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September 25, 2015

NEWS CLIPS

[NJ and PA utilities propose \\$1 billion gas pipeline](#)

[Tax credits, trades, turbine counts hound wind power in PA](#)

[Marcus Hook looks at gas for rebound](#)

[Major victory of PA landowners/drillers in Lycoming County case](#)

[OECD - 800 Ways we subsidize fossil fuels](#)

[Natural gas production is slowing, but another boom could be on the way \(blog\)](#)

[LNG Export Facilities Move Forward in Down Market](#)

[Renewable Energy's Potential May Be Understated](#)

[Renewables Help States Meet Clean Power Plan Goals](#)

[Spread of Net Metering, Utility Backlash - Net Metering History Part 3](#)

[Presidential candidates address RFS](#)

[PA Natural Gas Production Report Released](#)

Over And Over Again

News on the state budget impasse these days is like a recurring bad dream. Late into the third month without a state funding or financing plan, each morning still starts with the news that the state is without a budget agreement.

Last week the Senate, and this week the House passed stopgap budget measures along party line votes, with the ostensible purpose of getting much needed money from the state and federal funds to schools, local governments and social service providers. That was done despite an assurance from Governor Wolf that he will quickly veto those bills at his earliest opportunity - probably Monday. [\(MORE\)](#)

Regional News

Federal News

More State News

Marcellus Shale Coalition Responds to Proposed Article 78 Changes

The Marcellus Shale Coalition (MSC) sees more harm than good coming from the state's proposed changes to how companies handle their above-ground drilling operations that include lost jobs and higher taxes.

In an email to the Pennsylvania Business Daily, David Spigelmyer, president of the MSC, said, "The governor's regulatory overreach, taken together with the threat of a highest-in-the-nation energy tax, as well as persistently low global commodity prices, severely discourages investment and job creation in the Commonwealth. Given these clear and widely reported facts, small-medium businesses and supply chain companies will be hurt the most." [\(MORE\)](#)

House Votes to Eliminate State Ethanol Blend Mandate

This week, the House passed HB 471, sponsored by Rep. Jim Marshall (R, Beaver), by a 155-42 vote. The bill would repeal the state's mandate that all gasoline sold within the commonwealth's borders contain at least 10% ethanol, when state production of cellulosic ethanol production reaches 350,000,000 gallons on an annual average.

The provision was part of Act 78 of 2008 and was designed to incentivize

EVENTS

September 28, 2015

**PA DEP Listening Session
on Clean Energy Plan**
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA

September 29, 2015

**EPA Hearing on Impacts
of Clean Air Rulemaking**
Pittsburgh, PA

September 29, 2015

**PIOGA Annual
Membership Meeting**
Greensburg Ramada
Greensburg, PA

September 30, 2015

**PA DEP Listening Session
on Clean Energy Plan**
University of Penna.
Philadelphia, PA

September 30, 2015

**PA DEP Listening Session
on Clean Energy Plan**
Marcus Hook Community
Center
Marcus Hook, PA

October 1, 2014

MidStreamPA
Penn Stater
State College, PA
[Register here](#)

October 18-20, 2015

**Renewable Energy
Markets 2015**
Hilton Crystal City
Washington, D.C.
[Register here](#)

October 26-28

**National Advanced
Biofuels Conference &
Expo**
Hilton Omaha
Omaha, NE
[More information](#)

October 27-28

**PIOGA Eastern Oil & Gas
Conference**
Monroeville Convention
Center
Monroeville, PA

October 28, 2015

cellulosic ethanol production in Pennsylvania. However, no cellulosic ethanol is being produced in the commonwealth. ([MORE](#))

Court Sides with Dauphin County Authority in Utility Rate Dispute

The Commonwealth Court recently ruled in favor of the Dauphin County Authority who is seeking to have PPL Electric Utilities, a subsidiary of PPL Corporation, pay a higher rate for the energy the Authority generates at its solar farm.

