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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 10-1-26

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Over 600 Projects Enter Phase 1 of PJM's New Interconnection Process](#) - The first phase of PJM's new interconnection process started Sept. 28, with 617 projects capable of generating nearly 169 GW of electricity remaining in the study Cycle.

[FERC chair slams PJM 'mess' as country's largest grid operator delays power auction](#) - The PJM Interconnection is delaying its planned reliability backstop procurement auction for data centers — which was set to kick off Wednesday — in the wake of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's decision a day earlier to only partly approve it, Jeffrey Shields, a spokesman for the grid operator, said in an email to Utility Dive.

[KEEL: 'A good neighbor is a quiet neighbor'; VP tries to quell concerns about planned data center](#) - Representatives of KEEL Infrastructure last week provided two days' worth of presentations to southern Venango County residents regarding the New York-City based company's proposal to build a data center at the Scrubgrass power plant.

[PJM Kicks Off Annual Process of Vetting Large Load Requests](#) - PJM has begun its annual review of proposed Large Load adjustments to determine the impact to PJM's 2027 Long-Term Load Forecast, using updated guidelines designed to better account for how likely proposed projects are to materialize.

[PJM Membership Elects Janet Dietrich to Board of Managers](#) - PJM Interconnection announced today that its Members have elected Janet Dietrich to the PJM Board of Managers.

[EPCAMR marks its milestone 30th anniversary, seeks community support to further improve 'Coal Country'](#) - The nonprofit Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR) marked its milestone 30th anniversary with a celebratory event on Sept. 19, drawing nearly 100 friends and supporters who value its ongoing work to improve landscapes and lives.

[Advanced transmission projects get \\$1.9B in DOE funding](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy plans to offer \$1.9 billion to help fund 31 grid-improvement projects that are expected to add 23 GW of capacity to the transmission system, it said Thursday.

[Clean Virginia: NextEra's utility takeover attempts, alleged political moves relevant to merger case](#) - Clean Virginia, a clean energy policy advocacy group and an intervenor in the Dominion Energy-NextEra Energy merger case, told the State Corporation Commission in a Tuesday hearing that NextEra's past political ties and attempts to acquire utilities deserve scrutiny in regulators' review of the proposed \$67 billion merger.

[Could Abandoned Mines House Pennsylvania's Unwanted Data Centers?](#) - As opposition to data centers grows, researchers eye the state's thousands of acres of polluted mine lands as potential solutions.

[These Pittsburgh-area projects could double Pa.'s power capacity. Will they happen?](#) - Heeding the call to put more power onto the grid, energy developers are proposing to build 10 natural gas power plants in southwestern Pennsylvania over the next five years and enough battery storage to match the capacity of three nuclear reactors.

[Luzerne County mines create critical habitat while still polluting streams; restoration underway](#) - Up steep Rocky Run Road on the side of a mountain in Shickshinny sits a man-made cave.

[Bringing a Power Plant's Worth of Load Onto the Grid: NERC's Interconnection Reckoning](#) - Data centers are connecting to the transmission system faster than the reliability rules were built to handle and behaving nothing like the passive load those rules assumed.

[These States Are Turning Back To Coal Amid The Energy Squeeze](#) - Ongoing conflict between the U.S. and Iran has effectively cut off commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a key passageway for approximately 20% of global oil and liquified natural gas.

[Is it time to rethink the Northeast's cap-and-trade system?](#) - The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative isn't having the same emissions-cutting effect it used to. As power bills rise, some wonder if it is worth continuing.

[Unplanned power plant outages fell sharply during 2025/26 winter storms: FERC-NERC report](#) - Generators experienced far fewer unplanned outages during bitter cold winter weather early this year and in 2025 compared to winter storms in 2021 and 2022, reflecting changes power plant owners and grid operators have made in how they prepare for cold weather, according to a report released Thursday by FERC and NERC.

[PJM Proposes Reliability Standards to Manage Large Load Disconnection Events](#) - PJM has proposed changes to interconnection reliability requirements for Large Loads, specifically, computational loads that include data centers and crypto-mining facilities.

[US power use to beat record highs in 2026 and 2027 as AI use surges, EIA says](#) - U.S. power consumption will rise to record highs in 2026 and 2027, driven by AI-hungry data centers and electrification, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said in its Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO) on Wednesday.

