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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 6-1-26

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Demand management, data center flexibility boost regional reliability: NERC](#) - Several North American grid assessment areas will see sharp changes in demand response availability this summer, compared with 2025, according to the most recent assessment from the North American Electric Reliability Corp.

[Net electricity generation jumped 4.5% in March as the West baked under record heat](#) - Net U.S. electricity generation increased 4.5% year over year in March as a large swath of the West — from Texas to California and up to Idaho — saw its warmest March on record dating back to 1895, the Energy Information Administration said Friday.

[States espouse need for increased role at PJM as concerns mount over resources, costs](#) - State officials called for increasing their role in PJM Interconnection decision making as the regional organization grapples with multiple challenges, including resource adequacy in the region.

[US summer generating capacity increases by 75 GW since 2025: FERC](#) - Capacity additions include about 26 GW in Texas, 13 GW in the Western Electric Coordinating Council region and 11 GW in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator market, FERC said.

[FERC Commissioner Chang is ‘not thinking about’ breaking up PJM](#) - “I’m interested in the successful continued operation of PJM, but definitely I want to help them get through this period,” FERC Commissioner Judy Chang told Utility Dive.

[PJM accelerates backstop auction amid uncertainty over data center cost allocation](#) - The PJM Interconnection intends to move up a planned backstop reliability auction to address rising demand from data centers to September, instead of holding it in March as originally proposed, the grid operator said Tuesday.

[Data center interconnection delays complicate demand forecasting: NERC](#) - The U.S. power grid should have sufficient resources to meet typical summer demand, but risk is growing in the shoulder seasons, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. said Tuesday.

[Biggest US grid paid record \\$1 billion to money-losing power plants in Q1](#) - Power plants on the largest U.S. electric grid received a record payout of nearly \$1 billion to cover their losses in the first quarter, when fuel costs surged during a winter cold snap, according to data analyzed by Reuters.

[PJM gets emergency approval to curtail data centers, large loads during hot weather](#) - The PJM Interconnection can curtail data centers and other large loads that have backup generation under an emergency order issued Monday by the U.S. Department of Energy.

[Data centers could be 33% of commercial building electricity use by 2050: EIA](#) - In one modeled scenario, the Energy Information Administration projects server electricity consumption in 2050 will be more than 16 times what it was in 2020.

[Combined NextEra-Dominion would have 130-GW large-load pipeline](#) - NextEra Energy plans to acquire Dominion Energy in an all-stock transaction announced Monday, potentially creating the largest regulated electric utility in the world — with 10 million customers in four states — if the deal passes muster with three state and two federal regulatory commissions.

[Data centers drive 76% surge in PJM power prices](#) - Power prices in the nation's largest grid market jumped almost 76 percent in the first quarter year-over-year, showcasing how energy demand driven by data centers is remaking the economy across the mid-Atlantic and Midwest.

[US annual electricity consumption to grow 55% by 2050: NEMA](#) - The group representing electrical equipment manufacturers expects data center energy consumption to grow 300% over the next 10 years.

[PJM, Stakeholders Explore Next Steps for Large Loads, Affordability and Reliability](#) - PJM's stakeholder process and governance will be the topic of a July workshop announced by FERC Chair Laura V. Swett at the PJM General Session May 12.

[PJM may be 'too big to function': FERC Chairman Swett](#) - The PJM Interconnection may be "too big to function" and has an "unacceptable" governance structure, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Laura Swett said Tuesday at the grid operator's annual meeting in Baltimore.

[PJM takes a political pounding at its annual meeting](#) - The nation's largest power market is facing renewed pressure from a governor with presidential aspirations to control electricity prices and better protect mid-Atlantic states from potential energy shortfalls.

[SPP, PJM, CAISO anticipate being able to meet power demand this summer](#) - Although their regions might see hotter-than-average temperature days over the summer, the Southwest Power Pool, California Independent System Operator and PJM Interconnection project that they have enough power supplies to meet electricity demand, according to recent releases from those organizations.

[Pa. electricity grid manager PJM aims to finalize reform strategy by summer](#) - Electricity grid operator PJM Interconnection will work with industry leaders this summer to finalize a strategy to reform its wholesale electricity markets.

