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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 11-2-26

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

PJM Files Amended Reliability Backstop Proposal - PJM filed an amended proposal to FERC with the goal of commencing a Reliability Backstop Procurement on March 1, 2027.

Dominion asks SCC to recoup RGGI costs from customers, adding up to $13 to bills monthly - This summer, Dominion Energy rejoined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a carbon market designed to offset carbon emissions.

FirstEnergy data center pipeline increases to 26 GW in Q3 - FirstEnergy's long-term pipeline of data center load — contracted and other potential load — grew 4.8% to 26 GW in the third quarter from the second quarter, according to an earnings presentation on Wednesday.

DEP says it found no air quality risk near burning coal waste fire in Northumberland County - The state Department of Environmental Protection said spot tests this week show no air quality risks for people living nearby an ongoing mine culm bank fire in Northumberland County, adding they are confident it will not spread underground.

NextEra CEO responds to governor's concerns over $67B Dominion Energy merger - NextEra Energy CEO John Ketchum is standing behind the commitments his company has made to Virginia customers as opposition grows to the proposed $67 billion merger between Dominion Energy and NextEra.

New research study examines efforts to extinguish PA coal mine fire - In eerie timing, considering that a state of emergency has been declared in Northumberland County due to a large mine fire, one of the most infamous environmental phenomena in Pennsylvania history has received a closer look from state academics.

PJM urges FERC to dismiss Mon Power 'fishing expedition' seeking to recoup $145M - The PJM Interconnection on Monday urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to dismiss a complaint from Monongahela Power, a FirstEnergy subsidiary, that seeks to recoup $145 million in losses the utility incurred during Winter Storm Fern earlier this year.

Reliability standards for AI data centers, crypto miners move closer to adoption - NERC's Board of Trustees on Monday voted to adopt reliability standards for AI data centers and other computational loads. The proposed rules now go to FERC for approval.

PJM, FERC Focus on Large Load Challenges at Tech Conference - PJM joined industry leaders Wednesday to discuss the novel and significant operating and planning challenges associated with the accelerating growth and energy use patterns of data centers.

What to know about the nation's first grid utilization metrics - Landmark regulatory filings show vast off-peak headroom alongside exploding data center bottlenecks.

First GridAdvance Summit Explores Applying AI to the RTO - Innovation will play a critical role in building the capabilities, processes and solutions we need to meet the demands of the new industrial revolution driven by artificial intelligence.

Dominion's energy roadmap keeps fossil fuels in the mix, expands solar - The utility's latest long-term forecast includes solar, wind, nuclear, and gas expansion, along with rising residential bills.

Operations Update: PJM Issues Capacity Advisory for Oct. 19 - PJM has issued a Capacity Advisory for Monday, Oct. 19, ahead of expected tight system conditions due to equipment outages needed for maintenance and construction.

Providing Reliable Electricity in a New Reality - The end of summer and the transition into fall usually offers the electric grid a chance to catch its collective breath and prepare for the challenges to come in the winter season ahead.

PJM, ERCOT, and SWPP all set peak load records this summer - Three regional transmission organizations (RTOs) set records for peak hourly load this past summer, according to data reported on Form EIA-930 and presented in the Hourly Electric Grid Monitor.

State study aims to identify retired power plant sites that can be reactivated - Nearly two dozen former power plant sites across Pennsylvania are part of a study to identify potential locations for new generating facilities that could help ease the region's power crunch.

Fossil fuel generation pipeline rebounds while new clean generation slows: EDF - However, "rising gas turbine costs and supply shortages are already making new gas plants more expensive and slower to build," said David Villagrana, EDF's lead counsel for clean energy tax solutions.

Power Prices Top $1,000 on PJM as Heat Collides With Fall Plant Maintenance - An unseasonable heat blast across the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic has landed in the middle of PJM Interconnection's fall maintenance season, and the grid that serves 67 million people is running thin.