[Tour highlights abandoned mine reclamation projects underway in Luzerne County](#) - It was a trek around Luzerne County that highlighted the importance of abandoned mine reclamation projects.

[Transmission expansion could spur billions in savings, especially in PJM: study](#) - A set of 13 "high value" inter- and intraregional transmission projects in the Eastern Interconnection could produce up to \$15.3 billion in net system value through 2050, according to a study released Tuesday.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Senate reaches bipartisan deal on permitting bill to speed approvals of new energy projects](#) - Senators from both parties said Wednesday they have reached a deal on legislation aimed at speeding up permitting reviews for new energy and infrastructure projects that now face yearslong delays, as lawmakers seek to meet growing demand for electricity and other forms of energy.

[Feds order Craig coal plant open for another 3 months](#) - Federal officials ordered Tri-State Generation's Craig coal-fired power unit open for another three months, nearly through December, extending the "emergency" action despite successful challenges to the controversial policy in other states.

[House passes Palmer bill to recover critical minerals from waste](#) - U.S. Representative Gary Palmer, R-Alabama, introduced legislation to recover critical minerals from discarded materials that passed the House, sending the bill to the Senate as Congress considers ways to reduce the nation's reliance on foreign sources for materials used in energy, manufacturing and national defense.

[Environment, health groups sue over Trump move to wipe out climate rules for power plants](#) - Environmental and public health-focused organizations are suing the Trump administration over its move to wipe out most climate regulations on coal and gas power plants.

[Load Forecasting Enhancement Act advances to Senate](#) - The U.S. House of Representatives on Sept. 15 approved bipartisan legislation that would direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to establish regional joint boards to study electric load forecasting, which is critical to ensuring that the electric grid can meet future demand without blackouts or forcing consumers to pay for unnecessary infrastructure.

[House passes ratepayer protection bill to limit data center cost shifts](#) - The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday passed the Ratepayer Protection Act — a bill designed to prevent data centers and other large computational loads from shifting their grid and power generation costs onto existing customers — in a 417-3 vote.

[Trump signs order reversing Chesapeake Bay mandate tied to Pa. 'Rain Tax'](#) - President Donald Trump's decision to rescind an Obama-era executive order tied to Chesapeake Bay cleanup is prompting Luzerne County lawmakers to call for a review of Pennsylvania's stormwater requirements, which critics have dubbed the "Rain Tax."

[EPA Finalizes Repeal of 2024 Power Plant Regulations, Delivering \\$300+ Billion in Savings, Proposes Repeal of All Remaining Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Power Plants](#) - At the G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial today in Houston, Texas, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the repeal of the majority of the Biden administration's greenhouse gas requirements for U.S. power plants, an action the agency projects will save \$310 billion, and proposed rescinding every remaining greenhouse gas standard for the power sector.

[Court rejects DOE 'emergency' order delaying coal plant retirement as overstep](#) - A federal appeals court on Friday vacated the U.S. Department of Energy's emergency order requiring the owners of a coal-fired power plant in Michigan to delay its planned retirement, saying the move usurped state authority over generating resources.

[EPA and Army Seek Additional Input on Proposed Waters of the U.S. Definition While Advancing Toward Durable Final Rule](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of the Army announced a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to gather public input on additional regulatory language for defining "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) to be considered alongside the 2025 proposed rule.

[EPA proposal could leave the public in the dark on data center plans](#) - A plan by the Environmental Protection Agency could make it harder for the public to learn about and comment on proposed AI data centers that have sparked backlash in communities across the United States and transformed the midterm election landscape.

[Federal judge strikes down New York's \\$75B climate 'Superfund'](#) - A federal judge has dealt a blow to New York's environmental goals by invalidating a key provision of a new law that punishes fossil fuel companies for their alleged role in climate change.

[UMWA calls for stronger MSHA enforcement](#) - The United Mine Workers of America are expressing frustration with what they call federal regulators asleep at the wheel.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[House committee backs bill sparing communities from 'fake' data center proposals](#) - More than a hundred data center proposals have popped up like mushrooms on the Pennsylvania map, and a House committee on Wednesday attempted to validate the "real" ones by backing a plan to weed out many others believed to be speculative grabs for money.

