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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 9-1-26

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[While Renewables Languish, Pennsylvania Pays Millions to Coal Waste Companies](#) - More than 20 years after passing a landmark clean energy law, the state gets more of its power from burning coal waste than from solar.

[Data center load made up 9% of PJM wholesale costs so far in 2026: market monitor](#) - Existing and forecast data center load made up 9%, or \$10.48/MWh, of the wholesale price of power in the PJM Interconnection this year through July, according to the grid operator's independent market monitor.

[PJM capacity market woes spur activity in bilateral power deals](#) - Despite soaring demand from data centers and a large volume of power generation under development, PJM's July capacity auction for 2028/29 fell 6.8 GW short of its target as prices hit maximum levels.

[US-Canada trade war threatens electricity imports, prices](#) - An escalating trade war between the United States and Canada is once again threatening to ensnare the electric power sector at a time when consumers are already stretched thin.

[DOE Keeps Eddystone Power Plant Online Amid Data Center Demand Surge](#) - The 760 MW Eddystone power plant will remain online longer as PJM faces rising data center load, generator retirements, and delayed power resources.

[In U.S., rare earths extracted from coal mine wastewater](#) - In the Appalachian region stretching through the U.S. state of West Virginia, the reddish water flowing out of retired coal mines is acidic, full of heavy metals and toxic for the environment.

[PJM eyes option to jumpstart surplus interconnection pathway](#) - After an earlier reform effort proved ineffective, the PJM Interconnection is taking a second swing at creating a pathway for bringing generation online by using surplus interconnection capacity at existing power facilities.

[PJM Widens Response to Data Center Load as Capacity Shortfalls Deepen](#) - PJM Interconnection has proposed a new framework that would allow large data centers and other major electricity users to enter service without first securing enough new capacity to cover their demand—but would make the uncovered portion of that load available for reduction before PJM calls on existing pre-emergency demand-response resources if electricity supplies become dangerously tight.

[PJM's New Five-Year Strategy Focuses on Reliability](#) - PJM released its new five-year strategy Aug. 19, reaffirming its commitment to reliability and outlining four priorities to meet the demands of accelerating load growth amid constrained capacity and a rapidly evolving industry.

[SCC commissioner, former NextEra attorney declines to recuse herself from merger case](#) - On Tuesday, Virginia lawmakers heard from utility regulation experts on the potential impact of the proposed merger between Dominion Energy and NextEra Energy. If approved, the merger would create the largest electric utility in the country.

[Registration Opens for PJM GridAdvance Summit](#) - Registration is now open for the inaugural PJM GridAdvance Summit, to be held Oct. 15 at the PJM Conference and Training Center and virtually. The theme is "Applying AI to the RTO."

[Transformer delivery brings Three Mile Island restart one step closer to reality](#) - On a hot, muggy day, the long-awaited arrival of a 500,000-pound transformer in Dauphin County signaled "outward, visible progress" of Constellation Energy's intent to restart nuclear energy generation at the former Three Mile Island plant for the first time in years.

[MARKET MONITOR FINDS PJM WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY MARKETS COMPETITIVE](#) - PJM Interconnection's wholesale electric energy market produced competitive results during the first six months of 2026, according to the 2026 Quarterly State of the Market Report for PJM: January through June released today by Monitoring Analytics, LLC, the Independent Market Monitor for PJM.

[Software-based initiative could unlock up to 20% more bulk capacity: OATI](#) - The company behind 95% of U.S. bulk power transactions is seeking federal funding for PowerNow, an initiative it says could unlock 10% to 20% more transmission capacity without building any new infrastructure.

[Public, private partnerships clear 100 years of pollution from western Pa. creek](#) - For the first time in his life, Jim Panaro is able to fish in the Blacklick Creek in Vintondale, Pennsylvania, a stream that runs alongside the 54-mile-long Ghost Town Trail in Cambria and Indiana Counties.

[FERC Accepts PJM Minimum Capitalization Rules To Reduce Market Risk](#) - FERC has accepted PJM's new requirements for PJM Market Participants to show proof of financial health to be eligible to participate in PJM markets.

[Pennsylvania's coal industry positions itself for a future in energy and new tech](#) - The story of coal in Pennsylvania over the past few decades has been one of decline.

