



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
Northern Indiana Public Service Company LLC
Regarding R.M. Schahfer Generating Station

Order No. 202-26-29

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Energy by section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ and section 301(b) of the Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) Organization Act,² and for the reasons set forth below, I hereby determine that an emergency exists in portions of the Midwest region of the United States (U.S.) due to a shortage of electric energy, a shortage of facilities for the generation of electric energy, and other causes. Issuance of this Order will meet the emergency and serve the public interest.

BACKGROUND

The R.M. Schahfer Generating Station (Schahfer) is an electric generating facility in Wheatfield, Indiana. Schahfer is owned and operated by Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), a division of NiSource Inc. Schahfer consists of two 129 MW natural-gas fired generation units and two coal-fired generation units, Unit 17 (423.5 MW) and Unit 18 (423.5 MW).³ Unit 17 and Unit 18 began operations in 1983 and 1986, respectively. Unit 17 and Unit 18 were both slated to cease operations in December 2025.⁴

Order No. 202-25-12, issued pursuant to FPA section 202(c), required that Schahfer Unit 17 and Unit 18 remain in operation for 90 days, through March 23, 2026. Subsequently, Order No. 202-26-19, issued pursuant to FPA section 202(c), required the Schahfer Units to remain in operation for 90 days, until June 21, 2026. These orders

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c).

² 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b).

³ U.S. Energy Info. Admin., *Form EIA-860, Schedule 3: Generator Data* (2024), <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia860/>.

⁴ It likely would be difficult for the coal-fired units to resume operations once retired. Specifically, practical issues, such as employment, contracts, and permits, may greatly increase the timeline for resumption of operations during the period they are needed. Moreover, if NIPSCO were to begin disassembling the units or other related facilities, the associated challenges would be greatly exacerbated. The costs and time of decommissioning a coal plant are extensive, and restarting such decommissioned plants would presumably cost the same as decommissioning in dollars and time, if not more. Thus, continuous operation is required in such cases so long as the Secretary determines a shortage exists and is likely to persist. See Jennifer Lessick et al., *Bus. Models for Coal Plant Decommissioning*, at 9-12 (Aug. 2021), https://www.pnnl.gov/main/publications/external/technical_reports/PNNL-31348.pdf.

were based on my determination that emergency conditions existed in the region served by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO).

Specifically, I determined that MISO faced tight reserve margins due to well-documented year-round resource adequacy concerns, particularly during periods of high demand or low generation resource output.⁵ I determined that the continued operation of Schahfer would provide additional generation capacity during these periods, which would help prevent the loss of power to homes and businesses that would otherwise pose a risk to public health and safety.⁶ I determined that the continued operation of Schahfer was necessary to alleviate immediate and anticipated threats to reliability.⁷

My determination was based on several facts. First, in its 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment (LTRA), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) notes that the MISO assessment area, which covers portions of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin, is at an elevated risk, “because probabilistic assessments indicate above-normal generator outages during extreme weather can result in unserved energy or load loss. With uncertainty around new resource additions and existing generator retirements, MISO is also at risk of falling below [Reference Margin Levels] within the next five years.”⁸ Additionally, the LTRA notes that “[t]he departure of MISO’s coal fleet has continued with a reduction in capacity of around 6 GW in the past year, and a projected reduction of a further 12 GW over the next five years.”⁹

Second, MISO’s year-round resource adequacy concerns are well-documented. In 2022, MISO requested Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval of its filing to revise its resource adequacy construct (including the Planning Resource Auction or PRA) to establish capacity requirements for each of the four seasons of the year rather than on an annual basis determined by peak summer demand.¹⁰ MISO justified this revision by explaining that “Reliability risks associated with [r]esource [a]dequacy have shifted from ‘Summer only’ to a year-round concern.”¹¹

⁵ See, e.g., *Midcontinent Indep. Sys. Operator, Inc.*, DOE Order No. 202-25-12, at 1–4 (Dec. 23, 2025).

⁶ See, e.g., *id.*

⁷ See, e.g., *id.* at 5.

⁸ N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp., *2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment*, at 13 (Dec. 2024, corrected July 11, 2025), https://www.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/2024-ltra_corrected_july_2025.pdf.

⁹ *Id.* at 44.

¹⁰ *Midcontinent Indep. Sys. Operator, Inc.*, Transmittal Letter, FERC Dkt. No. ER22-495-000 (filed Nov. 30, 2021). FERC accepted MISO’s proposed tariff revisions on August 31, 2022. See also *Midcontinent Indep. Sys. Operator, Inc.*, 180 FERC ¶ 61,141 (2022), *order on reh’g*, 182 FERC ¶ 61,096 (2023).

¹¹ *MISO*, Transmittal Letter, FERC Dkt. No. ER22-495-000, at 3.

MISO noted that over 60% of all “MaxGen” events (events when MISO initiates emergency procedures because of concerns over the adequacy of available generation) occurred outside of the summer season.¹²

CONTINUING EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

The emergency conditions that necessitated the issuance of Order Nos. 202-25-12 and 202-26-19 continue, both in the near and long term. The production of electricity from Schahfer continues to be critical to maintain reliability in MISO. MISO’s resource adequacy concerns were most recently demonstrated during Winter Storm Fern, when Schahfer operated under a cold weather alert and declared conservative operations from January 23–February 1, 2026. On January 24, MISO declared an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) 1, as well as an EEA 2 “MaxGen” event for MISO’s North and Central Regions due to generation outages, high demand, and transfer capability limits.¹³ From January 21–February 1, 2026, Schahfer operated at over 285 MW every day.¹⁴

In December 2023, MISO released an “Attributes Roadmap,” in which it presented an in-depth look at the challenges of operating a reliable bulk electric system in a rapidly transforming energy landscape.¹⁵ Among other things, this report described changes in the time of year during which the risk of the loss of load was greatest. For the 2023/2024 Planning Year the greatest risk of loss of load was in the summer, but it is expected that by the summer of 2027 there will be an equal loss of load risk in both the summer and fall seasons. MISO also projected risk of loss of load in the winter and spring seasons, which, although not as high as in the summer or fall, will nevertheless increase over time.¹⁶

More recently, MISO affirmed the resource adequacy problems occurring outside of its summer season in its 2024 report entitled, *MISO’s Response to the Reliability Imperative*.¹⁷ In a section of that report entitled, *Risks in Non-Summer Seasons*, MISO again stressed that it has resource reliability concerns outside of the summer season.

Widespread retirements of dispatchable resources, lower reserve margins, more frequent and severe weather events and increased reliance on weather-dependent renewables and emergency-only resources have altered the region’s historic risk profile,

¹² *Id.* at 3–4.

¹³ See MISO (@MISO_energy), X (Jan. 24, 2026), https://x.com/MISO_energy/status/2015072060876140805?s=20.

¹⁴ DOE, *FACT SHEET: Energy Dep’t Prevented Blackouts & Saved Am. Lives During Winter Storms* (Feb. 2026), <https://www.energy.gov/articles/fact-sheet-energy-department-prevented-blackouts-saved-american-lives-during-winter-storms>.

¹⁵ MISO, *Attributes Roadmap*, at 3 (Dec. 2023), <https://cdn.misoenergy.org/2023%20Attributes%20Roadmap631174.pdf>.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 11.

¹⁷ MISO, *MISO’s Response to the Reliability Imperative* (updated Feb. 2024), <https://cdn.misoenergy.org/2024+Reliability+Imperative+report+Feb.+21+Final504018.pdf>.

creating risks in non-summer months that rarely posed challenges in the past.¹⁸ These MISO studies indicate that the emergency conditions caused by the loss of generation capacity in MISO extend past the summer season.

In January 2026, NERC released its 2025 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, NERC assessed that the MISO region is at high risk of energy shortfalls over the next five years, stating that it faces significant reliability challenges as “projected resource additions do not keep pace with escalating demand forecasts and announced generator retirements.”¹⁹ This determination is based on the combination of accelerating demand growth from new data centers and the retirement of existing thermal generators.²⁰ The 2025 Long-Term Reliability Assessment notes that “MISO’s accredited thermal capacity has decreased by 8.8 GW, driven primarily by reductions in accredited capacity of existing facilities and retirements.”²¹ The report observes that winter peak periods are a particular concern, with projections showing “shortfalls in planned resources for winter peak periods.”²² However, NERC also concluded that “risks could expand into spring and fall generator maintenance periods when the available dispatchable generation is not enough to counter wind and solar variability when demand is high.”²³

According to NERC’s 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment, load growth in the MISO region, led by data centers, “is expected to accelerate in 2027 and beyond, which may lead to increased reliability risk in the future if resource additions cannot keep pace with rising load forecasts.”²⁴ It further notes that “[a]bove-normal summer peak load combined with low resource conditions could result in the need to employ operating mitigations (e.g., load-modifying resources) and EEAs [Energy Emergency Alerts].”²⁵ Since the region benefits from transmission connections with neighbors to meet extreme conditions, MISO’s reliance on electricity imports will increase when extreme conditions arise.²⁶

The evidence indicates that there is also a potential longer-term resource adequacy emergency in MISO. When MISO reported the results of its PRA for the 2025–26 Planning Year, it noted that “new capacity additions were insufficient to offset

¹⁸ *Id.* at 12.

¹⁹ NERC, *2025 Long-Term Reliability Assessment*, at 7–8 (Jan. 2026), https://prod.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/nerc_ltra_2025.pdf.

²⁰ *Id.* at 43.

²¹ *Id.* at 15.

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ NERC, *2026 Summer Reliability Assessment*, at 16 (May 2026), https://www.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/nerc_sra_2026.pdf.

²⁵ *Id.* at 16.

²⁶ *Id.* at 16.

the negative impacts of decreased accreditation, suspensions/retirements and external resources” in the northern and central zones, which include Indiana.²⁷

On June 6, 2025, the Organization of MISO States (OMS) and MISO issued the results of their annual survey (OMS-MISO Survey), which reported the degree to which expected capacity resources satisfy planning reserve margin requirements.²⁸ The OMS-MISO Survey presented projections of resource adequacy for the summer of 2026 and subsequent years. Although the OMS-MISO Survey projected a potential capacity surplus for the summer of 2026, it also projected that at least 3.1 GW of additional generation capacity beyond currently committed generation capacity must be added to meet the projected planning reserve margin. The OMS-MISO Survey also projected that there would be insufficient capacity to meet the peak demand for electricity in each of the following four summers, increasing from a deficit of 1.4 GW in 2027 to 8.2 GW in 2030.²⁹ It also projected similar results for MISO’s winter seasons, with a small surplus of generation capacity in 2026, followed by increasing deficits the following four years.³⁰

The primary reasons for these projected deficits also are shown on the OMS-MISO Survey. Large amounts of existing generation capacity are projected to be retired each year, while, at the same time, the demand for electricity is projected to increase at an accelerating pace.³¹ Although the OMS-MISO survey projects generation capacity to continue to increase in the coming years with the addition of new potential generation assets, the increase in capacity is largely offset by the projected retirements and does not keep up with the growth in demand.³²

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, coal-fired electricity generation in Indiana has declined from 85% of total generation in 2014 to 42% in 2024. Since 2014, approximately 5,000 MW of coal-fired capacity in Indiana have retired, with nearly another 3,900 MW of coal-fired capacity scheduled for retirement by the end of 2028, which includes Schahfer’s capacity.³³

²⁷ MISO, *Planning Res. Auction: Results for Planning Year 2025–26*, at 13 (Apr. 2025), https://cdn.misoenergy.org/2025%20PRA%20Results%20Posting%2020250529_Corrections694160.pdf.

²⁸ OMS and MISO, *OMS-MISO Survey Results* (updated June 6, 2025), <https://cdn.misoenergy.org/20250606%20OMS%20MISO%20Survey%20Results%20Workshop%20Presentation702311.pdf>.

²⁹ *Id.* at 7.

³⁰ *Id.* at 9.

³¹ *Id.* at 7, 9.

³² *Id.*

³³ See U.S. Energy Info. Admin. , *Indiana Analysis* (Nov. 19, 2025), <https://www.eia.gov/states/in/analysis>.

MISO has been taking steps to address these projected deficits, but the solution is years away. For example, on June 6, 2025, MISO submitted a proposal to FERC to establish an Expedited Resource Addition Study (ERAS) process to provide a framework for the expedited study of interconnection requests to address urgent resource adequacy and reliability needs in the near term. This proposal was approved by FERC on July 21, 2025.³⁴ The ERAS process should help expedite the construction of needed new capacity. However, resources studied under the ERAS will have commercial operation dates that are at least three years after the process begins and are provided an additional three-year grace period to commence commercial operations.³⁵ In addition, supply chain constraints impeding the acquisition of critical grid components, including large natural gas turbines and transformers, are likely to further hinder rapid construction and exacerbate reliability concerns.³⁶ Consequently, the new ERAS process is unlikely to result in the addition of any new generation capacity in the next few years.

Order Nos. 202-25-12 and 202-26-19 were preceded by executive orders on January 20, 2025, and April 8, 2025, in which President Donald J. Trump underscored the dire energy challenges facing the Nation due to growing resource adequacy concerns. President Trump declared a national energy emergency in Executive Order No. 14156, “Declaring a National Energy Emergency,” in which he determined that the “United States’ insufficient energy production, transportation, refining, and generation constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to our Nation’s economy, national security, and foreign policy.”³⁷ The Executive Order adds, “hostile state and non-state foreign actors have targeted our domestic energy infrastructure, weaponized our reliance on foreign energy, and abused their ability to cause dramatic swings within international commodity markets.”³⁸ In the subsequent Executive Order No. 14262, “Strengthening the Reliability and Security of the United States Electric Grid,” President Trump emphasized that “the United States is experiencing an unprecedented surge in electricity demand driven by rapid technological advancements, including the expansion of artificial intelligence data centers and increase in domestic manufacturing.”³⁹

³⁴ *Midcontinent Indep. Sys. Operator, Inc.*, 192 FERC ¶ 61,064 (2025).

³⁵ *See id.* P 84.

³⁶ *See generally* S&P Global, *US Gas-Fired Turbine Wait Times as Much as Seven Years; Costs Up Sharply* (May 2025) (“With demand for natural gas-fired turbines in the US rapidly accelerating amid power demand growth forecasts driven by AI, manufacturing, and electrification, wait times for turbines are anywhere between one and seven years depending on the model, and costs have increased considerably, experts told Platts.”), <https://www.spglobal.com/energy/en/news-research/latest-news/electric-power/052025-us-gas-fired-turbine-wait-times-as-much-as-seven-years-costs-up-sharply>.

³⁷ Exec. Order No. 14156, 90 Fed. Reg. 8433 (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/29/2025-02003/declaring-a-national-energy-emergency>.

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ Exec. Order No. 14262, 90 Fed. Reg. 15521 (Apr. 8, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/14/2025-06381/strengthening-the-reliability-and-security-of-the-united-states-electric-grid>.

In addition, President Trump issued a White House Memo for the Secretary of Energy that emphasized the findings of Executive Order No. 14156, stating that “ensuring reliable coal supply chains and baseload power generation capacity is essential to the United States national defense . . . Without sufficient coal-fired baseload power, the United States will lack the stable electricity required to support defense installations, industrial expansion, and the high-energy demands of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence.”⁴⁰ The President “further determine[d] that action to expand coal supply chain capacity and baseload generation availability is necessary to avert an industrial resource or critical technology item shortfall that would severely impair national defense capability.”⁴¹

Further, the Department of Energy detailed the myriad challenges affecting the Nation’s energy systems in its July 2025 “Resource Adequacy Report: Evaluating the Reliability and Security of the United States Electric Grid,” which was issued pursuant to the President’s directive in Executive Order No. 14262. The Department concluded that “[a]bsent decisive intervention, the Nation’s power grid will be unable to meet projected demand for manufacturing, re-industrialization, and data centers driving artificial intelligence (AI) innovation.”⁴²

Grid operators—including MISO itself—have also acknowledged the Nation’s current energy crisis. For instance, during a March 25, 2025, hearing before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Jennifer Curran, Senior Vice President, Planning and Operations, MISO, testified that “the MISO region faces resource adequacy and reliability challenges due to the changing characteristics of the electric generating fleet, inadequate transmission system infrastructure, growing pressures from extreme weather, and rapid load growth.”⁴³

Ms. Curran also described “much stronger growth [in demand for electricity] from continued electrification efforts, a resurgence in manufacturing, and an unexpected

⁴⁰ Memorandum from President Donald J. Trump to the Secretary of Energy (Apr. 20, 2026) (*Presidential Determination Pursuant to Section 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as Amended, on Coal Supply Chains and Baseload Power Generation Capacity*), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/04/presidential-determination-pursuant-to-section-303-of-the-defense-production-act-of-1950-as-amended-on-coal-supply-chains-and-baseload-power-generation-capacity/>.

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² DOE, *Res. Adequacy Rep.: Evaluating the Reliability & Sec. of the U.S. Elec. Grid*, at 1 (July 2025), <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-11/DOE%20Final%20EO%20Report%20%28REVISED%20OCT%2027%29.pdf>.