Report: Pennsylvania gas power to grow 15% by 2030 - Pennsylvania's natural gas power capacity is projected to grow at least 15% by 2030, driven largely by rising electricity demand from data centers, per a new PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center analysis of federal data.

PJM Reviews September Hot Weather Operations - PJM and the PJM generation and transmission owners coordinated closely during two unseasonably warm September periods to reliably serve demand while managing tightening generation and transmission system constraints, PJM told the Operating Committee Thursday.

Pa. coal miners eye rising demand amid environmental battles - Josh Palmer has coal mining in his blood. Like so many others in the industry, his mining roots run deep: His father, his father's uncles, five brothers and a great-uncle have toiled underground.

PJM Accepts First Expedited Interconnection Track Projects - PJM has accepted the first three projects in a new, temporary process designed to get large generation resources online quickly to address the urgent growth in demand for electricity.

Power system plans to meet large-load demand miss near-term solutions: analysts - Major work by regional planners is focused on flexible access to existing transmission. Some say greater emphasis on advanced transmission technologies can quickly create room for large loads.

'A constant problem': Abandoned mines causing sinkholes, other incidents across the country - An ABC News investigation found abandoned underground mines across the country.

Virginia hearing examiner tells Dominion to release memo on FPL investigation - A Virginia State Corporation Commission hearing examiner ruled Friday that Dominion Energy and NextEra must release documents they attempted to withhold during the review of the two utilities' $67 billion merger request.

One of the largest data centers being built in Pa. has an end user, and it's a big name - One of Pennsylvania's largest hyperscale data centers, which will be powered by the largest natural gas-fired power plant in the United States, finally has an end user.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

EPA Marks 50 Years of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) with Updates to Modernize Waste Regulations to Support Economic Growth - A groundbreaking 1976 law enters a new era of smart, safe, and economically sound waste management.

DOE turns to defense funds to squeeze more from power grid - The department is tapping into Defense Production Act funding as a Biden-era infrastructure grant runs dry.

FERC rejects most of PJM's large load interconnection plan - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Friday largely rejected the PJM Interconnection's plan for bringing data centers and other large loads onto its system, including proposed interim service and "bring your own new capacity" rules.

DOE presses PJM on ratepayer protections from large load costs - The U.S. Department of Energy on Wednesday urged the PJM Interconnection to revise its reliability backstop procurement plan to prevent cost shifts onto existing utility customers from data centers and other large loads.

FERC rejects TransAlta 202(c) cost-recovery plan for Centralia unit - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday rejected TransAlta's plan to recover its costs for keeping its 730-MW, coal-fired Centralia power plant in Washington operating under an "emergency order" from the U.S. Department of Energy.

EPA Notifies States of Potential Designations for the Biden EPA's Flawed 2024 Air Quality Standard Following Appealed Court Order - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notified all 50 states, the District of Columbia, five territories, and 67 Tribes of the agency's intended approach for area designations under the Biden-era 2024 revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) despite EPA's belief the designations should not move forward.

Senate permitting bill would expand federal role in transmission siting - A bipartisan permitting reform bill introduced in the U.S. Senate on Wednesday would, in most cases, prevent the revocation or suspension of previously issued federal permits for energy projects, and strengthen the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's siting authority for transmission.

States and cities sue over Trump's EPA eliminating rule that limits emissions from power plants - States and cities sued the Trump administration Thursday for repealing rules that limit planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions from power plants fueled by coal and natural gas.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

An electric utility wants to fix Pa.'s competitive energy market; regulators say more study needed - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission partially rejected a proposal by FirstEnergy Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania complaint challenges PPL's ratepayer protections - Pennsylvania's consumer advocate alleges PPL Electric's existing tariff leaves customers exposed to data center infrastructure costs and reliability risks.

ICYMI: Shapiro Administration Announces $14.4 Million Investment to Strengthen Pennsylvania's Electric Grid and Improve Electric Grid Reliability - The Shapiro Administration is investing an additional $14.4 million to strengthen Pennsylvania's electric grid, helping communities prevent power outages, improve reliability, and restore electricity faster when severe weather strikes.