[Utility plans Alabama facility to extract rare earths from coal ash](#) - Alabama may be rich in elements we need to build items critical to everyday life: smartphones, computer chips, and more.

[Dominion ordered to directly assign some transmission costs to data centers](#) - Dominion Energy will need to change its transmission cost allocation policy to directly assign the cost of certain transmission infrastructure to the new large-load facilities — such as data centers — which made that infrastructure necessary, the Virginia State Corporation Commission said in an order filed July 31.

[PJM, Dominion Review Large Load Transfer Event](#) - PJM is evaluating potential changes to interconnection reliability requirements, including existing and future ride-through standards and practices for Large Loads, specifically computational loads such as data centers and crypto-mining facilities, in the wake of a July 22 event that saw nearly 4,000 MW of data center load trip offline unexpectedly in Virginia.

[Virginia data center boom pushes Dominion deeper into costly power market](#) - Dominion's fuel costs in Virginia have risen nearly 90% in five years as data-center-driven demand leaves the utility increasingly exposed to volatile wholesale electricity prices.

[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, driven by AI-hungry data centers and electrification, the Energy Information Administration said in its Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO) on Tuesday.

[Drauschak Named Executive Vice President](#) - President and CEO David E. Mills announced Aug. 10 that Lisa M. Drauschak will be promoted from senior vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer to executive vice president, chief financial officer, treasurer and risk management.

[Existing power plants are 'bedrock' in supplying data centers: Constellation CEO](#) - Despite the Ratepayer Protection Pledge's call for planned data centers to supply their own new generation, existing power plants will play a major role in supplying them with power, according to Joseph Dominguez, Constellation president and CEO.

[Amazon eyes Homer City site for data center campus](#) - Amazon has been eyeing the proposed Homer City natural gas-fueled power plant in Indiana County as a possible location for a data center campus, the company said.

[Extreme heat offers sneak peak of grid's data center challenges](#) - A summer surge in power consumption is straining regional grids that are also seeing a boom in data center energy demand.

[Over 700 New Generation Projects Accepted Into First Cycle of Reformed Interconnection Process](#) - PJM Interconnection today announced that 715 new generation projects, capable of generating more than 200 GW of electricity, have qualified to be studied in the first Cycle of PJM's reformed interconnection process.

[AEP To Buy Longview Power Plant](#) - American Electric Power (AEP) has agreed to buy one of the nation's newest, but troubled, coal-fired electric plants. It also comes with permits to build a natural gas plant.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[SBA, Energy Department Launch Fund Push for U.S. Energy Supply Chain](#) - The U.S. Small Business Administration and Department of Energy are creating a joint investment initiative aimed at steering private capital toward domestic energy production, nuclear power, critical minerals and grid infrastructure, using the SBA's \$58 billion Small Business Investment Company program as the financing channel.

[Trump declares emergency, moves to block some foreign-made equipment from grid](#) - President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed an executive order preparing to block utilities from connecting some foreign-made equipment to the bulk power system, including transformers, batteries, inverters and associated software and digital products.

[Power plant endangerment repeal enters White House review](#) - The White House is reviewing a new proposal to permanently end EPA's regulation of power plants' carbon emissions.

[U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright defends rollback of Biden energy regulations](#) - U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright touted President Donald Trump's leadership in making the U.S. a world leader in energy production Monday during a visit to the John B. Rich Memorial Power Station.

[A Supreme Court case may be slowing Trump's next climate rollback](#) - The Trump administration's next major step toward dismantling federal climate regulation has been stalled at the White House for more than three months. A looming Supreme Court case may help explain why.

[DOE cancels 3 national transmission corridors, citing 'Green New Scam'](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy will not move forward with the designation of three proposed National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors that the Biden administration selected for review in 2024, saying in a Wednesday release that the corridors were selected as a "means to advance" that administration's "Green New Scam agenda."

[DOE issues sixth order keeping J.H. Campbell plant open](#) - The J.H. Campbell plant in Ottawa County will stay open for another three months.

[MSHA wants more feedback on its mine roof control and ventilation proposals](#) - The Mine Safety and Health Administration has reopened the comment period for separate proposed rules covering approval criteria for mine roof control and ventilation plans.