⁴³ *Keeping the Lights On: Examining the State of Reg’ Grid Reliability; Hearing Before the House Comm. on Energy & Com., Subcomm. on Energy*, 119th Cong. 5 (2025) (statement of Ms. Jennifer Curran, Senior Vice President for Planning and Operations, Midcontinent Indep. Sys. Operator), <https://www.congress.gov/119/meeting/house/118040/witnesses/HHRG-119-IF03-Wstate-CurranJ-20250325.pdf>.

demand for energy-hungry data centers to support artificial intelligence.”⁴⁴ She added, “[a] growing reliability risk is that the rapid retirement of existing coal and gas power plants threatens to outpace the ability of new resources with the necessary operational characteristics to replace them.”⁴⁵

ORDER

FPA section 202(c)(1) provides that whenever the Secretary of Energy determines “that an emergency exists by reason of a sudden increase in the demand for electric energy, or a shortage of electric energy or of facilities for the generation or transmission of electric energy,” the Secretary has the authority “to require by order . . . such generation, delivery, interchange, or transmission of electric energy as in [his] judgment will best meet the emergency and serve the public interest.”⁴⁶ This statutory language constitutes a specific grant of authority to the Secretary to require the continued operation of Schahfer Units 17 and 18 when the Secretary has determined that such continued operation will best meet an emergency caused by a sudden increase in the demand for electric energy or a shortage of generation capacity, or a shortage of electric energy or facilities for generation or transmission of electric energy.

As described above, the emergency conditions resulting from increasing demand and shortage from accelerated retirement of generation facilities will continue in the near term and are also likely to continue in subsequent years. This could lead to the loss of power to homes and businesses in the areas that may be affected by curtailments or power outages, presenting a risk to public health and safety.

I have determined that, to best meet the emergency arising from increased demand, determined shortage, and other causes, and serve the public interest under FPA section 202(c), Schahfer Units 17 and 18 shall be made available for operation through September 19, 2026.

⁴⁴ *Id.* at 6.

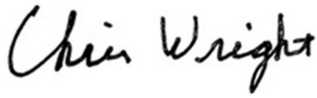
⁴⁵ *Id.* at 7.

⁴⁶ Although the text of FPA section 202(c) grants this authority to “the Commission,” section 301(b) of the Department of Energy Organization Act transferred this authority to the Secretary of the Department of Energy. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b).

Based on my determination of an emergency set forth above, I hereby order:

- A. From June 22, 2026, MISO and NIPSCO shall take all measures necessary to ensure that Schahfer Units 17 and 18 are available to operate. For the duration of this Order, MISO is directed to take every step to employ economic dispatch of Schahfer Units 17 and 18 to minimize cost to ratepayers. Following the conclusion of this Order, sufficient time for orderly ramp down is permitted, consistent with industry practices. NIPSCO is directed to comply with all orders from MISO related to the availability and dispatch of Schahfer Units 17 and 18.
- B. To minimize adverse environmental impacts, this Order limits operation of Schahfer Units 17 and 18 to the times and within the parameters as determined by MISO, pursuant to paragraph A. MISO shall provide a daily notification to the Department (via AskCR@hq.doe.gov) reporting whether Schahfer Units 17 and 18 have operated in compliance with the allowances contained in this Order.
- C. All operations of Schahfer Units 17 and 18 must comply with applicable environmental requirements, including but not limited to monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements, to the maximum extent feasible while operating consistent with the emergency conditions. This Order does not provide relief from any obligation to pay fees or purchase offsets or allowances for emissions that occur during the emergency conditions or to use other geographic or temporal flexibilities available to generators.
- D. By July 7, 2026, MISO is directed to provide the Department (via AskCR@hq.doe.gov) with information concerning the measures it has taken and is planning to take to ensure the operational availability of Schahfer Units 17 and 18 consistent with this Order. MISO shall also provide such additional information regarding the environmental impacts of this Order and its compliance with the conditions of this Order, as requested by the Department of Energy from time to time.
- E. NIPSCO is directed to file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission any tariff revisions or waivers to effectuate this Order, as needed. Rate recovery is available pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c).
- F. This Order shall not preclude the need for Schahfer Units 17 and 18 to comply with applicable state, local, or Federal law or regulations following the expiration of this Order.
- G. Because this Order is predicated on the shortage of facilities for generation of electric energy and other causes, Schahfer Units 17 and 18 shall not be considered capacity resources.
- H. This Order shall be effective from June 22, 2026, through September 19, 2026, with the exception of applicable compliance obligations in paragraph D.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on this 18th Day of June 2026.



Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy

cc: **FERC Commissioners**
Chairman Laura V. Swett
Commissioner David Rosner
Commissioner Lindsay S. See
Commissioner Judy W. Chang
Commissioner David A. LaCerte

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commissioners
Chairman Andy Zay
Commissioner Bob Deig
Commissioner Anthony Swinger
Commissioner David Veleta
Commissioner David Ziegner



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
Center Point Energy
Regarding F.B. Culley Generating Station

Order No. 202-26-30

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Energy by section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ and section 301(b) of the Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) Organization Act,² and for the reasons set forth below, I hereby determine that an emergency exists in portions of the Midwest region of the United States (U.S.) due to a shortage of electric energy, a shortage of facilities for the generation of electric energy, and other causes. Issuance of this Order will meet the emergency and serve the public interest.

BACKGROUND

The F.B. Culley Generating Station (“Culley”) is an electric generating facility in Warrick County, Indiana. Culley is owned and operated by CenterPoint Energy and consists of two coal-fired generation units, Unit 2 (103.7 MW) and Unit 3 (265.2 MW), with a combined name plate capacity of 368.9 MW.³ Unit 2 and Unit 3 began operations in 1966 and 1973, respectively. Unit 2 was slated to cease operations in December 2025.⁴

Order No. 202-25-13, issued pursuant to FPA section 202(c), required that Culley Unit 2 remain in operation for 90 days, through March 23, 2026. Subsequently, Order No. 202-26-20, issued pursuant to FPA section 202(c), required the Culley Unit to remain in operation for 90 days, until June 21, 2026. These orders were based on my determination that emergency conditions existed in the region served by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO).

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c).

² 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b).

³ U.S. Energy Info. Admin., *Form EIA-860, Schedule 3: Generator Data* (2024), <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia860/>.

⁴ It likely would be difficult for the coal-fired units to resume operations once retired. Specifically, practical issues, such as employment, contracts, and permits, may greatly increase the timeline for resumption of operations during the period they are needed. Moreover, if CenterPoint Energy were to begin disassembling the units or other related facilities, the associated challenges would be greatly exacerbated. The costs and time of decommissioning a coal plant are extensive, and restarting such decommissioned plants would presumably cost the same as decommissioning in dollars and time, if not more. Thus, continuous operation is required in such cases so long as the Secretary determines a shortage exists and is likely to persist. See Jennifer Lessick, et al., *Bus. Models for Coal Plant Decommissioning*, at 9-12 (Aug. 2021), https://www.pnnl.gov/main/publications/external/technical_reports/PNNL-31348.pdf.

Specifically, I determined that MISO faced tight reserve margins due to well-documented year-round resource adequacy concerns, particularly during periods of high demand or low generation resource output.⁵ I determined that the continued operation of Culley Unit 2 would provide additional generation capacity during these periods, which would help prevent the loss of power to homes and businesses that would otherwise pose a risk to public health and safety.⁶ I determined that the continued operation of Culley Unit 2 was necessary to alleviate immediate and anticipated threats to reliability.⁷

My determination was based on several facts. First, in its 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment (LTRA), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) notes that the MISO assessment area, which covers portions of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin, is at an elevated risk, “because probabilistic assessments indicate above-normal generator outages during extreme weather can result in unserved energy or load loss. With uncertainty around new resource additions and existing generator retirements, MISO is also at risk of falling below [Reference Margin Levels] within the next five years.”⁸ Additionally, the LTRA notes that “[t]he departure of MISO’s coal fleet has continued with a reduction in capacity of around 6 GW in the past year, and a projected reduction of a further 12 GW over the next five years.”⁹

Second, MISO’s year-round resource adequacy concerns are well-documented. In 2022, MISO requested Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval of its filing to revise its resource adequacy construct (including the Planning Resource Auction or PRA) to establish capacity requirements for each of the four seasons of the year rather than on an annual basis determined by peak summer demand.¹⁰ MISO justified this revision by explaining that “Reliability risks associated with [r]esource [a]dequacy have shifted from ‘Summer only’ to a year-round concern.”¹¹ MISO noted that over 60% of all “MaxGen” events (events when MISO initiates

⁵ See, e.g., *Midcontinent Indep. Sys. Operator, Inc.*, Order No. 202-25-12, at 1–4 (Dec. 23, 2025).

⁶ See, e.g., *id.*

⁷ See, e.g., *id.* at 5.

⁸ N. Am. Elec Reliability Corp., *2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment*, at 13 (Dec. 2024, corrected July 11, 2025), https://www.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/nerc_ltra_2025.pdf.

⁹ *Id.* at 44.

¹⁰ *Midcontinent Indep. Sys. Operator, Inc.*, Transmittal Letter, FERC Dkt. No. ER22-495-000 (filed Nov. 30, 2021). FERC accepted MISO’s proposed tariff revisions on August 31, 2022. See also *Midcontinent Indep. Sys. Operator, Inc.*, 180 FERC ¶ 61,141 (2022), *order on reh’g & compliance*, 182 FERC ¶ 61,096 (2023).

¹¹ *MISO*, Transmittal Letter, FERC Dkt. No. ER22-495-000, at 3.

emergency procedures because of concerns over the adequacy of available generation) occurred outside of the summer season.¹²

CONTINUING EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

The emergency conditions that necessitated the issuance of Order Nos. 202-25-13 and 202-26-20 continue, both in the near and long term. The production of electricity from Culley continues to be critical to maintain reliability in MISO. MISO's resource adequacy concerns were most recently demonstrated during Winter Storm Fern, when Culley operated under a cold weather alert and declared conservative operations from January 23–February 1, 2026. On January 24, MISO declared an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) 1, as well as an EEA 2 “MaxGen” event for MISO's North and Central Regions due to generation outages, high demand, and transfer capability limits.¹³ From January 21–February 1, 2026, Culley operated at roughly 30 MW almost every day.¹⁴

In December of 2023, MISO released an “Attributes Roadmap,” in which it presented “an in-depth look at the challenges of operating a reliable bulk electric system in a rapidly transforming energy landscape.”¹⁵ Among other things, this report described changes in the time of year during which the risk of the loss of load was greatest. For the 2023/2024 Planning Year the greatest risk of loss of load was in the summer, but it is expected that by the summer of 2027, there will be an equal loss of load risk in both the summer and fall seasons. MISO also projected risk of loss of load in the winter and spring seasons; which although not as high as in the summer or fall, will nevertheless increase over time.¹⁶

More recently, MISO affirmed the resource adequacy problems occurring outside of its summer season in its 2024 report entitled, “*MISO's Response to the Reliability Imperative*.”¹⁷ In a section of that report entitled, “*Risks in Non-Summer Seasons*,” MISO again stressed that it has resource reliability concerns outside of the summer season.

Widespread retirements of dispatchable resources, lower reserve margins, more frequent and severe weather events and increased reliance on weather-dependent renewables and emergency-only resources have altered the region's historic risk profile,

¹² *Id.* at 3–4.

¹³ See MISO (@MISO_energy), X, (Jan. 24, 2026), https://x.com/MISO_energy/status/2015072060876140805?s=20.

¹⁴ DOE, *FACT SHEET: Energy Dep't Prevented Blackouts & Saved Am. Lives During Winter Storms*, (Feb. 2026), <https://www.energy.gov/articles/fact-sheet-energy-department-prevented-blackouts-saved-american-lives-during-winter-storms>.

¹⁵ MISO, *Attributes Roadmap*, *supra* note 14, at 3.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 11.

¹⁷ MISO, *MISO's Response to the Reliability Imperative* (Updated Feb. 2024), <https://cdn.misoenergy.org/2024+Reliability+Imperative+report+Feb.+21+Final504018.pdf>.

creating risks in non-summer months that rarely posed challenges in the past.¹⁸ These MISO studies indicate that the emergency conditions caused by the loss of generation capacity in MISO extend past the summer season.

In January 2026, NERC released its 2025 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, NERC assessed that the MISO region is at high risk of energy shortfalls over the next five years, stating that it faces significant reliability challenges as “projected resource additions do not keep pace with escalating demand forecasts and announced generator retirements.”¹⁹ This determination is based on the combination of accelerating demand growth from new data centers and the retirement of existing thermal generators.²⁰ The 2025 Long-Term Reliability Assessment notes that “MISO’s accredited thermal capacity has decreased by 8.8 GW, driven primarily by reductions in accredited capacity of existing facilities and retirements.”²¹ The report observes that winter peak periods are a particular concern, with projections showing “shortfalls in planned resources for winter peak periods.”²² However, NERC also concluded that “risks could expand into spring and fall generator maintenance periods when the available dispatchable generation is not enough to counter wind and solar variability when demand is high.”²³

According to NERC’s 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment, load growth in the MISO region, led by data centers, “is expected to accelerate in 2027 and beyond, which may lead to increased reliability risk in the future if resource additions cannot keep pace with rising load forecasts.”²⁴ It further notes that “[a]bove-normal summer peak load combined with low resource conditions could result in the need to employ operating mitigations (e.g., load-modifying resources) and EEAs [Energy Emergency Alerts].”²⁵ Since the region benefits from transmission connections with neighbors to meet extreme conditions, MISO’s reliance on electricity imports will increase when extreme conditions arise.²⁶

The evidence indicates that there is also a potential longer-term resource adequacy emergency in MISO. When MISO reported the results of its PRA for the 2025–26 Planning Year, it noted that “new capacity additions were insufficient to offset

¹⁸ *Id.* at 12.

¹⁹ NERC, *2025 Long-Term Reliability Assessment*, at 7–8 (Jan. 2026), https://www.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/nerc_ltra_2025.pdf.

²⁰ *Id.* at 43.

²¹ *Id.* at 15.

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ NERC, *2026 Summer Reliability Assessment*, at 16 (May 2026), https://www.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/nerc_sra_2026.pdf.

²⁵ *Id.* at 16.

²⁶ *Id.* at 16.

the negative impacts of decreased accreditation, suspensions/retirements and external resources” in the northern and central zones, which include Indiana.²⁷

On June 6, 2025, the Organization of MISO States (OMS) and MISO issued the results of their annual survey (OMS-MISO Survey), which reported the degree to which expected capacity resources satisfy planning reserve margin requirements.²⁸ The OMS-MISO Survey presented projections of resource adequacy for the summer of 2026 and subsequent years. Although the OMS-MISO Survey projected a potential capacity surplus for the summer of 2026, it also projected that at least 3.1 GW of additional generation capacity beyond currently committed generation capacity must be added to meet the projected planning reserve margin. The OMS-MISO Survey also projected that there would be insufficient capacity to meet the peak demand for electricity in each of the following four summers, increasing from a deficit of 1.4 GW in 2027 to 8.2 GW in 2030.²⁹ It also projected similar results for MISO’s winter seasons, with a small surplus of generation capacity in 2026, followed by increasing deficits the following four years.³⁰

The primary reasons for these projected deficits also are shown on the OMS-MISO Survey. Large amounts of existing generation capacity are projected to be retired each year, while, at the same time, the demand for electricity is projected to increase at an accelerating pace.³¹ Although the OMS-MISO survey projects generation capacity to continue to increase in the coming years with the addition of new potential generation assets, the increase in capacity is largely offset by the projected retirements and does not keep up with the growth in demand.³²

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, coal-fired electricity generation in Indiana has declined from 85% of total generation in 2014 to 42% in 2024. Since 2014, approximately 5,000 MW of coal-fired capacity in Indiana have retired, with nearly another 3,900 MW of coal-fired capacity scheduled for retirement by the end of 2028, which includes Culley’s capacity.³³

MISO has been taking steps to address these projected deficits, but the solution is years away. For example, on June 6, 2025, MISO submitted a proposal to FERC to

²⁷ MISO, *Planning Res. Auction: Results for Planning Year 2025–26*, at 13 (Apr. 2025), https://cdn.misoenergy.org/2025%20PRA%20Results%20Posting%2020250529_Corrections694160.pdf.

²⁸ OMS and MISO, *OMS-MISO Survey Results* (updated June 6, 2025), <https://cdn.misoenergy.org/20250606%20OMS%20MISO%20Survey%20Results%20Workshop%20Presentation702311.pdf>.

²⁹ *Id.* at 7.

³⁰ *Id.* at 9.

³¹ *Id.* at 7, 9.

³² *Id.*

³³ *See U.S. Energy Info. Admin., Indiana Analysis* (Nov. 19, 2025), <https://www.eia.gov/states/in/analysis>.

establish an Expedited Resource Addition Study (ERAS) process to provide a framework for the expedited study of interconnection requests to address urgent resource adequacy and reliability needs in the near term. This proposal was approved by FERC on July 21, 2025.³⁴ The ERAS process should help expedite the construction of needed new capacity. However, resources studied under the ERAS will have commercial operation dates that are at least three years after the process begins and are provided an additional three-year grace period to commence commercial operations.³⁵ In addition, supply chain constraints impeding the acquisition of critical grid components, including large natural gas turbines and transformers, are likely to further hinder rapid construction and exacerbate reliability concerns.³⁶ Consequently, the new ERAS process is unlikely to result in the addition of any new generation capacity in the next few years.

