 megawatts of electricity for the regional grid while also completing required wastewater treatment upgrades.

[Pennsylvania Democratic lawmakers push package of bills aiming to reduce energy costs](#) - Pennsylvania Democratic lawmakers are pushing a package of bills that aim to reduce energy rates as people struggle to pay their bills.

[Spanberger suggests 'significant policy shifts' to Dominion regulation bills](#) - One of the most wide-ranging pieces of utility legislation that passed the General Assembly this session may grow even further after amendments from Gov. Abigail Spanberger.

[Pennsylvania utilities appreciate market signals — but not market prices](#) - People who work at PJM Interconnection — the Valley Forge-based control room that manages the flow of electricity to 13 Mid-Atlantic states — sometimes call it the most complicated machine ever built.

[Josh Shapiro repeats threat to pull Pa. out of regional power grid if electricity costs keep rising](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro is picking fights with the country's largest power grid operator and the state's biggest utility company over rising costs — and he's already notched some wins.

[PECO withdraws its rate hike case after backlash from Pa. governor, lawmakers](#) - PECO made record profits in 2025 after a recent rate hike. Pa. Gov. Josh Shapiro had called the new proposal “pure greed.”

[Spanberger joins other governors in push for PJM to prioritize ratepayer protections](#) - Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger has joined seven other governors in the PJM Interconnection territory in pushing the regional grid operator to adopt policies and regulations that help shield ratepayers from shouldering the cost of increased power demand largely driven by data centers.

[PUC Publishes Proposed Rule Regulating Electric Distributed Energy, Aggregation Resources, Virtual Power Plant Participation In Wholesale Energy Markets](#) - The Public Utility Commission published notice in the April 11 PA Bulletin inviting comments on a proposed rule regulating electric distributed energy, aggregation resources and virtual Power plant participation in wholesale energy markets.

[Virginia grid utilization bill set to become law](#) - A pending Virginia law will require the state's two major vertically integrated utilities to provide detailed distribution grid utilization data to state regulators this year and propose initiatives to use more existing capacity.

[DEP/Environmental Quality Board Withdraws Proposed Regulation Changing Notification Requirements For Spills, Releases Saying Technical Guidance Is More Appropriate](#) - On April 8, the Department of Environmental Protection sent a letter to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission on behalf of the Environmental Quality Board withdrawing a proposed regulation from the rulemaking process that would change notification requirements for spills and releases.

[PUC says another high-voltage powerline project through PA isn't good for taxpayers, gives too many incentives, and skirts local regulation](#) - Another high voltage powerline is being opposed by the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission.

[Virginia set to rejoin RGGI as utilities prepare to pass the cost back to ratepayers](#) - Virginia is poised to reenter the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative this summer, a move that could again add a monthly charge to electricity customers' bills as utilities resume buying carbon credits.

[Shapiro Administration Takes Steps to Add More Energy Generation and Battery Storage to the Grid, Protect Pennsylvanians from High Energy Costs](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) published a Request for Information for new energy generation and storage projects in Pennsylvania that will be eligible to quickly enter service, rapidly adding more power to the electric grid and preventing higher energy costs for Pennsylvanians.