[UMWA calls for 'immediate' enforcement of silica rule as black lung hits new high in Pa., Appalachia](#) - The United Mine Workers of America made an "urgent demand" of the federal government on Thursday for the "immediate, uncompromised" enforcement of previously approved policies and rules that would protect coal miners from incurable black lung disease.

[FERC Issues Notice for Dispute Resolution Services Proceedings for PJM Governance and Stakeholder Processes](#) - On July 23, 2026, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) convened a Chairman and Commissioner-led technical conference to discuss PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.'s (PJM) governance and stakeholder processes, with a particular focus on identifying and evaluating concrete, actionable reforms to improve PJM's ability to address operational and market needs in a timely and efficient manner.

[Senate approves funding bill to avoid a shutdown before the election](#) - The Senate in an overnight vote Saturday approved a short-term measure to fund federal agencies into early December and avoid a potentially chaotic government shutdown during the middle of campaign season.

[Divided federal appeals court says Trump administration was wrong to terminate climate funds](#) - A divided federal appeals court on Tuesday said the Trump administration improperly terminated billions of dollars in funds to boost clean energy projects, handing a win to a coalition of nonprofits picked to run the Biden-era effort.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Virginia weighs who should pay for power grid expansion as data centers multiply](#) - Residents of a Northern Virginia town about 40 miles southwest of Washington, D.C., gathered at a local high school this summer to hear their electric utility supplier pitch power grid upgrades aimed at keeping the lights on as demand grows.

[Pennsylvania dangles permitting carrot for data centers that bring their own power](#) - Under a new permitting framework for loads over 25 MW, applicants that commit to abide by the state's recently introduced infrastructure standards for data centers will receive preferential treatment.

[Governor Shapiro Signs Executive Order Demanding Data Center Developers Comply with Strict Requirements and Blocking Speculative, Irresponsible Data Center Projects](#) - Today, Governor Josh Shapiro signed Executive Order 2026-05, directing Commonwealth agencies to require all data center proposals applying for permits with the Commonwealth to comply with the Governor's Responsible Infrastructure Development (GRID) Requirements, blocking speculative, irresponsible data center projects from moving forward, giving local communities more power over data center development, and protecting Pennsylvania residents.

[Shapiro turning to executive orders at a greater clip than his predecessors](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro signed an executive order Tuesday to place tighter restrictions on data center development across Pennsylvania.

[Pa. Senate hearing focuses on strategies to prevent higher electric bills](#) - The Pennsylvania Senate Majority Policy Committee addressed the state's growing need for reliable electricity and considered strategies to prevent future electric bill increases across the northeast portion of the commonwealth during an Aug. 14 public hearing.

[Lawmakers weigh how to boost Pa. power supply as electric bills rise](#) - Rising electric bills, the need for additional power generation and the environmental consequences of producing that energy dominated a Senate Majority Policy Committee hearing at the Center for Education, Business and Arts on Friday.

[State policymakers, energy producers visit Shenandoah, discuss rising costs, industry challenges](#) - "It's not an accident that we're in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania." Senator David G. Argall (R-Schuylkill) recognized the gravity of Friday's Senate Majority Policy Committee hearing at Shenandoah's Center for Education, Business, and the Arts.

[Virginia to offload more grid costs onto data centers](#) - The data center capital of the world is shifting more transmission costs onto the energy-hungry sector.

[Virginia governor Abigail Spanberger intervenes in \\$67B Dominion-NextEra merger](#) - Gov. Abigail Spanberger said Thursday she will formally intervene in the proposed \$67 billion merger between Dominion Energy and Florida-based NextEra Energy, becoming the first Virginia governor to take such action before the State Corporation Commission.

[Environmental group claims DEP is falling behind reporting on underground mining damages in Pa.](#) - The Citizens Coal Council says the quality of information in DEP's latest report represents a backslide compared to previous ones.

[Virginia asks the public how to add environmental justice to permitting process](#) - Squeaks from a pump station near Vince Hodges's home in Norfolk, VA, routinely wakes him at 2 a.m.

[Spanberger Administration Seeks Public Input on New Energy Plan](#) - Every four years, Virginia law requires the governor's administration to develop a new energy plan outlining the commonwealth's energy needs and how the state intends to meet its power generation goals.