Order Nos. 202-25-13 and 202-26-20 were preceded by executive orders on January 20, 2025, and April 8, 2025, in which President Donald J. Trump underscored the dire energy challenges facing the Nation due to growing resource adequacy concerns. President Trump declared a national energy emergency in Executive Order No. 14156, “Declaring a National Energy Emergency,” in which he determined that the “United States’ insufficient energy production, transportation, refining, and generation constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to our Nation’s economy, national security, and foreign policy.”³⁷ The Executive Order adds, “hostile state and non-state foreign actors have targeted our domestic energy infrastructure, weaponized our reliance on foreign energy, and abused their ability to cause dramatic swings within international commodity markets.”³⁸ In the subsequent Executive Order No. 14262, “Strengthening the Reliability and Security of the United States Electric Grid,” President Trump emphasized that “the United States is experiencing an unprecedented surge in electricity demand driven by rapid technological advancements, including the expansion of artificial intelligence data centers and increase in domestic manufacturing.”³⁹

³⁴ *Midcontinent Indep. Sys. Operator, Inc.*, 192 FERC ¶ 61,064 (2025).

³⁵ *See id.* P 84.

³⁶ *See generally* S&P Global, *US Gas-Fired Turbine Wait Times as Much as Seven Years; Costs Up Sharply* (May 2025) (“With demand for natural gas-fired turbines in the US rapidly accelerating amid power demand growth forecasts driven by AI, manufacturing, and electrification, wait times for turbines are anywhere between one and seven years depending on the model, and costs have increased considerably, experts told Platts.”), <https://www.spglobal.com/energy/en/news-research/latest-news/electric-power/052025-us-gas-fired-turbine-wait-times-as-much-as-seven-years-costs-up-sharply>.

³⁷ Exec. Order No. 14156, 90 Fed. Reg. 8433 (Jan. 20, 2025) (*Declaring a National Energy Emergency*), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/29/2025-02003/declaring-a-national-energy-emergency>.

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ Exec. Order No. 14262, 90 Fed. Reg. 15521 (Apr. 8, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/14/2025-06381/strengthening-the-reliability-and-security-of-the-united-states-electric-grid>.

In addition, President Trump issued a White House Memo for the Secretary of Energy that emphasized the findings of Executive Order No. 14156, stating that “ensuring reliable coal supply chains and baseload power generation capacity is essential to the United States national defense Without sufficient coal-fired baseload power, the United States will lack the stable electricity required to support defense installations, industrial expansion, and the high-energy demands of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence.”⁴⁰ The President “further determine[d] that action to expand coal supply chain capacity and baseload generation availability is necessary to avert an industrial resource or critical technology item shortfall that would severely impair national defense capability.”⁴¹

Further, the Department of Energy detailed the myriad challenges affecting the Nation’s energy systems in its July 2025 “Resource Adequacy Report: Evaluating the Reliability and Security of the United States Electric Grid,” which was issued pursuant to the President’s directive in Executive Order No. 14262. The Department concluded that “[a]bsent decisive intervention, the Nation’s power grid will be unable to meet projected demand for manufacturing, re-industrialization, and data centers driving artificial intelligence (AI) innovation.”⁴²

Grid operators—including MISO itself—have also acknowledged the Nation’s current energy crisis. For instance, during a March 25, 2025 hearing before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Jennifer Curran, Senior Vice President, Planning and Operations, MISO, testified that “the MISO region faces resource adequacy and reliability challenges due to the changing characteristics of the electric generating fleet, inadequate transmission system infrastructure, growing pressures from extreme weather, and rapid load growth.”⁴³

Ms. Curran also described “much stronger growth [in demand for electricity] from continued electrification efforts, a resurgence in manufacturing, and an unexpected

⁴⁰ Memorandum from President Donald J. Trump to the Secretary of Energy (Apr. 20, 2026) (“*Presidential Determination Pursuant to Section 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as Amended, on Coal Supply Chains and Baseload Power Generation Capacity*”, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/04/presidential-determination-pursuant-to-section-303-of-the-defense-production-act-of-1950-as-amended-on-coal-supply-chains-and-baseload-power-generation-capacity/>).

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² DOE, *Res. Adequacy Rep.: Evaluating the Reliability & Sec. of the U.S. Elec. Grid*, at 1 (July 2025), <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/DOE%20Final%20EO%20Report%20%28FINAL%20JULY%207%29.pdf>.

⁴³ *Keeping the Lights On: Examining the State of Reg’l Grid Reliability Before the House Comm. on Energy & Commerce*, Subcomm. on Energy, 119th Cong., at 5 (Mar. 25, 2025) (statement of Ms. Jennifer Curran, Senior Vice President for Planning and Operations, Midcontinent Indep. Sys. Operator), <https://www.congress.gov/119/meeting/house/118040/witnesses/HHRG-119-IF03-Wstate-CurranJ-20250325.pdf>.

demand for energy-hungry data centers to support artificial intelligence.”⁴⁴ She added, “[a] growing reliability risk is that the rapid retirement of existing coal and gas power plants threatens to outpace the ability of new resources with the necessary operational characteristics to replace them.”⁴⁵

ORDER

FPA section 202(c)(1) provides that whenever the Secretary of Energy determines “that an emergency exists by reason of a sudden increase in the demand for electric energy, or a shortage of electric energy or of facilities for the generation or transmission of electric energy,” the Secretary has the authority “to require by order . . . such generation, delivery, interchange, or transmission of electric energy as in [his] judgment will best meet the emergency and serve the public interest.”⁴⁶ This statutory language constitutes a specific grant of authority to the Secretary to require the continued operation of Culley Unit 2 when the Secretary has determined that such continued operation will best meet an emergency caused by a sudden increase in the demand for electric energy or a shortage of generation capacity, or a shortage of electric energy or facilities for generation or transmission of electric energy.

As described above, the emergency conditions resulting from increasing demand and shortage from accelerated retirement of generation facilities will continue in the near term and are also likely to continue in subsequent years. This could lead to the loss of power to homes and businesses in the areas that may be affected by curtailments or power outages, presenting a risk to public health and safety.

I have determined that, to best meet the emergency arising from increased demand, determined shortage and other causes, and serve the public interest under FPA section 202(c), Culley Unit 2 shall be made available for operation through September 19, 2026.

⁴⁴ *Id.* at 6.

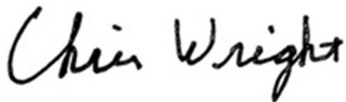
⁴⁵ *Id.* at 7.

⁴⁶ Although the text of FPA section 202(c) grants this authority to “the Commission,” section 301(b) of the Department of Energy Organization Act transferred this authority to the Secretary of the Department of Energy. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b).

Based on my determination of an emergency set forth above, I hereby order:

- A. From June 22, 2026, MISO and CenterPoint Energy shall take all measures necessary to ensure that Culley Unit 2 is available to operate. For the duration of this Order, MISO is directed to take every step to employ economic dispatch of Culley Unit 2 to minimize cost to ratepayers. Following the conclusion of this Order, sufficient time for orderly ramp down is permitted, consistent with industry practices. CenterPoint Energy is directed to comply with all orders from MISO related to the availability and dispatch of Culley Unit 2.
- B. To minimize adverse environmental impacts, this Order limits operation of Culley Unit 2 to the times and within the parameters as determined by MISO, pursuant to paragraph A. MISO shall provide a daily notification to the Department (via AskCR@hq.doe.gov) reporting whether Culley Unit 2 has operated in compliance with the allowances contained in this Order.
- C. All operations of Culley Unit 2 must comply with applicable environmental requirements, including but not limited to monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements, to the maximum extent feasible while operating consistent with the emergency conditions. This Order does not provide relief from any obligation to pay fees or purchase offsets or allowances for emissions that occur during the emergency conditions or to use other geographic or temporal flexibilities available to generators.
- D. By July 7, 2026, MISO is directed to provide the Department (via AskCR@hq.doe.gov) with information concerning the measures it has taken and is planning to take to ensure the operational availability of Culley Unit 2 consistent with this Order. MISO shall also provide such additional information regarding the environmental impacts of this Order and its compliance with the conditions of this Order, as requested by the Department of Energy from time to time.
- E. CenterPoint Energy is directed to file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission any tariff revisions or waivers to effectuate this Order, as needed. Rate recovery is available pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c).
- F. This Order shall not preclude the need for Culley Unit 2 to comply with applicable state, local, or Federal law or regulations following the expiration of this Order.
- G. Because this Order is predicated on the shortage of facilities for generation of electric energy and other causes, Culley Unit 2 shall not be considered a capacity resource.
- H. This Order shall be effective from June 22, 2026, through September 19, 2026, with the exception of applicable compliance obligations in paragraph D.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on this 18th Day of June, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Wright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy

cc: **FERC Commissioners**
Chairman Laura V. Swett
Commissioner David Rosner
Commissioner Lindsay S. See
Commissioner Judy W. Chang
Commissioner David A. LaCerte

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commissioners
Chairman Andy Zay
Commissioner Bob Deig
Commissioner Anthony Swinger
Commissioner David Veleta
Commissioner David Ziegner

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Midcontinent Independent System Operator

Order Nos. 202-25-12, 202-25-13

**MOTION TO INTERVENE AND PETITION FOR REHEARING
OF THE STATES OF MINNESOTA AND ILLINOIS AND THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE
OF MICHIGAN**

Pursuant to section 202 (c) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 824a(c), 825l, the States of Minnesota and Illinois and the People of the State of Michigan (“the States”), move to intervene and petition for rehearing of the Department of Energy’s (“DOE”) orders 202-25-12 (Schahfer) and 202-25-13 (Culley Unit 2) (together, “Orders”),¹ directing the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (“MISO”), Northern Indiana Public Service Company (“NIPSCO”) and CenterPoint Energy (“CenterPoint”) to take all measures necessary to ensure that the coal-burning Schahfer plant (“Schahfer”) and coal-burning Culley Unit 2 (“Culley”) are “available to operate” and “to take every step to employ economic dispatch” of those resources. The Orders are in effect from 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST) on December 23, 2025, until 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on March 23, 2026,.

Pursuant to the Federal Power Act (“the Act”) and Department procedures applying it to petitions for rehearing, the States hereby file this timely request for rehearing of DOE’s Schahfer and Culley Orders. Some of the States have already sought both rehearing and review of three similar orders that the

¹ All Exhibits are lettered and attached; to be submitted in separate serial emails to the DOE’s AskCR <askcr@hq.doe.gov> account.

DOE issued to the J.H. Campbell Plant in West Olive, Michigan. The Schahfer and Culley Orders perpetuate the same errors underlying the Campbell Order, perpetuating DOE's flawed analyses, faulty conclusion that an emergency exists for the MISO Regional Transmission Organization ("RTO"), and unlawful directives—all of which together harm the States.

The Schahfer and Culley Orders exceed DOE's legal authority in several respects. And even if an emergency did exist and DOE had the legal authority to issue such orders, the Schahfer and Culley Orders are not rationally related to meet the purported need. They should be rescinded.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Motion to Intervene.....	4
Petition for Rehearing	11
I. Overview and Concise Statement of Error	12
II. Legal Background	14
III. Statement of Issues.....	15
IV. MISO’s Robust Capacity and Planning Projections are Adequate to Ensure Reliability..	18
V. Argument	22
A. The Orders are not supported by substantial evidence demonstrating the existence of an actual emergency and they do not demonstrate any reasoned decision-making.....	22
B. The Orders exceed DOE’s authority because they are not limited to a specific inadequate power supply situation as required by Section 202(c) and 10 C.F.R. § 205.371.33	
C. The Orders exceed DOE’s authority because they requires actions not listed in Section 202(c)(1).....	39
D. The Orders exceed DOE’s authority because they do not set hours of operation, limit hours of operation, or minimize environmental impact as required by Section 202(c)(3). ..	40
E. The Orders exceed DOE’s authority because Section 201(b)(1) reserves decisions about plant retirements to the states.	40
F. The Orders are unreasoned, arbitrary, and capricious because their directive for “economic dispatch” is inherently contradictory with the needs to meet an actual emergency.	45
G. The purported emergency is pretext for a prejudged outcome.	51
Conclusion	54

MOTION TO INTERVENE

The States² move to intervene in this proceeding and thereby to become parties for purposes of Section 3131 of the Act, 16 U.S.C. § 8251. The States have an interest in and are aggrieved by the subject orders (Exs. A, B) in several ways and seek to intervene and petition for rehearing. *FDR v. R.J. Reynolds Vapor Co.*, 606 U. S. ____ (2025) (slip op., at 3–8) (defining an “adversely affected or aggrieved” party within the APA as “anyone even ‘arguably within the zone of interests to be protected or regulated by the statute . . . in question.’” (quoting *Association of Data Processing Service Organizations, Inc. v. Camp*, 397 U. S. 150, 153 (1970))).

Factual Background

The utilities regulated by the States are members of MISO, the electric grid operator for the central United States. MISO covers the largest geographical range of any independent system operator (“ISO”) in the U.S. The 15 states covered by MISO are: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. As the ISO of the electric grid in this region, MISO manages the flow of electricity across the high-voltage, long-distance power lines. To do so, MISO develops rules so that the wholesale electricity transmission system operates reliably and safely. MISO has described this as being like the “air traffic controller” for the grid in its territory,³ meaning that MISO seeks to resolve power congestion (traffic) issues in real-time through its control room and has processes in place to anticipate and avoid emergencies that could lead to the loss of power.

² See Minn. Stat. § 8.01 (“The attorney general shall appear for the state in all causes in the supreme and federal courts wherein the state is directly interested; also in all civil causes of like nature in all other courts of the state whenever, in the attorney general's opinion, the interests of the state require it.”).

³ “Meet MISO,” <https://www.misoenergy.org/meet-miso/about-miso/industry-foundations/what-we-do/> (last visited June 23, 2025).

On December 23, 2025, the DOE issued the Schahfer Order (202-7-12) to MISO and NIPSCO. Ex. A. On December 23, 2025, the DOE issued the Culley Order (202-7-13) to MISO and CenterPoint. Ex. B. Both orders were issued pursuant to section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act. *See* 16 U.S.C. § 824(c)(1).

The Orders direct MISO, in coordination with NIPSCO (Schahfer) and CenterPoint (Culley), the respective operators of the plants, to ensure that the plants remain available for operation during the period of the order (December 23, 2025, through March 23, 2026). *Id.*

These eleventh-hour Orders disrupted a longstanding planning sequence handled by state authorities and submitted to MISO, which included plans to retire the Schahfer and Culley Unit 2 plants on December 31, 2025.⁴ Ex. C (NIPSCO IRP). The integrated resource planning process already accounted for increased need and slated adequate generation to meet requirements. Ex. C at 6 (“Thus, the 2024 IRP was structured to ensure a robust assessment of the type of resources needed to respond to emerging market conditions and future portfolio retirements.”). As recently as October 29, 2025, NIPSCO recommitted to Indiana regulators its plan to retire Schahfer Units 17 and 18 in accordance with its January 2023 submission to MISO, which MISO approved in February 2023. Ex. E.

All three units at these two plants were slated for retirement because they are old and in disrepair, and the units experienced deferred maintenance leading up to their planned retirement; they cannot be economically operated and require significant overhaul and upkeep costs to stay running. For example, CenterPoint explained that the Culley Unit 2 retirement was part of a plan

⁴ *See* Consumers Energy, “2021 Clean Energy Plan,” <https://www.consumersenergy.com/-/media/CE/Documents/company/IRP-2021.pdf> (last accessed June 23, 2025).

that would save ratepayers \$80 million. Ex. D. And upon announcing the retirement of the Schahfer units, NIPSCO touted the cost-savings of transitioning away from coal as a fuel source. Ex. F.

Adverse Effects

The States will be adversely affected by the Orders directed to the Schahfer and Culley coal units in many of the same ways that they were harmed by the Campbell Orders that they have separately requested rehearing or otherwise challenged.

The Schahfer and Culley Orders prevent the planned retirement of the respective plants with consequent negative impacts on the States.

First, households and businesses in the States, and the States as consumers in their own right, will pay higher electricity bills as a result of the Orders' imposition of costs and cost-recovery to the States. By ordering the utilities to take all steps necessary to make the coal plants available and ordering MISO to take all steps necessary for the plants to provide economic dispatch, costs are already being incurred and more costs will continue to be generated.

Notably, the age of the units is concerning for costs, especially given the cost-savings assessments of the retirement plans. The Orders will likely require at least a portion of capital expenditures and major maintenance costs, which will drive up costs and impact ratepayer bills. This would be in addition to the cost of rehiring operators and obtaining more coal, among other expenses.

Although the precise amount is not yet known, the Orders provide that cost recovery is available through Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") proceedings. Exs. A-B at ¶¶E. The operators have already initiated cost recovery complaints before FERC that, if approved, will impact ratepayers on the States.

Second, the States will suffer environmental harms as a result of the Order. The coal operations at Schahfer and Culley are a significant source of particulate matter, nitrogen oxides,

sulfur oxides, and carbon dioxide,⁵ among other pollutants. By extending the operations of the plants beyond their planned retirement dates, the Orders increase the amount of pollution emitted in the region, causing harm to the public health and welfare.⁶ The States of Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin share the upper Midwest region and Great Lakes environment with Indiana. Depending on weather, air emissions in Indiana impact conditions in the States. Further, the States have an interest in the Great Lakes ecosystem into which pollutants from coal-burning power plants such as mercury are deposited. Such pollution is harmful to state economies including fisheries and recreation, human health, and the environment in general. The Schahfer plant is immediately southeast of Chicago, Illinois, and near the shore of Lake Michigan. The Culley Plant is located on the shore of the Ohio River immediate upstream of Illinois's southern border. Thus, the States have an economic, public health, and ecological interest in protecting their environment and natural resources from unnecessary pollution emanating from the Schahfer and Culley plants. The States are harmed because the Orders result in the unnecessary consumption of coal fuel that generates such pollution.