[The United States set record energy production in 2025, again](#) - Total energy production in the United States increased to a new record of 107 quadrillion British thermal units (quads) in 2025, a 3.4% increase from the previous record set in 2024, according to new data in our Monthly Energy Review.

[PPL 'advanced' data center pipeline grows to 28.3 GW in Pennsylvania](#) - PPL Electric's "advanced" stage data center pipeline jumped 12% to 28.3 GW by 2034, up from 25.2 GW three months ago, company officials said Friday during PPL Corp.'s first-quarter earnings conference call.

[The Northeast is set for a star turn in the affordability debate](#) - The East Coast's signature climate policy is poised to spike electricity prices just as governors are desperate to lower them.

[Summer Outlook 2026: PJM Prepared To Meet Growing Summer Demand With Adequate Resources](#) - PJM forecasts sufficient generation for typical peak demand this summer and is prepared to call on contracted demand response resources to reduce electricity use during times of high system stress.

[PJM floats options for capacity market overhaul](#) - The PJM Interconnection on Wednesday proposed three broad frameworks for reforming its markets to help ensure its 13-state region has adequate power supplies to meet growing demand.

[Citing 'unsustainable stress' from price volatility, grid operator PJM lays out reform options](#) - The nation's largest electricity grid operator has called on power plant operators, investors, utilities and consumers to consider reforms to ensure the region's wholesale electricity market can supply enough power as it faces unprecedented demand from data centers.

[AEP eyes exit from PJM, SPP over slow generation interconnection](#) - American Electric Power is considering its options for how its utilities participate in the PJM Interconnection and the Southwest Power Pool due to the grid operators' slow pace of interconnecting generation to meet customer demand, Bill Fehrman, AEP chairman, president and CEO, said Tuesday during a quarterly earnings conference call.

[NERC issues Level 3 alert, mandates action to address data center load losses](#) - The North American Electric Reliability Corp. on Monday issued a rare Level 3 alert — the watchdog’s highest level — following instances of data centers unexpectedly dropping load or oscillating demand rapidly, creating reliability concerns.

[Coal Plants Across Nation Get Second Life Due To Data Center Growth](#) - Wyoming coal is getting an unexpected lift as rising electricity demand, driven in part by a rapid buildout of data centers, forces utilities to keep coal-fired power plants online longer than planned.

[Commercial electricity sales have soared in Virginia, driven by data centers](#) - Commercial electricity sales in Virginia increased by nearly 30.0 million megawatthours (MWh) between 2019 and 2025, much faster growth than in any other state except Texas, a much larger state, according to our Annual Electric Power Industry Report.

[PJM Board Names David E. Mills as PJM President and CEO](#) - The PJM Board of Managers announced today that it has appointed David E. Mills to serve as PJM Interconnection’s fifth permanent president and CEO effective May 1, 2026.

[TransAlta seeks \\$19.9M for Centralia plant’s first DOE ‘emergency’ order](#) - TransAlta is seeking to recover \$19.9 million from ratepayers to cover its costs for keeping its 730-MW, coal-fired Centralia power plant from retiring, per U.S. Department of Energy order, according to a Thursday filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[EPA’s power plant repeal could leave some rules in place](#) - EPA’s efforts to undo Biden-era climate rules for power plants could get a major overhaul before they clear White House review, according to some insiders watching the process.

[Lee, Deluzio introduce bills to combat zombie mines in Appalachia](#) - U.S. Reps. Summer Lee and Chris Deluzio on Tuesday unveiled a package of bills to combat so-called zombie mines across the Appalachian region that experts say harm the health and safety of Western Pennsylvanians.

[Va. congressmen file energy cost transparency, data center attack protections bills](#) - As utility costs surge and the proposed Dominion Energy and NextEra Energy merger could mean a change in energy policies, U.S. Rep. Eugene Vindman, D-Woodbridge, this week proposed two bills to heighten electricity rates transparency.

[Senate Bill Would Force Data Centers to Pay Full Cost of Power-Grid Upgrades](#) - Sen. Adam Schiff (D-CA) has introduced legislation that would require large electricity users such as AI data centers to pay the full cost of power grid upgrades needed to support their operations, marking one of the most aggressive federal responses yet to growing public concerns over the impact of the AI infrastructure boom on energy prices and grid reliability.