With a Trifecta, Pennsylvania Democrats Would Pass Energy Reforms and Rein in Data Centers - Flipping the state Senate could pave the way for environmental action, but Gov. Josh Shapiro may be "the limiting factor."

'Keeping the Lights On' in PA: In response to dire PUC warning, House Democrats share policy to prevent grid failures - In early September, the PUC released a dire report warning about Pennsylvania's energy future: because of the skyrocketing demand brought on by AI data centers, blackouts and other grid failures could be six times worse than PJM's planning standard by 2030.

West Virginia PSC files revised power generation rules - The West Virginia Public Service Commission has filed revised rules governing electric generating capacity with the state, advancing a regulatory process intended to help ensure power plants can meet electricity needs while protecting consumers from higher costs.

PUC Invites Comments On Regulations To Give Electric Utilities New Tools To Manage Data Centers During Emergency Periods Of Strained Electricity Supplies And Curtailments To Maintain Grid Reliability - The Public Utility Commission published notice in the October 17 PA Bulletin inviting comments on proposed safeguards aimed at protecting Pennsylvania consumers and preserving electric reliability during periods when electricity supplies may be strained.

DEP Launches New Tools To Help Pennsylvanians Figure Out Which Permits They Need And Where To Find Funding To Support Their Projects; Small Business Advantage Grants Now Available - On October 9, the Department of Environmental Protection launched new tools designed to make it easier for Pennsylvanians to figure out what permits they may need for a project and find funding to support environmental improvements.

Shapiro Signs Water-Supply Rule for Pennsylvania Developments - Pennsylvania developers will face new water-supply documentation requirements before securing final municipal approval for subdivision and land-development projects under legislation signed by Gov. Josh Shapiro on October 8, establishing a statewide standard that could affect residential, commercial and industrial construction.

As energy costs climb, Pa. Dems propose bills to lower utility costs - Rising electricity rates and a strained power grid are putting more pressure on Pennsylvania households heading into winter. A group of House Democrats says its new package of bills could help lower costs while strengthening the state's energy system.

Gov. Pritzker & Bipartisan Governors Formalize Collective to Hold PJM Accountable - Today, Governor JB Pritzker welcomed a bipartisan group of 13 governors and the Mayor of D.C. to Illinois to the 2026 Governors' Summit on the State of PJM.

PUC Commissioner Kathryn L. Zerfuss Confirmed for Second Term - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today welcomed the unanimous confirmation by the Pennsylvania Senate of Commissioner Kathryn L. Zerfuss to a second term on the Commission and thanked Governor Josh Shapiro for nominating her for reappointment.

Lawmakers examine Pennsylvania's growing energy needs as data centers expand - Pennsylvania lawmakers are examining how the state will meet rising energy demand as data centers expand and concerns grow about grid capacity.

Some state leaders say changes to PJM's electric grid governance aren't enough - Democratic leaders in Pennsylvania, Maryland and other states have long called for PJM Interconnection, which administers the regional electric grid, to give more weight to state voices in its decision-making.

Bill would require regulators to consider 'public interest' in Pennsylvania utility decisions - A bill to require Pennsylvania regulators to consider the public interest in utility decisions is moving to the State Senate.

PUC Finalizes Updated Regulations for Commission Procedures and Formal Proceedings - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today approved a Final Rulemaking Order geared toward modernizing and clarifying sections of PUC regulations related to practice before the Commission, updating those procedures for the first time in 20 years.

Pa. House panel passes proposals on data center costs, utility company profits - As electricity customers absorb more price hikes, state lawmakers on Wednesday considered three proposals to keep costs in check as the industry prepares to serve fleets of data centers.

Yaw Urges PJM to Focus on Generation Growth, Grid Reliability - In a letter to the PJM Interconnection Board of Managers, Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23), chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, urged the regional transmission organization to resolve governance issues and refocus its attention on the growing need for new generation, transmission and reliable, affordable power.