Coal-fired power plants also contribute to regional, national, and global greenhouse gas emissions, which cause global climate change. Climate change directly harms the States by imposing significant additional costs for responsive actions, disaster recovery, and resiliency programs. Increased emissions threaten state climate goals and the States' ability to comply with federal and state air pollution requirements.

⁵ See *In the Matter of the Application of Consumers Energy Co. for Approval of Its Integrated Res. Plan Pursuant to Mcl 460.6t & for Other Relief.*, No. U-21090, 2022 WL 2915368, at *73 (June 23, 2022).

⁶ See Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) and Clean Air Act § 110.

Minnesota, for example, is experiencing rapid changes including higher winter temperatures and larger, more frequent extreme precipitation events, extreme heat, and drought.⁷ Each of Minnesota's top-ten combined warmest and wettest years on record have occurred since 1998, with 2024 standing as the warmest year on record and 2019 the wettest.⁸ Minnesota is already suffering from a significant uptick in devastating, large-area extreme rain events, threatening the state with ever greater frequency and intensity.⁹ These events damage streets, wastewater facilities, businesses, homes, farms, and natural resources, costing local governments, business owners, and residents millions of dollars in cleanup, repairs, and adaptation expenses.¹⁰ Wildfires are also becoming larger and more frequent, including a rash of devastating fires in the spring of 2025 that consumed more than 32,000 acres and destroyed an estimated 150 structures. The spring of 2024 included heavy precipitation and extreme rainfall events, leading to extensive flooding and federal disaster declarations for large parts of the state.¹¹ From 1980 to 2024, the annual average for billion-dollar weather and climate disasters in Minnesota is 1.4 events per year, but the annual average from 2020 to 2024 is 4.6 events.¹² The "Lost Winter" of 2023-2024 was the

⁷ Minnesota Climate Trends, *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources* (2023), https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/climate_change_info/climate-trends.html.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ "Extreme Rainfall Drenches Northeastern Minnesota," Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/journal/extreme-rainfall-northeast-mn-june-18-2024>; "Extreme Rain and Flooding in Southern Minnesota, June 20-22," Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, (August 9, 2024), <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/journal/extreme-rain-flooding-southern-minnesota-june-20-22.html>; "Disaster information," Minnesota Department of Public Safety, <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/em-resources/disaster-information> (last visited June 23, 2025).

¹² "Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters, Minnesota Summary, *NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information*, Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters | Minnesota Summary | National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)," <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/state-summary/MN>.

warmest on record, with temperatures averaging 10.9°F above 1991-2020 averages, greatly harming Minnesota’s recreational economy.¹³ These impacts will continue, and emissions from the Schahfer and Culley coal operations will contribute to them.

Climate change is affecting Illinois in a number of ways. Illinois’ farming industry is vulnerable to cycles of extreme drought and extreme precipitation caused by climate change. In 2023, a severe drought dried up soil throughout the state, with extreme dryness extending down to 20 inches below the surface in some areas.¹⁴ In other years, extreme precipitation has threatened Illinois’ agriculture. For instance, January to June of 2013 was the wettest period ever recorded in Illinois, causing widespread flooding in farmland that forced farmers to delay planting and lose revenue.¹⁵ Climate change is also intensifying catastrophic extreme weather events. In 2024, the Illinois State Climatologist recorded strong wind, hail, and tornadoes across all of Illinois’ 102 counties and the state logged 142 tornadoes—a new annual record.¹⁶ These storms included a July 15, 2024 “derecho” that produced 100 mile-per-hour winds and 48 separate tornados.¹⁷ In the

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Illinois State Climatologist, Drought Worsens in a Very Dry June (June 30, 2023), <https://stateclimatologist.web.illinois.edu/2023/06/30/drought-worsens-in-a-very-dry-june/> (last visited May 23, 2025).

¹⁵ University of Illinois–Institute of Government & Public Affairs, Preparing for Climate Change in Illinois: An Overview of Anticipated Impacts (2015), https://indigo.uic.edu/articles/report/Preparing_for_Climate_Change_in_Illinois_An_Overview_of_Anticipated_Impacts/15078939/1 (last visited May 23, 2025). See also U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Climate Hubs and Great Lakes Research Integrated Science Assessment, Climate Change Impacts on Illinois Agriculture (2022), https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022_ClimateChangeImpactsOnIllinoisAgriculture.pdf (last visited May 23, 2025).

¹⁶ Tony Briscoe, Lake Michigan Water Levels Rising at Near Record Rate, CHICAGO TRIBUNE (July 12, 2015), <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2015/07/12/lake-michigan-water-levels-rising-at-near-record-rate/> (last visited May 23, 2025).

¹⁷ National Weather Service, July 15, 2024 Derecho Produces Widespread Wind Damage and Numerous Tornadoes, available at https://www.weather.gov/lot/2024_07_15_Derecho#:~:text=With%2032%20tornadoes%2C%20t

Chicago area alone, the derecho produced 32 tornados, breaking the previous records set by the July 2014 “double derecho” and a March 2023 storm.

As demonstrated by the attached declarations of Douglas Jester, Exhibits DD and EE, the Schahfer and Culley coal burning units—if continued to operate—would have significant monetary and environmental impacts on the States. The operation of Schahfer will result in approximately 1.0-1.9 deaths and \$15.8 million to \$29 million monetized health effects across Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota. Ex. DD at ¶22 (*citing* EPA’s the Co-Benefits Risk Assessment Health Impacts Screening and Mapping Tool (COBRA)). And the operation of Culley will result in approximately 0.16-0.325 deaths and \$2.12 million to \$4.23 million monetized health effects across Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota. Ex. EE (same). The continued operation of the Schahfer and Culley coal units will have a net harmful effect on public health in Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota. Ex. DD at ¶ 26; Ex. EE at ¶ 26.

Moreover, the States have an interest given their primary responsibility for resource planning and ensuring that there will be adequate and reliable electricity generation. The processes that States employ to ensure reliability—which takes into account planned retirements, new generation projects, transmission infrastructure, and meet consumer demand—are both sophisticated and robust. The Orders harm the States by usurping the traditional role that states play in generation planning and resource adequacy.

PETITION FOR REHEARING

he%20July,March%2031%2C%202023%20tornado%20outbreaks. (last visited May 25, 2025). See also David Struett, Tornado Record Broken with 27 Chicago Area Twisters July 15—Spawned by ‘Ring of Fire’, WBEZ CHICAGO, available at <https://www.wbez.org/weather/2024/07/24/chicago-weather-tornado-record-derecho-july-15> (last accessed May 23, 2025)

I. Overview and Concise Statement of Error

The challenged Orders compound the error of the DOE’s Campbell Orders in that they declare an emergency based on a shortage of electric energy generation when there is no emergency. Even if there were an emergency, the Orders impose several requirements that are inconsistent with and exceed DOE’s legal authority. And even if DOE had the authority to impose the requirements, they are not directed to actions that will actually meet the purported emergency.

The Orders are premised on an incomplete recitation of MISO’s planned capacity and reserves for the summer of 2025 through 2032.

The Orders misconstrue the source material on which they rely and still conclude only that there is a possibility of shortfalls. But they do not cite or rely on any evidence that there is any likelihood or probability that any shortfall will occur during the relevant timeframe of the Orders (December 23, 2025, through March 23, 2026).

The Orders conclude that the evidence collected (and discussed below) supports their issuance. They contend that the purported emergency will continue in the near term and is likely to continue in subsequent years. It declares—without any evidence identifying an emergency in December-March timeframe—that the alleged emergency “could lead to the potential loss of power to homes and local businesses in the areas that may be affected by curtailments or outages, presenting a risk to public health and safety.” Exs. A at 4, B at 5 (emphasis added). They then order that MISO and the relevant utility shall take “all measures necessary to ensure that” the plants are “available to operate.” *Id.* at ¶A. And MISO must “take every step to employ economic dispatch” of the plants “to minimize cost to ratepayers.” *Id.* Further, they order that the plants operate according to times as determined by MISO. Importantly, the orders prohibit the plants from being considered a capacity resource. *Id.* at ¶ G.

These Orders were issued in error. The DOE did not have substantial evidence or engage in reasoned decision-making in declaring the existence of an emergency in general, be it far into the future or even in the December 2025-March 2026 timeframe.

The Orders start from the proposition that there is only a “potential” for insufficient capacity that “could” result in a need for mitigation, which does not present an actual existing or imminent emergency. *Id.* at 2. And in the same discussion, the Orders acknowledge that there is actually a projected surplus in the summer of 2026. *Id.* at 3 (citing MISO Survey, attached as Ex. G). But Section 202(c)’s plain terms limit DOE to actual emergencies—not the potential that emergencies might arise. Section 202(c) is also limited in the type of conduct it allows DOE to order, such as directing the generation, delivery, or transmission of electric energy. These Orders, however, require the plants to be “available to operate.” Nothing in section 202(c) grants DOE authority to order a plant be available to operate without any demonstrated need during the timeframe of the order identified by the states with primary resource planning authority, the utility operating the resource, or grid operator responsible for forecasting and coordinating adequate and reliable supply.

Even if an emergency did exist during the timeframe of the orders and DOE had the legal authority to issue them, directing the plants to participate in the bidding market using economic dispatch would not rationally “best” meet the purported need because there is no evidence the coal plants can reasonably address any given future emergency need; this is because emergency responses do not require economic evaluation, and because the coal plants take so long to ramp up. The Orders should be rescinded.

II. Legal Background

Under section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act, the Commission¹⁸ has authority to issue an order:

[d]uring the continuance of any war in which the United States is engaged, or whenever the Commission determines that an emergency exists by reason of a sudden increase in the demand for electric energy, or a shortage of electric energy or of facilities for the generation or transmission of electric energy, or of fuel or water for generating facilities, or other causes. . . .

16 U.S.C. § 824(c)(1). The same subsection states that the Commission may order “temporary connections of facilities” and “generation, delivery, interchange, or transmission of electric energy” that, in the Commission’s “judgment will best meet the emergency and serve the public interest.” *Id.* The next subsection, 16 U.S.C. § 824(c)(2), establishes that an emergency order must be limited to only those hours necessary to meet the emergency. It states:

With respect to an order issued under this subsection that may result in a conflict with a requirement of any Federal, State, or local environmental law or regulation, the Commission shall ensure that such order requires generation, delivery, interchange, or

¹⁸ The “Commission” refers to the Federal Power Commission (FPC), whose powers were transferred in 1977 to either the Secretary of DOE or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). 16 U.S.C. § 796(14); Department of Energy Organization Act, Pub. L. No. 95-91, 91 Stat. 565, 565-613 (1977). This transfer gave FERC the authority over “the interconnection, under section 202(b), of such Act [16 U.S.C. 824a(b)], of facilities for the generation, transmission, and sale of electric energy (*other than emergency interconnection*).” 42 U.S.C. § 7172(a)(1)(B) (emphasis added). However, this transfer also gave DOE “the function of the Federal Power Commission, or of the members, officers, or components thereof” except as provided in subchapter IV of the act. 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b). Because 42 U.S.C. § 7172(a)(1)(B) explicitly excludes emergency interconnection from FERC’s authority, the authority over emergency interconnection has historically been delegated to DOE. However, the delegation of this emergency authority to DOE has not been consistently applied. In *Richmond Power & Light v. FERC*, 574 F.2d 610 (1978), a petitioner objected to FERC’s (not DOE’s) failure to invoke emergency powers under 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c) and order utilities with excess capacity to supply the petitioner with energy. The court did not address whether FERC had the authority to declare an emergency to begin with. *Id.* Thus, whether FERC or DOE has the power to declare an emergency is inconclusive.

transmission of electric energy only during hours necessary to meet the emergency and serve the public interest, and, to the maximum extent practicable, is consistent with any applicable Federal, State, or local environmental law or regulation and minimizes any adverse environmental impacts.

Id. at § 824(c)(2).

The applicable regulations define “emergency,” as:

an unexpected inadequate supply of electric energy which may result from the unexpected outage or breakdown of facilities for the generation, transmission or distribution of electric power. Such events may be the result of weather conditions, acts of God, or unforeseen occurrences not reasonably within the power of the affected “entity” to prevent. An emergency also can result from a sudden increase in customer demand, an inability to obtain adequate amounts of the necessary fuels to generate electricity, or a regulatory action which prohibits the use of certain electric power supply facilities. Actions under this authority are envisioned *as meeting a specific inadequate power supply situation*.

10 C.F.R. § 205.371¹⁹ (emphasis added).

III. Statement of Issues

Issue A: Did DOE have substantial evidence for the Orders’ declaration of an emergency, and did it exercise reasoned decision-making in declaring that an actual emergency exists?

No. DOE relied on evidence that did not identify any likelihood or probability that there would be a shortfall during the relevant timeframe of the Orders’ requirements—December 23, 2025, to March 23, 2025. Further, DOE failed to consider substantial countervailing evidence, including the MISO States’ Integrated Resource Plans and MISO’s assessment of surplus capacity for the summer of 2026. The Orders fail to identify any reasoned basis for concluding an actual emergency exists or is imminent, much less one that will occur between December 23,

¹⁹ DOE issued 10 C.F.R. §§ 205.370-379 pursuant to the Department of Energy Organization Act’s transfer of emergency responsibilities to the Secretary of Energy.

2025, and March 23, 2026. Instead, the Orders explicitly contemplate longer-term resource planning for the summer of 2027 and even into the 2030 timeframe—more than a year after the term of the Orders expires. Exs. A-B at 2-3.

Issue B: Section 202(c)(1) allows DOE to issue temporary emergency orders in times of actual or impending emergencies such as war, sudden demand for electric energy, shortage of fuel or water, or other similar conditions creating a specific inadequate power supply situation. Did DOE exceed this authority where the Orders are based on the nonspecific possibility that such a situation might occur over a period of several months—or in the 2027-2030 timeframe, well outside of the Orders’ applicability?

Yes. An actual “emergency” is a sudden occurrence requiring immediate response action or a concrete need for energy to be produced; conversely, it is not the mere potential that an emergency might occur. 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c); 10 C.F.R. § 205.371. Emergency orders must respond to “a specific inadequate power supply situation.” 10 C.F.R. § 205.371. The Orders do not address any sudden occurrence needing imminent response, nor do they identify any actual and specific insufficient supply situation. Instead, the Orders focus on vague non-summer needs and the potential for shortfalls several years away. The Orders are not directed to any emergency at all, much less one occurring in the December 23, 2025-March 23, 2026 timeframe. They are contrary to law.

Issue C. Section 202(c)(1) allows DOE to issue emergency orders requiring the “generation, delivery, interchange, or transmission of electric energy.” Did DOE exceed this authority where the Orders require the coal plants to take steps to be “available” to generate electricity and require MISO to employ economic dispatch?

Yes. DOE’s emergency powers allow it to order the generation, delivery, interchange, or transmission of electric energy. Section 202(c)(1) does not give the DOE the authority to order that a plant be available (absent a showing of why that is needed), nor does it give the DOE authority to order MISO to engage in potential economic dispatch. 42 U.S.C. §16432(b). Because the Orders do not adhere to the types of actions allowed under section 202(c)(1), they are without authority and contrary to law.

Issue D. If DOE issues an order pursuant to 202(c)(1), then 202(c)(2) requires it to set limits on hours of operation and ensure that environmental impact is minimized. Did DOE exceed its authority by invoking section 202(c) to issue Orders that set no specific hours of operation, places no limits on hours of operation, and adopts no specific requirements to minimize environmental impact?

Yes. The statutory language requires an emergency order be limited to only those hours necessary to meet the emergency and minimize adverse environmental impacts. 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c)(2). The Orders do not establish any limited hours for operation, instead deferring to MISO. The Orders also do not meaningfully take steps to minimize adverse environmental impacts. Because the Orders do not set any specific hours the plants must run, and do not meaningfully minimize adverse environmental impacts, the Orders violate the requirements of section 202(c)(2). They are without authority and contrary to law.

Issue E: The Federal Power Act reserves resource adequacy planning to the individual states. Did DOE exceed its authority where its Orders directly compel plants slated for retirement to take steps to be available to operate?

Yes. Section 201(a) of the Federal Power Act explicitly provides that federal regulation over generation and transmission is related to matters of interstate commerce and extends “only to those matters which are not subject to regulation by the States.” 16 U. S. C. § 824(a). States retain jurisdiction “over facilities used for the generation of electric energy.” 16 U.S.C. § 824(b)(1). DOE’s Orders exceed its authority by contradicting existing resource plans. It also exceeds DOE’s authority by purporting to engage in long-term resource planning for the years 2027-2030, which is a role reserved to the states. For both of these reasons, the Orders are contrary to law.

Issue F: Even if DOE were correct that an emergency exists and that it had the authority to issue the Orders, will the Orders’ requirements rationally meet the emergency?

No. Section 202(c) contemplates emergency orders that are precisely tailored to “best” meet the specific emergency. 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c). The Orders’ specific requirement for MISO to take steps to effectuate “economic dispatch” of the respective plants is not rationally related to the

emergency the Orders purport to address. The Orders do not explain how keeping the coal plants available to run will meet any particular need when MISO has adequate resources at its disposal without the output of the subject plants. The Orders, therefore, are without substantial evidence and lack reasoned decision-making.