[FERC Commissioner David LaCerte Confirmed for Second Term](#) - The United States Senate today confirmed David LaCerte for a second term as Commissioner at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), extending his appointment until June 30, 2031.

[What Is an Energy Emergency? The Trump Administration Says It Alone Decides.](#) - The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals is hearing the first challenge to a series of orders that have blocked retirement of aging coal and oil plants. Advocates say keeping the plants running has been costly to consumers and the environment.

[EPA Reinforces Commitment to Supporting Reliable, Affordable Coal-fired Electricity](#) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a rule to revise wastewater limits, known as effluent limitations guidelines (ELG), for steam electric power plants that will help improve grid reliability and lower electricity prices while continuing to support clean and safe water resources.

[EPA Issues Guidance on Streamlining Clean Air Act Title V Operating Permit Process to Expedite Approvals](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued guidance clarifying the agency’s review process of Clean Air Act (CAA) title V permits to streamline and expedite approvals.

[EPA Proposes Redefining “Begin Actual Construction” to Remove Unnecessary Impediments to Building and Advance Economic Progress](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin issued a proposal to clarify preconstruction permitting requirements and bring flexibility to building non-emitting components or structures, such as certain cement pads and wiring, piping, and associated support structures.

[Sen. Dave McCormick wants to streamline permitting process for energy projects](#) - Beaver County’s tiny Shippingport, home to about 150 people, is positioned to become a center of Western Pennsylvania’s energy and AI boom.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Governor Shapiro Releases Full Governor’s Responsible Infrastructure Development \(GRID\) Standards to Protect Pennsylvanians and Establish Strict Guardrails to Hold Data Center Developers Accountable](#) - Today, Governor Josh Shapiro unveiled the full Governor's Responsible Infrastructure Development (GRID) Standards, establishing clear guardrails and accountability standards for data center development in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

[Yaw Urges PJM to Hold States Accountable for Energy Policies, Protect Pennsylvania Ratepayers](#) - In a letter sent to PJM Interconnection leadership, Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23), chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, urged major reforms to the regional capacity market to ensure states pursuing aggressive climate policies bear the costs of those decisions rather than shifting them onto Pennsylvania consumers.

[Virginia steps right up to the RGGI roller coaster](#) - Virginia is about to reenter the Northeast’s regional cap-and-trade program, offering an early test of whether Democrats can balance pledges to tackle both climate change and rising power bills.

[Pennsylvania primary battles see some legislative incumbents fall while gaming-targeted senators hold on](#) - A slew of challenges to established incumbents and party-backed candidates yielded mixed results in Tuesday’s legislative primary elections.

[Primary results spell the end for four PA House incumbents](#) - Incumbents Ana Tiburcio, Donald “Bud” Cook, Greg Vitali and Keith Harris all appeared headed for defeat in Tuesday’s election.

[A Philly lawmaker’s bill would rein in utility profits: ‘The entire system is out of whack’](#) - A new bill aimed at limiting utility profits by transforming the state’s current rate-making procedures will be introduced this week as lawmakers struggle to rein in rising rates.

[PUC Releases Final Order Establishing First-of-Its-Kind Large Load Model Tariff Framework](#) - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) has released its Final Order establishing a first-of-its-kind model tariff framework for large load customers – including rapidly expanding data centers – marking a major step in the Commission’s ongoing effort to manage unprecedented electricity demand growth while protecting existing utility customers.

[Unlocking Rare Earth Elements from Coal Waste: Pennsylvania’s Opportunity](#) - Coal ash disposal sites are often a source of environmental pollution. Incentivizing extraction of rare earth elements from these sites in Pennsylvania presents a win-win opportunity to position the state as a leader in domestic critical mineral production while simultaneously resolving environmental liabilities.

[Pennsylvania House unanimously passes advanced transmission technology bill](#) - The Pennsylvania House on Monday unanimously passed a bill to require the state’s utilities to study the potential for advanced transmission technologies when they propose to upgrade existing transmission projects or build new ones.

[Pa. Gov. Shapiro says regulated utility system is ‘broken’](#) - In a letter to the state’s regulated utilities, the governor laid out a new system to rein in corporate profits.