In 2013, the Authority asked PPL to increase the rate they pay for the Authority's surplus energy from 8.4 cents per kilo-watt hour to almost 13.4 cents. The PUC, however, informed the Authority that they had to stay with the rates PPL had already set or find another supplier if they wanted a higher rate. ([MORE](#))

DEP Grants Air Quality Plan Approval for Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant in Luzerne County

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has approved an air quality plan approval for Moxie Freedom Energy, LLC of Virginia to construct and operate a 1050-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in Salem Township, Luzerne County. DEP's Air Quality Program granted the approval on Tuesday, September 1, 2015. ([MORE](#))

Pennsylvania Receives Portion of Federal Money to Advance Fuel Efficient Vehicle Technology

As part of the Obama Administration's strategy to increase energy productivity, reduce America's reliance on foreign oil and cut harmful emissions the Energy Department last week announced the award of almost \$55 million [for 24 projects to develop and deploy cutting-edge vehicle technologies](#) that will strengthen the U.S. clean energy economy. These technologies will play a key role in increasing fuel efficiency and reducing petroleum consumption, while also supporting the Energy Department's EV Everywhere Grand Challenge to make plug-in electric vehicles as affordable to own and operate as today's gasoline-powered vehicles by 2022.

Of those 24 projects, two are located in Pennsylvania and totals nearly \$3.7 million. ([MORE](#))

Boehner to Resign

US House Speaker John Boehner (R, Ohio) announced Friday morning that he will resign effective Oct. 25, shocking most politicians and Washington watchers. Boehner was widely popular among House Republicans, but faced a vote to strip him of his speakership from the Tea Party wing of the Republican caucus. Boehner is recognized as a strong conservative, but his tactics were never confrontational enough to satisfy the most conservative faction in the House, and he deserves much credit for his willingness to move issues forward through negotiation and compromise.

Kane's Law License Suspended

The State Supreme Court on Monday temporarily suspended the law license of Attorney General Kathleen Kane as she awaits trial on criminal charges. In its unanimous ruling the Court said that the order was limited to a temporary suspension and did not remove her from office. As a result, General Kane will (at

**PA DEP Pipeline
Taskforce Meeting**
Harrisburg, PA

**October 28, 2015
5th Annual PA Energy
Management Conference**
Camp Hill, PA
[Register here](#)

**October 28-29, 2015
2015 Penn State Natural
Gas Utilization
Conference**
Canonsburg, PA

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least for now) remain in office.

Kane insists she will not resign, but she could be removed from office by action of the General Assembly. One provision would allow the governor to remove Kane "for reasonable cause, after due notice and full hearing, on the address of two-thirds of the Senate." The House of Representatives can also start impeachment proceedings.

Her arraignment is scheduled for mid-October.

Regional News

NYSERDA Opens Second Round of Solarize Campaigns

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) announced last week a second round of support for Solarize campaigns. Under Gov. Cuomo's NY-Sun Community Solar NY program, Solarize campaigns make solar easier and more affordable through community-driven initiatives and are an essential component of Reforming the Energy Vision (REV).

Community Solar NY provides support for community education and marketing of group solar purchasing projects. In this round, NYSERDA is encouraging projects that make solar more accessible for low- and moderate-income participants, and provides opportunities for renters, homeowners, low-income residents, schools and businesses to join together to set up shared renewable energy projects resulting in healthier and stronger communities. Applications for this round will be accepted through November 16, 2015. ([MORE](#))

OH Approves \$800M Natural Gas Powered Electric Plant

Clean Energy Future-Lordstown (CEF-L) is one step closer to beginning construction on its generation facility in northeast Ohio.

The Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) today authorized CEF-L to construct an 800-megawatt natural gas-fired combined-cycle generation facility in Lordstown, Ohio.

The Lordstown Energy Center will be located on a 17-acre parcel in the Lordstown Industrial Park east of State Route 45 and south of Henn Parkway. The facility and associated transmission infrastructure will interconnect to the American Transmission Systems, Inc. (ATSI) bulk transmission system. ([MORE](#))

Completion of New Solar Farm Means MD City Using 100% Renewable Energy

The city of Columbia, MD is now running its facilities on 100% renewable energy, thanks to a new solar farm.