Issue G: Federal law prohibits agencies from prejudging the outcome of an action. Did the Secretary of Energy and the federal administration improperly prejudge the need for the Orders to the Schahfer and Culley coal units?

Yes. As evidenced by public statements, the purported emergency is pretext for an improperly-prejudged outcome to preserve coal as a fuel for electrical generation.

IV. MISO’s Robust Capacity and Planning Projections, in Tandem with State-Level Regulatory Processes, are Adequate to Ensure Reliability.

MISO is a regional transmission organization (RTO), an independent, non-profit, membership-based organization responsible for optimizing generation and transmission of electricity and ensuring the reliability of the electric power system within its region, consisting of nearly 3,000 generating units.²⁰ 18 C.F.R. § 35.34(a), (j)(1). MISO administers bulk or wholesale power markets that centrally commit and dispatch power to facilitate least-cost and reliable power production and delivery throughout the region. The wholesale markets within MISO signal and value power needs and identify the most economically efficient way—the least-cost approach where demand for energy equals the cost supplied—to meet them across the system.²¹ MISO also

²⁰ MISO, *Fact Sheet* (July 2024), available at <https://www.misoenergy.org/meetmiso/media-center/2024/corporate-fact-sheet>.

²¹ MISO, *Electric Grid 101*, available at <https://www.misoenergy.org/meet-miso/grid-operations-basics>

works to coordinate generation and transmission of electricity with other RTOs, exporting power at times and at others allowing electricity to be imported to MISO.²² MISO uses advanced modeling and thorough research to coordinate short and long-term planning for the benefit of generating units and consumers.²³

MISO planned for adequate capacity in 2025 and 2026—the timeframe of the Orders: MISO’s Planning Resource Auction [“PRA”] for the 2025-2026 Planning Year “demonstrated sufficient capacity for all zones within the MISO Region.” Ex. H at 2. It reports: “it is important to recognize existing processes have *cleared sufficient electric generating capacity across MISO for the periods of time covered by the Order.*” *Id.* (emphasis added). And it goes on to describe its confidence that it has already ensured “sufficient capacity to meet anticipated demand across the MISO Region for the 2025-2026 Planning Year.” *Id.*

The long-planned retirement of the plants subject to the Orders is not an impediment to reliability in the MISO region. Since 2010, MISO has experienced the retirement of 30.8 gigawatts (GW) of generation capacity, a large proportion of which (21.9 GW) was coal-fired generating

²² MISO, *Interregional Coordination*, available at <https://www.misoenergy.org/planning/interregional-coodination/>; see also MISO, Historical Net Scheduled Interchange (NSI), at <https://www.misoenergy.org/markets-and-operations/real-time--marketdata/market-reports/> (data found under “Summary” Market Reports).

²³ MISO, *Transmission and Generation Planning 101*, available at https://www.misoenergy.org/meet-miso/grid_planning_basics.

units.²⁴ That trend is shown below in the bar graph (from MISO’s 2023 Transmission Expansion Plan Report,²⁵ Ex. I at 35), which displays the retired capacity by generation type over time:

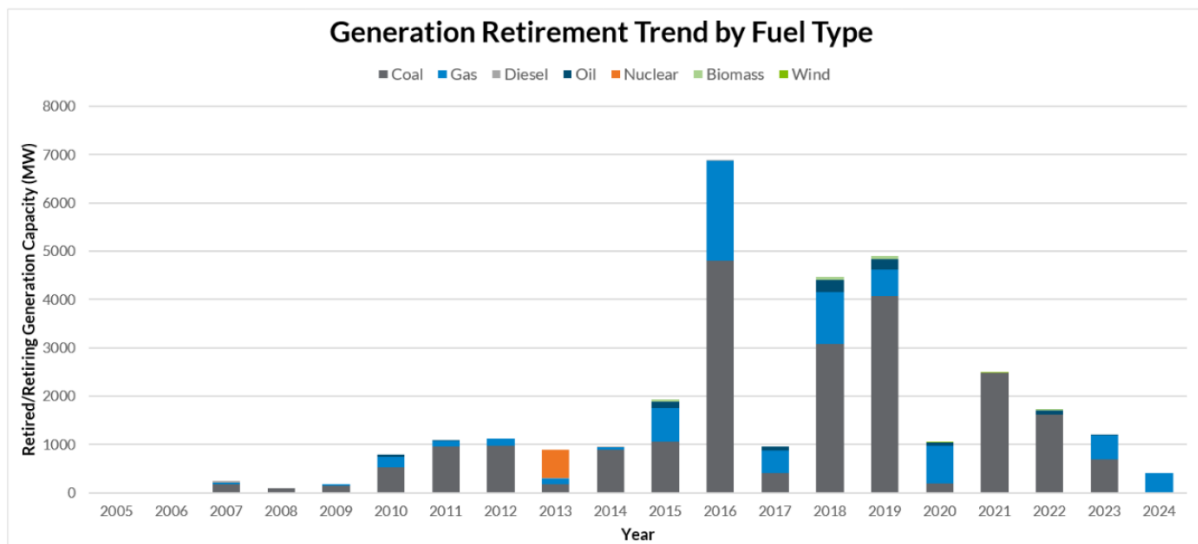


Figure 2.2-1: MW Generation Retirement by Fuel Type

Through use of generation capacity and transmission infrastructure planning, the addition of new capacity—in particular renewables, and the implementation of the other measures discussed above, MISO has been able to absorb these retirements and maintain overall system reliability. *Id.* at 34-35. The sufficiency of MISO’s planning was recently affirmed in MISO’s Answer to NIPSCO’s Complaint in FERC Docket EL26-38-000, with the grid operator stating that:

²⁴ See also MISO, *Approved Generator Retirements (Public) as of June 28, 2024* (“Approved Retirements 2024”), [https://www.oasis.oati.com/woa/docs/MISO/MISOdocs/OASIS_Posting_of_Approved_Generator_Retirements_\(Public\)_2024-06-28.pdf](https://www.oasis.oati.com/woa/docs/MISO/MISOdocs/OASIS_Posting_of_Approved_Generator_Retirements_(Public)_2024-06-28.pdf).

²⁵ MISO, *2023 Transmission Expansion Plan*, available at <https://cdn.misoenergy.org/MTEP23%20Executive%20Summary630586.pdf>.

[I]t is important to recognize existing processes have cleared sufficient electric generating capacity across MISO for the periods of time covered by the Order. The clearing of sufficient capacity to meet anticipated demand across the MISO Region for the 2025- 2026 Planning Year reflects the diligent efforts of MISO’s members, Market Participants, Relevant Electric Retail Regulatory Authorities (“RERRA”) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) to establish policies and processes that address both immediate and future capacity requirements. MISO continues to work with these parties in the context of anticipated growing demand for electricity, planned electric generating facility retirements, and an evolving mix of new electric generating resources to refine processes that address the challenges ahead. MISO is confident that these collaborative efforts do not require further intervention and will help ensure the region continues to procure sufficient capacity to meet demand.²⁶

The sufficiency of resource planning here has further been subject to review through Indiana’s Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) processes; both NIPSCO and Centerpoint have acknowledged that the planned retirements of the coal units at issue were subject to IRP review before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.²⁷ Indiana’s statute governing the contents of IRP submissions requires that utilities include a breadth of analysis and forecasting as to resource planning.²⁸ Utilities in Indiana’s MISO transmission area are further required to submit to the IURC their annual resource adequacy assessment as reported to MISO.²⁹ Thus, through these

²⁶ Answer of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., FERC Docket EL26-36-000 at 2 (January 20, 2026).

²⁷ See, e.g., Complaint and Request for Fast Track Processing of Northern Indiana Public Service Company LLC, FERC Docket EL26-36-000 at 7 (December 29, 2025) (“NIPSCO’s 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) included a retirement analysis to assess retirement dates for different generating units of its existing generation fleet”); See also, e.g., Complaint Requesting Fast Track Processing, FERC Docket EL26-38-000 at 9 – 10 (January 5, 2026).

²⁸ See, 170 Ind. Admin. Code 4-7-4 (The required “[i]ntegrated resource plan contents” including, to provide just a few examples of many, “[a]t least a twenty (20) year future period for predicted or forecasted analyses,” “[a]n analysis of historical and forecasted levels of peak demand and energy usage in compliance with section 5(a) of this rule,” and “[a] description of the candidate resource portfolios and the process for developing candidate resource portfolios in compliance with section 8(a) and 8(b) of this rule.”).

²⁹ See, 170 Ind. Admin. Code 4-7-2.3(a).

processes, extensive planning for the retirement of the Schahfer and Culley units at issue has been conducted,³⁰ in conjunction with the grid-operator’s resource adequacy planning.

V. Argument

A. The Orders are not supported by substantial evidence demonstrating the existence of an actual emergency and they do not demonstrate any reasoned decision-making.

The DOE failed to provide substantial evidence that an unexpected emergency presently exists, as required by 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c)(5). The relevant standard is whether the DOE’s determination is supported by substantial evidence. 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c)(5) refers to the possibility of judicial review under 16 U.S.C. § 825l. After an objection has been brought before DOE, the Court may consider it with the understanding that “[t]he finding of the Commission as to the facts, if supported by substantial evidence, shall be conclusive.” 16 U.S.C. § 825l. Substantial evidence means “such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion.” *Duke Energy Corp. v. FERC*, 892 F.3d 416, 420 (2018). This standard implies deference to an agency’s factual determinations. See, e.g., *id.*

DOE failed to point to substantial evidence of a current and unexpected emergency in the December 23, 2025, to March 23, 2026, timeframe during which the Orders are in effect. The evidence DOE provided does, however, prove that there is currently no energy emergency and that there will not be an “unexpected emergency” that warrants these Orders. MISO is well situated to

³⁰ See, e.g., Integrated Resource Plan, NIPSCO 2024 Summary (Including at page 9, for example, that “NIPSCO will continue to complete and place in service wind, solar, and solar plus storage replacement resources previously approved by the Commission for the scheduled 2025 retirement of all coal units at Schahfer....”) (accessible at https://www.nipsco.com/docs/librariesprovider11/rates-and-tariffs/irp/nipsco_2024-irp.pdf).

deliver reliable power throughout its area in the winter, spring, and summer of 2026. Longer-term resource needs are the subject of resource planning, not emergency action.

In declaring the contrary, DOE relied on a 2024 long-term reliability assessment by NERC, (Exs. A-B at 2), but that assessment identified an “elevated” risk for potential capacity exceedance if an extreme weather event were to occur. Ex. J at 6 (defining “elevated risk”). Indeed, the assessment explicitly shows that there will be more than enough anticipated reserve margin every summer through 2031, and every winter through 2032:

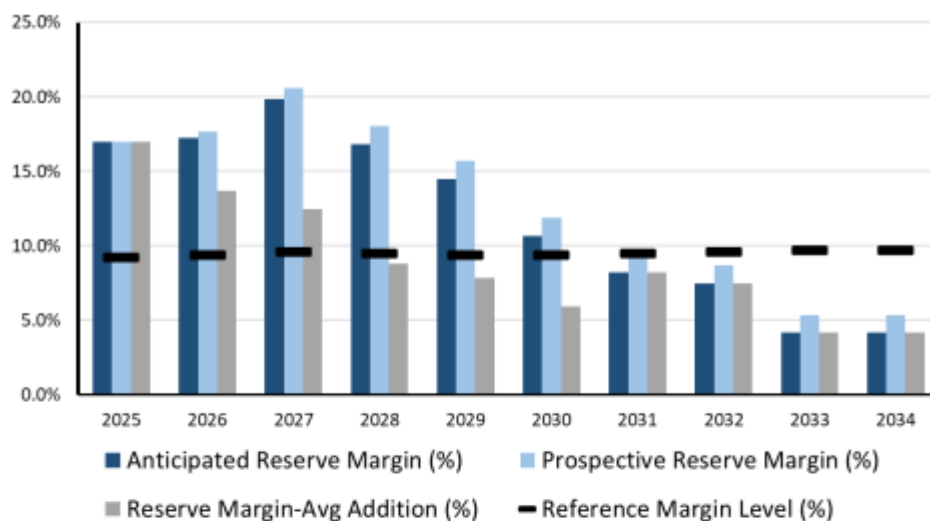


Figure 3: MISO Planning Reserve Margin–Summer

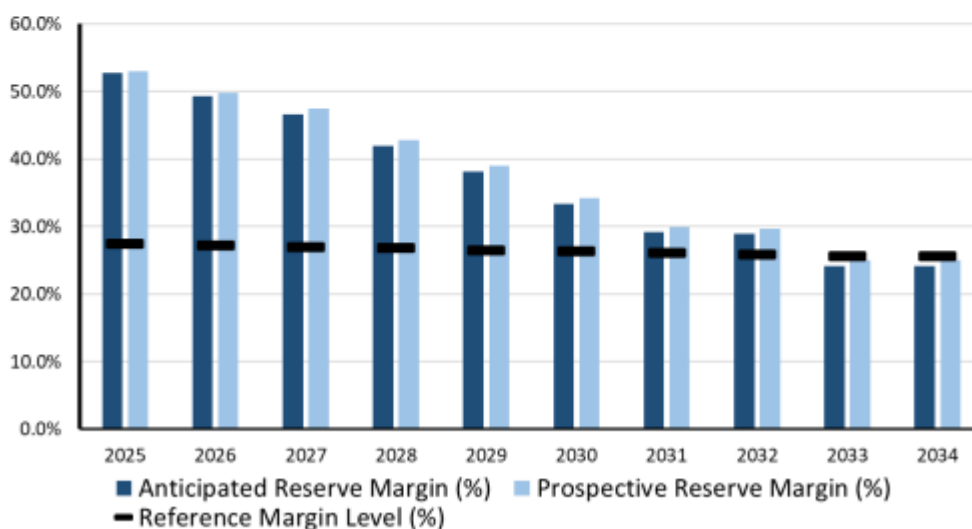


Figure 4: MISO Planning Reserve Margin–Winter

Id. at 13. Thus, the Orders make too much out of too little—the “elevated” category is hardly a call for immediate and unnecessary emergency action when there will be adequate reserve margins for years to come. As the long-term NERC assessment points out, MISO expects to have adequate capacity even factoring in the longstanding plant retirement plans that it approved. Indeed, the

LTRA Executive Summary makes a host of recommendations to ensure system reliability, not one of which is for DOE to issue emergency orders requiring old, unreliable, and expensive coal plants to continue running. Ex. J at 10. While retirements and fewer suppliers meant that MISO would have fewer firm resources and dispatchable generation, that was no cause for alarm. And nothing in the NERC assessment determined that MISO's interconnection with other RTOs would be insufficient to cover any needs that could arise.

The "elevated risk" category is not tantamount to an emergency. Even though NERC used the term "elevated risk" for the possibility that there could be an operating reserve shortfall, NERC did not apply the "high risk" category to MISO, and did not call for any retired plants to be brought back online. Moreover, the "elevated risk" designation means that MISO is projected to meet resource adequacy criteria and have energy and capacity for normal forecasted conditions and is only "at risk of supply shortfall in extreme conditions." *Id.* at 12. NERC concluded that its probabilistic assessments for MISO "indicate above-normal generator outages during extreme weather can result in unserved energy or load loss.... [w]ith uncertainty around new resource additions and existing generator retirements, MISO is also at risk of falling below RMLs within the next five years." Thus, there is no emergency. An extreme weather event could cause unserved energy or load loss. But the Orders do not identify any extreme weather event occurring during their timeframe. And even then, the NERC long-term assessment does not say that there would be inadequate methods to address such outages, such as system interconnections.

Perhaps most simply, the "elevated risk" designation is far from unusual; it has never required an emergency order before, and the grid has remained stable. MISO has been designated an "elevated" risk in every NERC Summer Reliability Assessment since NERC initiated the

practice of designating regions as “high,” elevated,” or “normal” risk in 2021.³¹ NERC has also designated MISO as “elevated” risk in the 2021-2024 Winter Reliability Assessments since 2021. *Id.* Yet no energy shortage has occurred and DOE has never imposed an emergency declaration until now (see *infra* regarding prejudgment and pretext). And more pertinent here, the latest NERC 2025-2026 Winter Reliability Assessment actually shows MISO as “normal risk” for the winter months—the lowest category of risk designation—as opposed to “elevated risk.”³²

In fact, the evidence before DOE cuts against the Orders. This includes MISO’s PRA for 2025-2026, which found sufficient capacity throughout the region. Exs. K-L. The press release announcing the PRA, (*id.*), confirms “adequate resources are available to maintain reliability during the upcoming planning year (June 2025 – May 2026).” Ex. L. And while “the 2025 auction prices reflect a tightening supply-demand balance during the summer months, there is sufficient capacity throughout the MISO footprint.” *Id.* The PRA was based on NERC’s standard BAL-502-RF-03 (Ex. M), requiring assessment of “one day in ten year” loss of load expectation principles. In short, the NERC standard that MISO applied to conduct the PRA demonstrated that MISO will have sufficient capacity through the summer of 2025. *Id.* MISO’s PRA results show that there will be enough capacity in the summer planning year, and MISO notes that the summer auction price provides a signal to the market to add more capacity for future auction years. DOE appears to have cherry-picked certain phrases from the PRA but does not give it full consideration.