[Reliability vs. Affordability: Regulators hear opposing visions for West Virginia's energy future](#) - A packed hearing Monday before the West Virginia Public Service Commission saw two different arguments presented regarding proposed rules dealing with coal-fire power in the state connected to the 2025 bill meant to attract data centers.

[RGGI allowance prices 153% higher in Virginia return](#) - Virginia returned to a regional carbon market this summer with allowance prices about 153% higher than when the commonwealth last participated, increasing the cost of emissions allowances utilities can seek to recover from electric customers.

[Upcoming PUC Technical Conference Focuses on Utility Costs Driven by Data Centers and Other Large-Load Customers](#) - As the rapid buildout of data centers and other large-load facilities continues to fuel concerns about cost impacts on Pennsylvania households, along with growing worries about power grid reliability, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) will convene a technical conference on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026, to examine how costs associated with large new loads are identified and allocated.

[Pennsylvania Electric Reliability Improved in 2025 – But Severe Weather Kept the Pressure On](#) - Pennsylvania experienced fewer significant electric outages in 2025, and most utilities improved key measures of reliability related to restoration time, outage frequency and overall outage duration. But for customers caught in the path of severe storms, it may not have felt like a better year.

[Shawn Steffee and Aric Baker: W.Va. lawsuit an attack on Pa.](#) - West Virginia Attorney General J.B. McCuskey wants Pennsylvanians to believe his new lawsuit is a fight for free markets and cheaper power.

[West Virginia Office of Energy director hints at partisan divide in PJM Governors Collaborative](#) - In an interim presentation to the Joint Committee on Energy and Public Works, Nicholas Preservati, Director of the West Virginia Office of Energy and Deputy Secretary of the Department of Commerce, revealed there could be brewing partisan conflict in the bipartisan PJM Governors Coalition.

[Pennsylvania has the energy. Will regulation send investment elsewhere?](#) - State lawmakers on Monday scrutinized Pennsylvania's ability to remain competitive in the Mid-Atlantic energy market during a Pennsylvania House Republican Policy Committee field hearing, where they and energy advocates argued that permitting delays, regulatory uncertainty, and policies affecting reliable generation could push investment and jobs to neighboring states.

[PUC Study Warns Rapid Data Center Growth Could Pose Serious Risks to Electric Reliability](#) - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today released an independent analysis warning that rapidly growing electricity demand – driven largely by data center development – could create serious reliability risks across Pennsylvania and the broader region unless electricity supply keeps pace with that growth.

[PUC Launches Review of Utility Ratemaking to Address Affordability, Transparency and Changing Economic Conditions](#) - Against a backdrop of rising utility costs, growing affordability concerns and significant changes across Pennsylvania's utility sectors, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today launched a broad examination of key elements of the state's utility ratemaking process.

[PUC Moves to Address Data Center Impacts on Electric Reliability and Consumer Costs](#) - As rapid data center development adds significant new demand to the regional electric grid, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today took steps to examine Pennsylvania's emergency load control procedures and the allocation of costs associated with large computational loads.

[In rare move, SCC orders three in-person hearings for NextEra-Dominion merger case](#) - The State Corporation Commission has ordered additional chances for the public to officially testify in the case to approve or reject the proposed \$67 billion NextEra-Dominion merger, Virginia regulators said Thursday.

[West Virginia sues Pennsylvania over 'naked economic warfare'](#) - A neighboring state has sued Pennsylvania over laws passed in the last decade that prevent energy companies located outside of the Commonwealth from selling renewable-energy credits to those inside it.

[House GOP previews Pa. affordability package](#) - Pennsylvania House Republicans are preparing a 10-bill package that would target business taxes, energy costs, housing supply, and other affordability issues as lawmakers work to make the state more competitive.

[Utility executives and cybersecurity experts warn Pa. lawmakers of growing threats](#) - As grid infrastructure increasingly relies on internet connections to function, bad actors' tools have become more sophisticated.

[PUC Power Outlook Highlights Changing Electricity Demand as Large Loads Reshape Future Forecasts](#) - Pennsylvania's electricity needs could change substantially over the next several years as rapidly growing demand from data centers and other large-load customers combines with broader regional challenges involving electric generation, transmission and resource adequacy, according to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's (PUC) latest Electric Power Outlook Report.