The Columbia Association manages Columbia, an unincorporated city of nearly 100,000 people. The Association has been sourcing 75 percent of its energy from the purchase of renewable wind energy credits. The final 25 percent is being generated from the two mega watt Nixon Farm solar project. Located in West Friendship, the electricity produced from the farm will be provided via virtual net metering under a 20 year agreement with SunEdison. ([MORE](#))

Feds to Lease Offshore Wind Sites off New Jersey Coast

The federal government this week announced plans to lease nearly 344,000 acres

of the ocean floor off the coast of New Jersey to companies interested in building offshore windmills to generate electricity. The lease area would run roughly from Long Beach Island to the southern tip of the state near Cape May.

The Interior Department and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management say that if fully developed, the leases could result in enough wind-generated electricity to power 1.2 million homes. The leases are to be sold Nov. 9.

[\(MORE\)](#)

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Federal News

Methane Hearing Scheduled in Pittsburgh

The EPA is holding a hearing in Pittsburgh on Tuesday, Sept 29 to take public comment on the agency's recently-proposed rule to cut methane emissions from oil and gas operations. The rule addresses new and modified sources of emissions.

U.S. and China Outline Agreement on Combating Climate Change

President Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping today issued a joint announcement laying out the details of a landmark climate deal between the world's two largest carbon polluters. The deal includes a promise by China to develop a national cap-and-trade program and to prioritize low-carbon-emitting sources in its electric dispatch. In return, the U.S. will complete new rules for heavy duty vehicles and phase down hydrofluorocarbons, a greenhouse gas that traps a lot of heat but spends less time in the atmosphere than carbon.

The U.S. and China have come closer to agreeing broadly to a 'form of differentiation which depends on countries actual real circumstances.' That could amount to a big breakthrough if China can convince other developing countries to follow suit." [\(MORE\)](#)

US House Committee Moves Oil Export Bill

The House Commerce and Energy Committee wrapped up its work last week with a meeting to mark up H.R. 702, "To Adapt to Changing Crude Oil Market Conditions."

In a vote of 31-19, the Committee approved H.R. 702. Chairman Emeritus Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) and Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX) introduced the bipartisan legislation, which is expected to be considered by the full house the first week in October. [\(MORE\)](#)

Secretary Moniz Unveils Roadmap to Double U.S. Energy Productivity by 2030

In support of the President's goal to double U.S. energy productivity by 2030, Secretary Moniz unveiled a strategic plan today laying out a path businesses, state and local governments, consumers and other stakeholders can use to achieve this goal. The [report](#), *Accelerate Energy Productivity 2030: A Strategic Roadmap for American Energy Innovation, Economic Growth, and Competitiveness*, identifies proven and effective strategies and actions to advance energy efficiency. Strategies include: states securing energy productivity through setting

and updating vehicle and product codes and standards, and providing energy performance information to consumers; utilities and regulators designing rates and related policies that more effectively align energy efficiency with utility business models; and businesses reinvesting avoided energy costs. By doubling energy productivity, American families will be able to power their homes and vehicles using less energy, while American businesses will be able to manufacture more while spending less and cutting harmful carbon emissions. ([MORE](#))

EPA Seeking Comments on National Enforcement Initiatives

The EPA last week published its proposed [National Enforcement Initiatives for FY 2017-2019](#), and began a 30 day comment period ending October 14, 2015. For the six existing initiatives, the EPA asked for public comment on whether each NEI should continue into the FY 17-19 cycle and invited comments on new areas of focus within those NEIs. ([MORE](#))

DOE Announces \$50 Million in Funding for New Technologies and Solar Innovation

To continue driving down solar PV costs beyond the current [SunShot goals](#), the Energy Department today announced [\\$20 million available](#) to further improve PV module performance, reliability, and manufacturability, while also advancing next generation PV concepts. In addition to typical multiyear research projects, this funding opportunity includes a topic area dedicated to small, single-year projects aimed at demonstrating the potential for expanded work in cutting-edge PV research. This funding opportunity aims to reach solar PV costs by the year 2030 that are one-half to one-third of the original SunShot goals, in order to support widespread deployment of PV. ([MORE](#))

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