³¹ See NERC, *Reliability Assessments*, <https://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Pages/default.aspx> (last visited January 20, 2025).

³² North American Electric Reliability Corporation, 2025-2026 Winter Reliability Assessment (November 2025), https://www.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/nerc_wra_2025.pdf, at 6 fig. 1.

And beyond the lack of supporting evidence, DOE also acted arbitrarily and capriciously by ignoring well-known and readily-accessible contrary information. For example, DOE failed to consider recent comments by MISO’s Independent Market Monitor to the Markets Committee of the MISO Board of Directors dispelling NERC’s purported concerns. Ex. N. The Independent Market Monitor is charged with ensuring adequate supply markets for the MISO region. He criticized a separate NERC long-term reliability assessment (which has since been revised³³) that included capacity shortfalls in 2025, noting that NERC’s assessment compared the wrong numbers. In doing so, the Independent Market Monitor declared MISO capacity to be “more than adequate,” and that he had “no material concerns” over MISO’s resource adequacy for the upcoming summer. *Id.* Resource sufficiency for the period of the DOE Orders is reinforced by the recent finding of merely “normal risk” in MISO per NERC’s 2025-2026 Winter Reliability Assessment.³⁴ That assessment likewise finds that MISO’s anticipated and projected resources exceed the reference margin level.³⁵

DOE also failed to consider MISO’s history of strong performance through several extreme weather events including Winter Storms Elliot and Uri, and did not credit MISO’s proven track record of engaging in a variety of mechanisms to ensure grid reliability.

³³ NERC, *Statement of NERC’s Long-term Reliability Assessment*, (June 17, 2025) https://www.nerc.com/news/Pages/Statement-on-NERC%E2%80%99s-2024-Long-Term-Reliability-Assessment.aspx?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email.

³⁴ North American Electric Reliability Corporation, 2025-2026 Winter Reliability Assessment (November 2025), https://www.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/nerc_wra_2025.pdf, at 6 fig. 1.

³⁵ *See, id.* at 42 fig. 4. The reference margin level varies by region; it is used by system planners to quantify the amount of reserve capacity in the system above the forecasted peak demand that is needed to ensure sufficient supply to meet peak loads.” *Id.* at 41. MISO’s reference margin level is substantially higher than that of any other region in North America. *See, id.* at 42.

DOE further failed to acknowledge that no part of MISO is currently afflicted by any unexpected outage or extreme weather event, and the entire system is running as planned with no outages, unexpected demand, lack of fuel or water, or other such emergencies in place at the time of the Orders.

The evidence cited in the Orders does not support the conclusions that DOE draws. For example, the NERC Long Term Reliability Assessment does not identify any war, fuel shortage, or natural disaster. Ex. J. Rather, it evaluates generation resource and transmission system adequacy as well as energy sufficiency to meet projected summer peak demands and operating reserves. *Id.* at 42-44.

A later assessment for the summer of 2025 concluded that all areas were projected to have “adequate anticipated resources for normal summer peak load conditions.” Ex. O. Indeed, the “elevated risk” designation means the probabilistic indices are low but not negligible. *Id.* at 10, Table 1. And further, the MISO-specific “dashboard” concludes that MISO’s expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under normal peak-demand scenarios. At worst, operating mitigations “could” be necessary for above-normal summer peak load and extreme generator outage conditions:

Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under normal peak-demand scenarios. Above-normal summer peak load and extreme generator outage conditions could result in the need to employ operating mitigations (e.g., load-modifying resources and energy transfers from neighboring systems) and EEAs. Emergency declarations that can only be called upon when available generation is at maximum capability are necessary to access load-modifying resources (demand response) when operating reserve shortfalls are projected.

Id. at 16.

Second, the Orders describe a sequence of resource retirements without acknowledging the replacement capacity that came online (or that is/was planned to come online) to offset those

retirements. Exs.A-B. In any event, NERC’s long-term analysis already factored in an assumption that included those retirements. Ex J.

Third, the Orders cite NERC’s “elevated risk” determination. But the retirements of Schahfer and Culley coal operations were already known to, and approved by, MISO operators who accounted for the retirement in their robust resource planning processes (described in further detail herein). Exs. P-Q.

Indeed, the Orders acknowledge that the retirement was already factored into MISO’s own supply forecasts. Exs. A-B at 2. MISO’s PRA (Exs. H, L) confirm adequate margin. *Id.* In fact, for the fall 2025 timeframe, the auction results exceeded MISO’s Reserve Margin Requirement by 2.6%. That means MISO entered the fall with more resources than necessary to ensure grid reliability. Ex. H at 19.

Indeed, for Schahfer, the relevant IRP confirms that NIPSCO would “continue to complete and place in service wind, solar, and solar plus storage replacement resources previously approved by the Commission for the scheduled 2025 retirement of all coal units.”³⁶

And as the States’ Petitions for Rehearing on the three Campbell Orders explain, the “elevated risk” designation that DOE cites is relatively common and has never presented an emergency before. And nothing in the NERC assessment determined that MISO’s interconnection with other RTOs would be insufficient for additional capacity if needed. Nonetheless, the Orders to the Schahfer and Culley coal units rely on the NERC long-term assessment to claim that “additional dispatch” of the coal plants is “necessary.” Exs. A-B at 2. DOE drew that improper

³⁶ See, e.g., Integrated Resource Plan, NIPSCO 2024 Summary (accessible at https://www.nipsco.com/docs/librariesprovider11/rates-and-tariffs/irp/nipsco_2024-irp.pdf).

conclusion even though the retiring Schahfer and Culley plants were not included in any of the MISO forecasts finding sufficient capacity.

Fourth, the Orders misstate the conclusions of the PRA by cherry-picking reference to capacity offset while simultaneously acknowledging its conclusion that the results “demonstrated sufficient capacity” for the planning year, which covers 2025-2026. Exs. A-B at 2; contra Ex. H at 12 (“The 2025 PRA demonstrated sufficient capacity”). Sufficient capacity, by definition, is not an emergency.

Fifth, the summer of 2025 is instructive. Even in the peak-demand timeframe of June (Ex. M) and July (Ex. N.), when actual demand reached 120 GW on June 23, MISO had more than enough offered capacity: Ex R at 25, 33; Ex. S at 24, 32. This does not include more than 7000MW in headroom available to MISO beyond the offered capacity shown.³⁷ The Orders do not indicate that the December 23, 2025, through March 23, 2026, timeframe is likely to come anywhere near such demand, or that there would be insufficient capacity to meet it, or that the additional available headroom would not be enough to address any such demand.

Sixth, the Order cites MISO’s attributes roadmap from December 2023. Exs. A-B at 2; Ex. T. But that document is not only relatively old compared to the other information DOE cites, it does not speak to the Winter of 2026. DOE notes that it refers to the potential for risk of loss of load in the summer and fall beginning in 2027. The document does not support the existence of any emergency during the term of the Orders. *Id.* The Orders do not explain how a Section 202(c) order directed to Winter 2026 timeframe will address any emergency in that timeframe—the issue

³⁷ See Public Interest Organization’s Petition for Rehearing submitted to DOE on September 8, 2025, Exhibit 70 at ¶¶ 16-19.

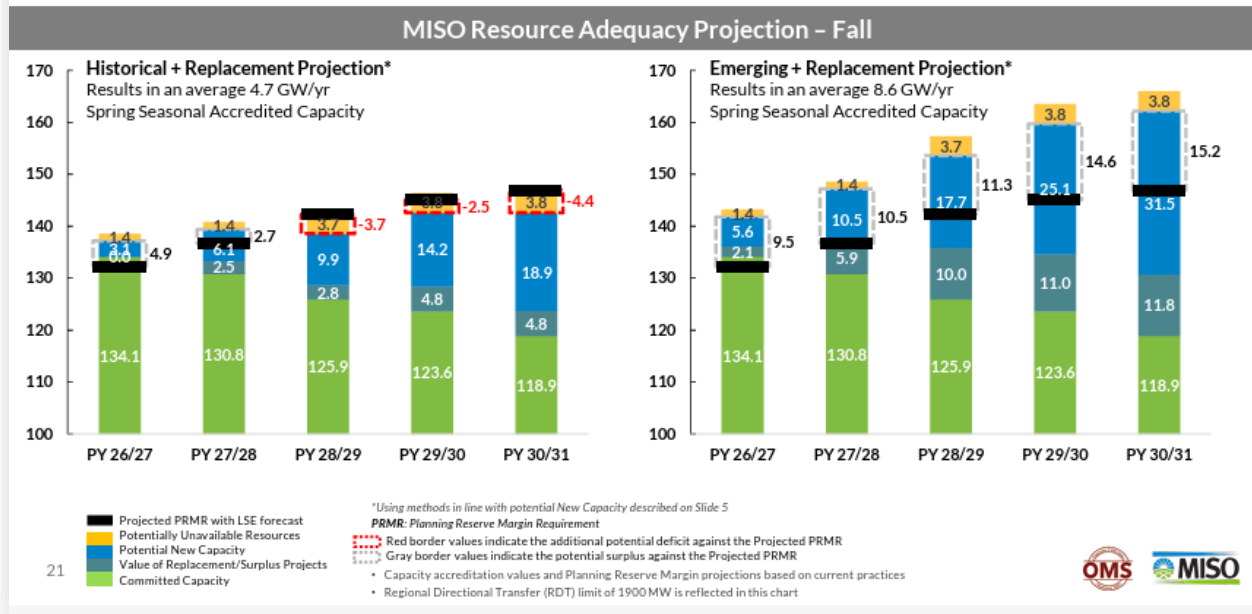
identified is not until 2027 at the earliest. And as discussed above, the most recent NERC winter assessment, applicable during the period of the Orders, does not foresee any such emergency.

Seventh, the Orders cite MISO's Response to the Reliability Imperative, concluding that MISO purportedly has "resource reliability concerns" and quotes a passage acknowledging "risks in non-summer months" that were not historically of concern. Ex. A-B at 2. But the Orders fail to identify how generalized discussion of non-summer "concerns" and potential "risks" demonstrate any particular emergency, much less a specific one that is posed for the Winter 2026 timeframe. To the contrary, the MISO Response to the Reliability Imperative describes the risks posed by non-summer operations in the context of explaining the steps it is taking to address these risks in order to ensure adequate capacity and overall system reliability. Ex. U at 11. It specifically describes four pillars of approaches that MISO intends to deploy, (Ex. U at 12-24), and concludes with a "Roadmap" for how it will deploy its strategy. Ex. U at Appendix A-1. The Orders do not contend that MISO's approach will adequate, or that there is an emergency despite MISO's robust efforts. *Id.*; *contra* Exs. A-B.

Eighth, the Orders again discuss the 2025-2026 PRA results, which included a statement that "new capacity additions were insufficient to offset the negative impacts of decreased accreditation, suspensions/retirements and external resources." Ex. A-B at 2-3; *contra* Ex H. Again, the actual document, in its full context, confirms adequate margin for reliability. *Id.*

Ninth, the Orders cites the Organization of MISO states and MISO's joint publication of a survey dated June 6, 2025. Exs. A-B at 3. But that survey confirms a surplus through the summer of 2026, well beyond the scope of the Orders' timeframe. In fact, the survey shows a fall 2026 surplus using seasonally-accredited capacity against the planning reserve margin requirement:

Historical + Replacement & Emerging + Replacement Projections vs PRMR ~4.7 GW & 8.6 GW Status Quo Fall SAC Installation Rate



Ex. V at 21. The Orders rely on the survey results to identify potential forecast deficits (which are not emergencies) in the 2027-2030 timeframe—but that is well outside the Winter 2026 timeframe in which the Orders will be in effect, and fails to account for the “Emerging + Replacement Projection” metrics throughout the document showing surpluses against the projected Planning Reserve Margin Requirement. *Id.* at 7, 9, 19-26.

Tenth, Orders further cite Executive Orders directed to building out energy capacity and supporting artificial intelligence. But the Orders do not discuss how these Executive Orders demonstrate any inadequate approach to meeting the projected needs on MISO’s system, much less one that presents an emergency of any sort.

In total, none of this evidence demonstrates that there is any emergency, much less one that might occur in the December 23, 2025, to March 23, 2026, timeframe. To be sure, there are normal capacity considerations including some that pose some degree of potential risk, but not one of the

sources cited in the Orders evidence any lack of adequate planning to address those risks, much less any likelihood of a shortfall between August 20 and November 19, 2025.

Instead, the robust and comprehensive planning processes undertaken by the prime authorities—the individual states, the utilities, and MISO—have comprehensively planned for resource adequacy and system reliability during the period of the Orders and beyond.

Given all of these countervailing considerations, and the full context of the sources that DOE purports to cite, DOE did not have substantial evidence supporting its emergency determination. It did not exercise reasoned decision-making in declaring that an emergency exists. The Orders compelling the Schahfer and Culley coal units to operate is arbitrary and capricious.

The States have already documented all of these flaws in three separate requests for rehearing on DOE's equally flawed orders compelling the J.H. Campbell plant to operate (DOE Orders 202-25-3, 202-25-7, and 202-25-9). These requests are hereby incorporated and adopted herein, including their discussion of materials not cited in the Orders subject to this request. These include the comments of Jennifer Curran and the MISO independent market monitor which DOE previously relied upon but has now dropped. The States' prior submissions put DOE on notice of the flawed analysis of its prior orders. Exs. W-X.

Rather than identifying and responding to an actual emergency, both the Orders demonstrate that DOE instead started with a desired result (keeping a coal-fired plant online), and worked backwards to justify that outcome.

B. The Orders exceed DOE's authority because they are not limited to a specific inadequate power supply situation as required by Section 202(c) and 10 C.F.R. § 205.371.

DOE exceeds its authority because the Orders do not address any actual emergency or sudden occurrence needing imminent response, and because they have not identified any actual

and specific insufficient supply situation in the Winter 2026 timeframe. Thus the Orders are without authority and contrary to law.

As the statutes make clear, an actual “emergency” is a sudden occurrence requiring immediate responsive action; conversely, it is not the mere potential that an emergency might occur. 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c). And Department regulations define “emergency” to mean an unexpected inadequate supply of electric energy which may result from the unexpected outage or breakdown of facilities for the generation, transmission, or distribution of electric power. “Such events may be the result of weather conditions, acts of God, or unforeseen occurrences not reasonably within the power of the affected ‘entity’ to prevent.” 10 C.F.R. § 205.371. Further, emergency orders must meet “a specific inadequate power supply situation,” and although emergencies with extended periods of insufficient supply could qualify, the impacted entity is supposed to firm up commitments for supply “so that a continuing emergency order is not needed.” *Id.*

These requirements have been demonstrated by DOE’s historic use of 202(c) authority to address natural disasters and specific capacity crises. The most common reason to invoke Section 202(c) authority has been to address natural disasters like hurricanes, cold weather events, and extreme heat. *See* DOE Order Nos. 202-05-1 & -2 (Sept. 28, 2005) (Hurricane Rita); DOE Order No. 20208-1 (Sept. 14, 2008) (Hurricane Ike); DOE Order No. 202-20-1 (Aug. 27, 2020) (Hurricane Laura); DOE Order No. 202-24-1 (Oct. 9, 2024) (Hurricane Milton); DOE Order No. 202-21-1 (Feb. 14, 2021) (Winter Storm Uri); DOE Order No. 202-22-3 (Dec. 23, 2022) (Winter Storm Elliot – Texas ERCOT); DOE Order No. 202-22-4 (Dec. 24, 2022) (Winter Storm Elliot – PJM); DOE Order No. 202-20-2 (Sept. 6, 2020) (extreme heat in California); DOE Order No. 202-21-2 (responding to extreme heat, wildfires and drought in California); DOE Order Nos. 20222-1

& 2 and amendments (same). Indeed, during Winter Storm Elliot, MISO exported power to neighboring regions.³⁸

Past practice further confirms the impropriety of these Orders. While DOE’s emergency powers have occasionally been used to address retirements, it has done so only when requested by the operator or local government and there was a specific need demonstrated for the units to operate due to an unexpected emergency. DOE Order No. 202-05-3 (Dec. 20, 2005) (Mirant to supply Washington D.C. when transmission lines were out of service); DOE Order No. 202-17-1 at 2 (Grand River Energy to operate Unit 1 due to lightning strike to Unit 2 and delay in construction for Unit 3); DOE Order No. 202-17-2 (need to operate Yorktown to avoid imminent risk of load-shedding).

The plain text, prior regulatory interpretation, judicial precedent, and longstanding practice all confirm a limited power applicable only to sudden, imminent conditions. Context makes that all the more plain. *See Food & Drug Admin. v. Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.*, 529 U.S. 120, 133 (2000) (The “words of a statute must be read in their context and with a view to their place in the overall statutory scheme.”).

A memorandum by the Congressional Research Service, Ex. Y, confirms that DOE’s use of Section 202(c) to order coal plants to remain generally available is wholly novel. Ex. S at 3 (Department engaging in “seemingly new interpretations of the emergency authority”). That novelty violates well-settled law prohibiting agencies from asserting novel, transformational, and impactful authorities that congress did not intend.

³⁸ MISO, *Overview of Winter Storm Elliott December 23, Maximum Generation Event* (Jan. 17, 2023) (“*Winter Storm Elliott Overview*”) at 7, <https://cdn.misoenergy.org/20230117%20RSC%20Item%2005%20Winter%20Storm%20Elliott%20Preliminary%20Report627535.pdf>.

The Orders impose a transformative and illegal use of section 202(c): as a means to intervene in the regulatory landscape, displacing both state law and sections 205 and 206 of the FPA, under which FERC regulates regional grid operators' resource adequacy requirements. Had Congress intended to vest such a broad power in section 202(c) it would have stated so clearly. Indeed, it defies logic that Congress would grant DOE general authority over which power plants may retire across the country—a function with profound implications for rates, state sovereignty, and a broad array of stakeholder interests—without any obligation to assess the effect on ratepayers or seek public input.

The Supreme Court has emphatically rejected statutory interpretations whereby an agency “claim[s] to discover in a long-extant statute an unheralded power representing a transformative expansion in its regulatory authority.” *W. Virginia v. Env’t Prot. Agency*, 597 U.S. 697, 724-25 (2022) (internal quotations omitted); *cf. Whitman v. Am. Trucking Associations*, 531 U.S. 457, 468 (2001) (“Congress . . . does not alter the fundamental details of a regulatory scheme in vague terms or ancillary provisions . . .”). Yet what DOE issued here is exactly that “extraordinary case[],” *W. Virginia*, 597 U.S. at 721 (cleaned up): the discovery—in a 90-year-old statutory provision used seldomly and only for limited purposes—of unheralded yet broad authority to transform the regulatory environment underpinning the electricity system by commanding the amount and type of generation on the grid. All without “clear congressional authorization,” *id.* at 724, and notwithstanding that such authority has been reserved to and exercised by the States and, at their election, RTOs, for decades. *Cf. Biden v. Nebraska*, 600 U.S. 477, 501 (2023) (“The question here is not whether something should be done; it is who has the

authority to do it”); *W. Virginia*, 597 U.S. at 744 (Gorsuch, J., concurring) (agency overreach “also risks intruding on powers reserved to the States”).

Indeed the statutory structure of the federal power act confirms the short-term nature of emergency approaches. That is because long-term planning authority appears in an entirely different Section of the Federal Power Act – Section 215—which indicates that the emergency authority of Section 202(c) is a different authority altogether. 16 U.S.C. § 824o. Given all of the procedures attendant to resource planning, this statutory structure confirms that emergency orders are not the proper mechanism to engage in resource planning five years into the future. *See FDA v. Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.*, 529 U.S. 120, 142 & 149 (2000); *see also Cal. Indep. Sys. Operator Corp. v. FERC*, 372 F.3d 395, 401–02 (D.C. Cir. 2004) (DOE’s authority in one Section of the Federal Power Act “is strong evidence” that a separate Section does not confer the same authority on the agency).

Courts have also recognized Section 202(c)’s limitation to actual or imminent crises. For example, in *Richmond Power and Light v. FERC*, the D.C. Circuit noted that the statute “speaks of ‘temporary’ emergencies, epitomized by wartime disturbances, and is aimed at situations in which demand for electricity exceeds supply.” 574 F.2d 610, 615 (D.C. Cir. 1978). And in *Otter Tail Power Co. v. Fed. Power Comm’n.*, the Eighth Circuit noted that 202(c) provides authority to “react to a war or national disaster and order immediate interconnection. . . to maintain electrical service during such emergency.” 429 F.2d 232, 234 (8th Cir. 1970). In *Otter Tail*, the Eighth Circuit distinguished between an emergency that is likely to occur and one that is actually

occurring, concluding that a separate provision, section 202(b)³⁹ applies to the former, while section 202(c) applies to the latter:

On its face, § 202(c) enables the Commission to react to a war or national disaster and order immediate interconnection of the facilities to maintain electrical service during such emergency. . . . On the other hand, § 202(b) applies to a crisis which is likely to develop in the foreseeable future but which does not necessitate immediate action on the part of the Commission.

Otter Tail Power Co., 429 F.2d at 234. In that case, a power company challenged the FPC’s order issued under § 202(b) of a temporary connection between the power company and a small municipally owned power producer that was “dangerously close to eroding its firm power supply” due to the proximity between the generator load capacities and the peak load demand. *Id.* It claimed that because the ordered connection was temporary, the order could only be issued under section 202(c), and only in emergency conditions. *Id.* The court disagreed that section 202(c) only applies to temporary orders but agreed that a potential crisis in the foreseeable future was not an emergency, making it “just the type of situation to fit into a § 202(b) hearing rather than § 202(c).” *Id.* The caselaw is therefore clear—emergency orders cannot be used to address longer-term potential future risks that are properly addressed through ordinary planning approaches.

³⁹ Section 202(b) refers to 16 U.S.C. § 824a(b), which states “[w]hensoever the Commission, upon application of any State commission or of any person engaged in the transmission or sale of electric energy, and after notice to each State commission and public utility affected and after opportunity for hearing, finds such action necessary or appropriate in the public interest it may by order direct a public utility” if the utility would not face an undue burden. The DOE’s authority is much more limited in these situations. Further, 42 U.S.C. § 7172(a)(1)(B) vests this power in FERC, not the Secretary.

Statutory text and structure, past practice, and caselaw are therefore all clear: for DOE to have any authority under section 202(c), the emergency must be actual and not merely a broadly asserted future risk. With no such actual or imminent emergency, the Orders are unlawful.

C. The Orders exceed DOE’s authority because they requires actions not listed in Section 202(c)(1).

The Orders are unlawful because they purport to require actions not within DOE’s statutory authority.

DOE’s authority is limited to issuing orders that require connections or the generation, delivery, interchange, or transmission of electric energy. 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c). This authority does not cover mandating general plant availability untethered to meeting any specific need, nor does it allow for potential economic dispatch (which is not an apt solution for an actual emergency anyway—more on this in Section G below). Section 202(c)(1) does not allow for preemptive measures just in case an emergency might occur, and specifically does not allow for the Department to order availability without a specific need to be available.⁴⁰ Plus, “economic dispatch” is not equivalent to the generation of electric energy. Economic dispatch is constrained by statute to mean only the lowest-cost option under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 Section 1234(c). 42 U.S.C. § 16432(b). MISO’s determination of lowest-cost sources may not result in the Schahfer or Culley coal units producing *any* generation whatsoever during the Winter 2026

⁴⁰ Before these two Orders and the three Campbell orders, DOE had issued Section 202(c) emergency orders only 19 times in history. Only once, for Mirant in 2005, did it require a plant to supply as-needed additional capacity—but even then it was based on a specific application demonstrating a concrete and specific need. DOE Order No. 202-05-3 (Dec. 20, 2005). That is not the case here.

timeframe. (Or if it does, it could be as a result of the Orders rather than an external need.) Thus, the Orders are without authority and contrary to law.

D. The Orders exceed DOE’s authority because they do not set hours of operation, limit hours of operation, or minimize environmental impact as required by Section 202(c)(3).

Any emergency order issued under Section 202(c) must be limited to only those hours necessary to meet the emergency. 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c)(2).

But the Orders at issue here address only the potential for an emergency, they do not identify a need for the Schahfer or Culley coal units to generate electricity to meet it. By the same token, the Orders do not establish any limited hours or other parameters for the Schahfer or Culley coal units to follow to ensure their usage is what actually meets the purported emergency, only that they be available at all times. Thus the Orders are without authority and contrary to law, and allow the Schahfer and Culley coal units to generate electricity during times there are not even “elevated risks.” Allowing a coal plant to generate electricity and pollute beyond the purported emergency needs would increase the environmental impacts that, by law, the Orders must strive to minimize. 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c)(2). Thus the Orders are without authority and contrary to law.

E. The Orders exceed DOE’s authority because Section 201(b)(1) reserves decisions about plant retirements to the states.

Section 201(a) of the Federal Power Act explicitly provides that federal regulation over generation and transmission is related to matters of interstate commerce and extends “only to those matters which are not subject to regulation by the States.” 16 U. S. C. § 824(a). Decisions over what plants should be constructed or retired is traditionally subject to state regulation. States retain jurisdiction “over facilities used for the generation of electric energy.” 16 U.S.C. § 824(b)(1). “The states are thus authorized to regulate energy production . . . and facilities used for the generation of electric energy” *Coal. for Competitive Elec., Dynergy Inc. v. Zibelman*, 906 F.3d 41, 50 (2d Cir.

2018). What facilities to build, whether they remain feasible, and utility rates are areas governed by the states. *Pac. Gas & Elec. Co. v. State Energy Res. Conservation and Dev. Comm'n*, 461 U.S. 190, 205 (1983).

The energy market is governed by longstanding principles of cooperative federalism encouraged in Section 209(b) of the Federal Power Act—which explicitly declares that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may consult with states “regarding the relationship between rate structures, costs, accounts, charges, practices, classifications, and regulations of public utilities subject to the jurisdiction of such State commission and of the Commission.”) 16 U.S. Code § 824h(b). Indeed, FERC has embraced these cooperative federalism principles and developed long-standing consultation practices with the states, including through creation of a Joint Federal-State Task Force. Ex. T. And more recently, a Federal-State Current Issues Collaborative. Ex. U.

Section 103 of the Department of Energy Organization Act, also applicable, mandates due consideration to state retirement plans and requires, where practicable, consultation with relevant state officials. 42 U.S.C. § 7113.

States are responsible for developing and approving power generation plans, typically through public commissions like the Public Utilities Commission⁴¹ in Minnesota, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, and the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC).⁴² These bodies oversee the development of Integrated Resource Plans (“IRPs”), or Strategic Energy Assessments, which are the blueprints for how a utility plans to generate sufficient electric power to meet its expected demand. *E.g.*, Minn. Stat. § 216B.2422 (Minnesota’s IRP statute). An IRP can

⁴¹ Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, *Utility Planning*, <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/economic-analysis/planning/> (last visited June 23, 2025).

⁴² Wis. Stat. Ann. § 196.491 (West).

consider and adopt plans with myriad inputs and considerations and impact overall electricity rates, the specific communities or areas where power plants are located, determinations of which power plants might be built or retired and the fuels that they will use, overall electric system reliability (like the likelihood of power outages and how quickly the lights come back on), and the environment.⁴³ Such processes can be rigorous and commissions will open a docket to publicly vet a proposed plan, receive comments, and make an informed decision that is in the best interest of the states and its ratepayers.⁴⁴ As discussed above, the planned retirements of the Schahfer and Culley units at issue were subject to such a process before the IURC.⁴⁵

MISO, in turn, is one of the country's largest regional transmission organizations (RTOs), which were formed to develop transmission systems, trading markets, and attendant procedures.⁴⁶ MISO works collaboratively with its member states to ensure resource adequacy throughout its service area.⁴⁷ This means that it ensures there is sufficient generation capacity to meet future electricity demands, including forecasting demand growth, assessing existing generation assets, and planning for new generation resources.⁴⁸ MISO works with utilities during their development of submissions to state regulators for the IRPs that the regulators ultimately approve. And

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, *Electric Integrated Resource Planning (EILRP)*, <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/economic-analysis/planning/irp/> (last visited June 23, 2025).

⁴⁵ See, e.g., Complaint and Request for Fast Track Processing of Northern Indiana Public Service Company LLC, FERC Docket EL26-36-000 at 7 (December 29, 2025) (“NIPSCO’s 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) included a retirement analysis to assess retirement dates for different generating units of its existing generation fleet”); See also, e.g., Complaint Requesting Fast Track Processing, FERC Docket EL26-38-000 at 9 – 10 (January 5, 2026).

⁴⁶ FERC, *Energy Primer*, https://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/24_Energy-Markets-Primer_0117_DIGITAL_0.pdf

⁴⁷ MISO, *System Planning*, https://www.misoenergy.org/meet-miso/about-miso/industry-foundations/grid_planning_basics/ (last visited June 23, 2025).

⁴⁸ *Id.*

MISO then accounts for the final IRPs in its planning and analyses forecasting the balance between load and capacity. MISO also operates a capacity auction where utilities and other load-serving entities can procure the necessary generation capacity to meet projected demand. This incentivizes the development and maintenance of adequate generation resources.⁴⁹ MISO works with utilities, local regulators, and other stakeholders to maintain resource adequacy, including through its annual PRA, which procures sufficient resources and allows market participants to buy and sell capacity via an auction. MISO determines the capacity requirements in its region for each season covering the June 1 to May 31 time period.⁵⁰

The Schahfer and Culley coal units' planned retirement is subject to precisely such state regulation and MISO integration. The plan to retire the plant received intense scrutiny over years before being approved and worked into MISO's projections—all under the auspices of state law including Indiana's IRP processes, state regulatory proceedings, state judicial proceedings, and state participation in MISO. MISO also reviews planned plant retirements to ensure resource adequacy and grid reliability. Section 38.2.7 of MISO's Open Access Transmission, Energy, and Operating Reserve Markets Tariff requires an operator to provide 26 weeks of advance notice of a planned retirement. MISO then performs a Reliability Study to determine whether the retirement will pose any concern for grid reliability.⁵¹

Both CenterPoint and NIPSCO submitted relevant Attachment Y forms to provide notice that they planned to suspend generation at these plants. MISO approved of such retirements. Ex.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁰ MISO, *Resource Adequacy*, <https://www.misoenergy.org/planning/resource-adequacy2/resource-adequacy/#t=10&p=0&s=FileName&sd=desc> (last visited June 23, 2025).

⁵¹ If MISO does identify a threat to grid reliability if the resource retires, the MISO tariff provides a mechanism to retain that resource until the constraint can be alleviated.

E. In making its approval, MISO determined that such retirements “would not result in violations of applicable reliability criteria.” Ex. E at 9.

DOE did not adequately consult with the States, much less account for or incorporate the findings of MISO when it approved these Attachment Y submissions. The Orders are wholly silent as to any consultation with the State of Indiana in which all three coal units are located. Yet State regulators have primary jurisdiction over IRPs, siting, and cost recovery for utilities operating in their states. *Zibelman*, 906 F.3d at 50. DOE’s failure to consult violates the principles behind FERC and DOT policies to involve the states in light of the statutory reservation of state authority in federal-state regulatory balance, 16 U.S.C. § 824(b)(1). It avoids 209(b) of Federal Power Act regarding federal-state collaboration and upends FERC’s historic practice of seeking to develop a robust dialogue between regulators. 16 U.S. Code § 824h(b). And it flouts Section 103 of the Department of Energy Organization Act which requires consultation with relevant state officials—consultation was absolutely “practicable” here given the lack of an imminent emergency. The Orders did not give any consideration (much less due consideration) to Indiana’s IRP in violation of law. 42 U.S.C. § 7113.

In the Orders’ focus on longer-term risks, including the growth of data centers and the projections out into the 2027-2030 timeframe, DOE is improperly inserting itself into long-term resource planning, usurping a role belonging to the respective states and MISO. The DOE cannot use short-term emergency orders to serve a purpose for which DOE’s emergency authority was not designed: to supplant the states’ primary authority in the long-term resource planning arena, or to reject the carefully considered work that MISO puts into planning resources.

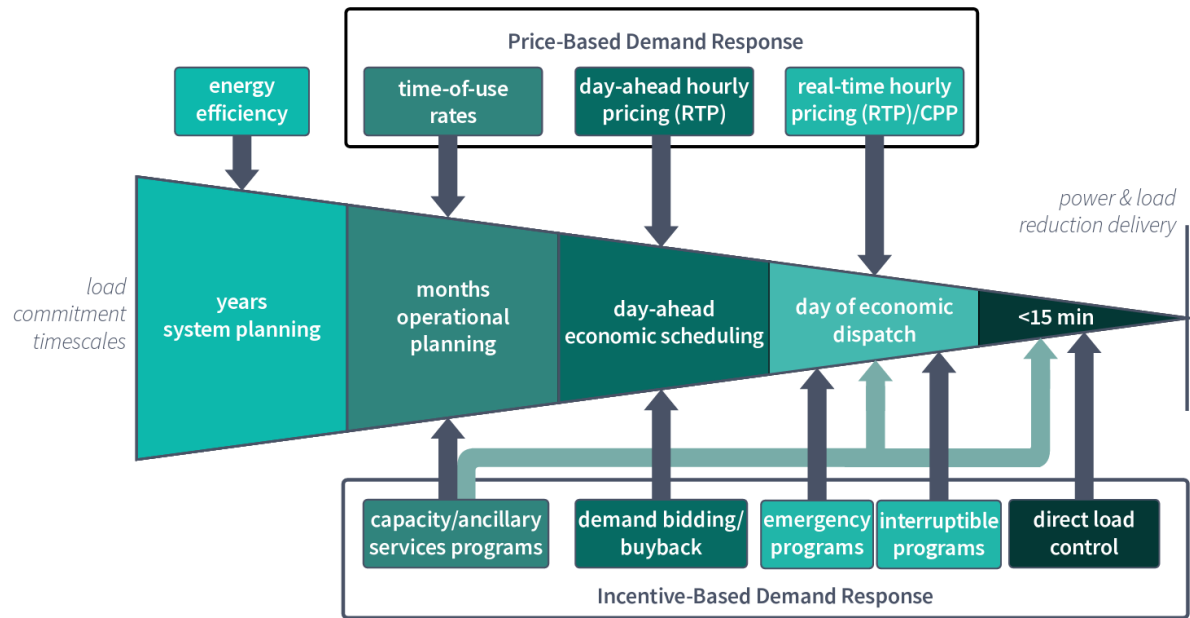
The Orders usurp the States’ and MISO’s primary rule in resource planning and development; it is contrary to law.

F. The Orders are unreasoned, arbitrary, and capricious because their directive for “economic dispatch” is inherently contradictory with the needs to meet an actual emergency.

Section 202(c) contemplates emergency orders that are tailored to the specific emergency—they must “best meet the emergency and serve the public interest.” 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c). Even if an emergency did exist and DOE had the legal authority to issue an order, these two Orders are not rationally related to address the emergency that the Orders identify.

The Orders’ specific requirement for MISO to take steps to effectuate “economic dispatch” of the Schahfer and Culley coal units undermines their determination that an emergency exists and cannot “best meet” the purported emergency. Economic dispatch is a term of art for the procedure by which MISO selects generators to add electric energy to the grid. It is designed to ensure that the electricity generated matches the demand in its service area in the most cost-effective way. “Economic dispatch,” by definition, is awarded to the lowest-cost option (all else being equal). Ex. Z. That is because much of the base load planning takes place years or months ahead of time and is comprised of the must-run units. Additional capacity is then called upon in the day-ahead or day-of markets for which additional generation is required:

Figure 2-2: Demand Response and Energy Efficiency in Electric System Planning and Operations



Source: U.S. Department of Energy⁸²

Ex. Z at 43. Most of the generation available to meet load in real time for economic dispatch is identified and scheduled the day before, based upon the day-ahead load forecast used in the security-constrained unit commitment process. Ex. AA at 6-7, 13, 51. As recently as 2021, the vast majority of peaking plants operated on natural gas and oil which can be dispatched in much shorter order; only 3.3 percent of all peakers nationwide burned coal. See Ex. BB at 2.

Taken together, economic dispatch considers a variety of factors including (1) the cost of generation, (2) the standby condition of the generator, (3) ramp-up time to provide the needed capacity, and (4) whether electric energy can be transmitted to the area of need.

The Orders' proposed solution for "economic dispatch" of the Schahfer and Culley coal units is thus inherently incompatible with addressing emergency operation (likely because there is no emergency in the first place). In a true emergency, even uneconomic plants receive cost-of-

service payments when they are required to run to alleviate the emergency condition. The RTO does not require the emergency generator to bid into the market and *then* make a determination about whether it will be selected to run as with economic dispatch. Rather, the emergency generator becomes a “price taker” using MISO’s “must run” classification. Thus, the Orders’ directive to use “economic dispatch” is irrational: actual emergencies are not addressed with economic dispatch, and economic dispatch is a necessarily ineffective method to address an actual emergency.⁵²

Moreover, the Orders’ requirement that the Schahfer and Culley coal units be “available to operate” does not accord with 202(c)(1)’s requirement that DOE select the temporary measure that will “best meet the emergency and serve the public interest.” Section 202(c)(1)’s use of the term “best” shows that the Commission cannot require temporary power generation from the Schahfer and Culley coal units when better means are available to meet the alleged emergency and serve the public interest. *Entergy Corp. v. Riverkeeper, Inc.*, 556 U.S. 208, 218 (2009) (“Best” means what is “most advantageous.” (Quoting Webster’s New International Dictionary 258 (2d ed.1953))). DOE’s decision to require the plants to be available disregarded its obligation to consider alternatives and select the best one.

Although DOE need not consider every conceivable alternative, it must consider those that are obvious and viable. *See Dep’t of Homeland Sec. v. Regents of the Univ. of Calif.*, 591 U.S. 1, 30 (2020); *Motor Vehicle Manufs. Ass’n of the U.S. v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 463 U.S. 29, 51 (1983); *Nat’l Shooting Sports Found., Inc. v. Jones*, 716 F.3d 200, 215 (D.C. Cir. 2013).

⁵² Campbell’s situation illustrates this inefficiency. Coal is an expensive fuel type in our current energy mix. The inefficiency of running a coal plant makes it uneconomic in general, which is one of the reasons why this specific Campbell plant was slated for retirement. *See In re Application of Consumers Energy*, No. U-21090, 2022 WL 2915368, at *73.

Intervenors and the public may also introduce information that requires the Department to evaluate alternatives and reconsider its decision to impose or maintain a requirement. *See, e.g., Chamber of Com. of the U.S. v. Secs. & Exch. Comm’n*, 412 F.3d 133, 144 (D.C. Cir. 2005) (evaluating agency failure to consider alternative raised by dissenting Commissioners and introduced by commenters); *cf.* 10 C.F.R. § 205.370 (stating ability to cancel, modify, or otherwise change an order). Indeed, DOE’s regulations specify information it shall consider when deciding to issue an order under section 202(c). 10 C.F.R. § 205.373. The specified information includes “conservation or load reduction actions,” “efforts . . . to obtain additional power through voluntary means,” and “available imports, demand response, and identified behind-the-meter generation resources selected to minimize an increase in emissions.” *Id.* § 205.373(g)–(h); Ex. CC at 4 (DOE Order No. 202-22-4). DOE has not explained why ordering the Schahfer and Culley coal units to remain “available” meets any of these criteria, especially in light of alternatives such as power pooling and utility coordination.

Even if there were an emergency, DOE has not explained why its Orders “best” meets the emergency. That is because they do not. Again, the Orders allege only that the Schahfer and Culley coal units should remain available because a need for additional capacity *might* arise in the future (and even then, most likely years from now, not in the Winter 2026 timeframe). Given the speculative nature of the alleged emergency, it is incorrect as a matter of fact that ordering the Schahfer and Culley coal units to remain available is the best means of addressing it. DOE’s failure to consider alternatives other than the inefficient and incapable Schahfer and Culley coal units does not meet section 202(c) requirement for DOE to use its judgment to choose the best temporary source of emergency energy.

First, if an emergency need occurs in the day-of or real-time markets, the Schahfer and Culley coal units will not be able to spool up in time to meet that need. That is because it takes hours or days for coal plants like Schahfer and Culley coal units to reach peak load.⁵³

Second, even if there were adequate notice for the Schahfer and Culley coal units to deliver energy in an emergency, their age and unreliability make them a poor choice to rely on for emergency services.⁵⁴ Their age and need for repair/maintenance were key among the reasons they were slated for retirement.

Third, even if there were adequate transmission and lead time, the Schahfer and Culley coal units use an expensive fuel source, which means that their bid to provide electricity would be higher than other lower-cost dispatchable alternatives (natural gas, storage, or renewables), which would prevent it from being selected as the most economic resource to meet the need. The Schahfer units are together responsible for a maximum of 847MW of nameplate generation (when they are operational and capable of achieving peak load).⁵⁵ Schahfer Unit 18 is not even available to run during the timeframe of the Orders; and Culley Unit 2 is responsible for only 100 MW. *Id.* That represents a small fraction of the remaining margin that MISO had available in the summer of 2025 and demonstrates that these coal plants are not an efficient means of meeting an emergency energy demand.

⁵³ See Forms EIA-860 and EIA923, *available at* <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia860/>; <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia923/>.

⁵⁴ See Public Interest Organization's Petition for Rehearing submitted to DOE on September 8, 2025, Exhibits 103-104.

⁵⁵ Sourced from <https://campd.epa.gov/data/custom-data-download>

Finally, if, for example, there were a need for additional electricity in North Dakota in March of 2026, it is unlikely that there would be sufficient transmission infrastructure across the Great Lakes to deliver electricity from the Schahfer and Culley coal units to meet that need.

Rather than order the Schahfer and Culley coal units to remain available, DOE was required to consider obvious alternatives that MISO has available and uses as part of its role as a regional transmission grid operator. The Department has long recognized that power pools and utility coordination “are a basic element in resolving electric energy shortages.” *Emergency Interconnection of Elec. Facilities and the Transfer of Elec. to Alleviate an Emergency Shortage of Elec. Power*, 46 Fed. Reg. 39,984, 39,985–86 (Aug. 6, 1981). And recent history bears out the important role of transmission connectivity along with imports and exports.⁵⁶ The fact that DOE has intruded on MISO’s role of planning for and meeting fluctuations in demand without considering these viable and obvious alternatives shows that it did not comply with section 202(c).

Section 202(c)(2) requires the emergency measures to be tailored the actual need; yet here, the Orders improperly impose measures that are not tailored to anything. All the while, the Orders impose costs on the States to bring the Schahfer and Culley coal units to operational status beyond their planned retirements, add potentially expensive generation to the mix if the Schahfer and Culley coal units were to run in the Winter 2026 timeframe, and generate harmful pollution at the

⁵⁶ See, e.g., Public Interest Organization’s Petition for Rehearing submitted to DOE on September 8, 2025, Exhibit 43 at § III.A.3.b (Winter Storm Elliott System Operations Inquiry) (“Despite tightening conditions on the MISO system . . . MISO maintained steadily increasing exports to TVA throughout the day.”); Exhibit 44 at 43 (PJM Elliott Report) (describing PJM exports of between 8 and 11 GW to TVA and other neighboring regions), 83–84 (describing PJM power exports to MISO and graphically depicting those exports over time); Exhibit 36 at 6 (MISO Elliott Max. Gen. Event Overview) (“MISO consistently exported power to southern neighbors with a maximum value of nearly 5 GW.”); and Exhibit 7 at 1 (DOE Order No. 202-02-1) (providing for usage of interregional transmission).

same time. Thus, the Orders requiring the Schahfer and Culley coal units to remain available and for MISO to take steps to use the Schahfer and Culley coal units for economic dispatch is irrational and arbitrary where the Schahfer and Culley coal units are unlikely to be a good candidate to serve either economic dispatch or emergency-need functions—especially where it is unclear what need they is supposed to meet in the first place.

Therefore, the Orders are not rationally related to meeting the need of the purported emergency that they identify.

G. The purported emergency is pretext for a prejudged outcome.

The two Orders are not a good faith effort to carry out DOE’s duties under the Federal Power Act. Rather, the materials supporting the Orders demonstrate a pretextual effort to further the administration’s policy support for fossil fuels, and in particular coal electricity generation.

Where the conduct of the agency shows an “unalterably closed mind on matters critical to the disposition of th[is] proceeding,” it requires either disqualification of the administrator or withdrawal of the proposal. *Ass’n of Nat’l Advertisers v. FTC*, 627 F.2d 1151, 1170 (D.C. Cir. 1979); *Nehemiah Corp. of Am. v. Jackson*, 546 F.Supp. 2d 830, 847 (E.D. Cal. 2008) (describing the appropriate remedies when an agency official has prejudged the outcome of a particular matter). A preexisting internal directive to reach a particular result is strong evidence that the official is not “free, both in theory and in reality, to change his mind” in the agency proceedings. *Nat’l Advertisers*, 627 F.2d at 1172; see *Int’l Snowmobile Mfrs. Ass’n v. Norton*, 340 F. Supp. 2d 1249, 1260 (D. Wyo. 2004).

The Orders cite to a bevy of Executive Orders declaring an energy emergency. Even if these Executive Orders are taken at face value, they are incoherent with the President’s other actions to reduce capacity of new energy generation, such as from ongoing and nearly-completed

wind projects. *Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf From Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects* 90 Fed. Reg. 8,363 (Jan. 20, 2025); *Ending Market Distorting Subsidies for Unreliable, Foreign-Controlled Energy Sources*, 90 Fed. Reg. 30,821 (Jul. 10, 2025).

Further, the administration has declared a preference for coal energy. *Executive Order 14261: Reinvigorating America's Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending Executive Order 14241*, 90 Fed. Reg. 15,517 (Apr. 8, 2025). The express mandate of Executive Order 14261 declared it to be the national policy “to support the domestic coal industry by removing Federal regulatory barriers that undermine coal production, encouraging the utilization of coal to meet growing domestic energy demands, increasing American coal exports, and ensuring that Federal policy does not discriminate against coal production or coal-fired electricity generation.”

But this was not a simple policy preference—the administration had already predetermined that it would resort to emergency authority to reopen or forestall closure of coal plants before it ever issued these Orders. On April 8, 2025, President Trump gave remarks during the signing ceremony for Executive Order 14261. In those remarks, he noted that the administration would take action to reopen coal plants.⁵⁷ Also on April 8, 2025, the Department of Energy announced several initiatives directed to increasing coal production.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/remarks-domestic-coal-production> (“And all those plants that have been closed are going to be opened if they're modern enough.” And “From now on, we'll ensure that our Nation's critically needed coal plants, as an example, remain online and fully operational. They're always going to be operational.”)

⁵⁸ <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-acts-unleash-american-coal-strengthening-coal-technology-and-securing>

During a Bloomberg TV interview in February 2025, Secretary Wright declared that the United States should stop the closure of coal power plants, and asserted that DOE had the authority to do so.⁵⁹

On July 7, 2025, Secretary Wright was quoted as saying, “I think our biggest impact by far is going to be — there are like 40 coal plants that are supposed to close this year — and our biggest impact is going to be to stop the closure of most of those.”⁶⁰

On July 11, 2025, the DOE posted a video Secretary Wright to the department’s social media accounts with the chyron, “BIG BEAUTIFUL CLEAN COAL. This is the largest source of global electricity and third largest source of electricity in the U.S.”⁶¹

The DOE’s social media feeds are full of clips from Secretary Wright media appearances extoling coal plants, promising to increase the use of coal for energy production, and asserting that DOE had the authority to forestall closures.

The administration, and DOE in particular, engaged in prejudgment of the Orders. Knowing that it needed to effectuate the administration’s policy preference to keep coal plants open, DOE worked backwards from that preferred result and justified it using post-hoc rationalizations. Secretary Wright demonstrated an “unalterably closed mind on matters critical to the disposition” of the use of emergency authority, requiring the Orders to be set aside. *Nat’l Advertisers*, 627 F.2d at 1170; *Nehemiah Corp.*, 546 F.Supp. 2d at 847.

⁵⁹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-02-11/us-should-stop-closure-of-coal-fired-power-plants-wright-says>.

⁶⁰ https://www.wvnews.com/statejournal/news/top_story/energy-secretary-chris-wright-future-of-u-s-coal-is-long-and-bright/article_ffcdad0-9030-4e6f-8ca7-0816e1786cbc.html

⁶¹ *E.g.*, <https://www.facebook.com/energy/videos/big-beautiful-clean-coal-this-is-the-largest-source-of-global-electricity-and-th/1468968367585884/>.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department should rescind the Orders directing Schahfer and Culley coal units to operate.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Midcontinent Independent System Operator

Order Nos. 202-26-19 & 202-26-20

**MOTION TO INTERVENE AND PETITION FOR REHEARING
OF THE STATES OF MINNESOTA, ILLINOIS, AND WISCONSIN AND THE PEOPLE
OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**

Pursuant to section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 824a(c), 825l, the States of Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, and the People of the State of Michigan (“the States”) move to intervene and apply for rehearing of the Department of Energy’s (“DOE”) March 23, 2026, Order No. 202-26-19 (Ex. A)¹ and March 23, 2026, Order No. 202-26-20 (Ex. B) (together, “Orders”), directing the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (“MISO”), Northern Indiana Public Services Company (“NIPSCO”), and CenterPoint Energy to take all measures necessary to ensure that the coal-burning Schahfer Plant (“Schahfer”) in Wheatfield, Indiana and coal-burning Unit 2 of the F.B. Culley Generating Station (“Culley 2”) in Warrick County, Indiana are “available to operate” and “to take every step to employ economic dispatch of [Schahfer and Culley 2] to minimize cost to ratepayers.” The Orders are in effect from March 24, 2026, until June 21, 2026.² The Orders are the second round of directives requiring MISO to take the same actions for the same facilities based on the same alleged statutory authority and factual circumstances.

The States have an interest in and are aggrieved by the Orders. *FDA v. R.J. Reynolds Vapor*

¹ All Exhibits are lettered and attached.

² This petition is being submitted to DOE’s AskCR <askcr@hq.doe.gov> account as DOE instructs.

Co., 606 U.S. 226, 232–36 (2025) (defining an “adversely affected or aggrieved” party within the APA as “anyone even ‘arguably within the zone of interests to be protected or regulated by the statute . . . in question.’” (quoting *Ass’n of Data Processing Svc. Orgs. v. Camp*, 397 U. S. 150, 153 (1970))).

The Orders continue the pattern established by DOE Orders 202-25-12 and 202-25-13 (“Prior Schahfer and Culley 2 Orders”), which also directed MISO, NIPSCO and CenterPoint Energy to keep Schahfer and Culley 2 available to provide economic dispatch from their planned retirement dates of December 31, 2025, through March 23, 2026. These Orders follow a long line of executive emergency power overreach, including numerous orders directing the J.H. Campbell Plant to remain similarly “available to operate” where the States have also requested rehearing and judicial review. *See* Order Nos. 202-25-3, 202-25-7, 202-25-9, & 202-26-16.

Multiple undersigned States requested rehearing of the Prior Schahfer and Culley 2 Orders and described the applicable facts, with record support, in those challenges. Ex. C (nested exhibits omitted). The Orders here are almost identical to the Prior Schahfer and Culley 2 Orders. Because the legal and factual issues here directly overlap and repeat the same matters previously raised, the States hereby incorporate by reference the petitions for rehearing of the Prior Schahfer and Culley 2 Orders, including all applicable arguments, exhibits, and other referenced materials, and assert them as grounds for rehearing of the Orders here.

The Orders will adversely affect the undersigned States in the same ways the Prior Schahfer and Culley 2 Orders harmed the States challenging those Orders, but the current Orders increase

those harms through ongoing, cumulative emissions and related impacts. The negative effects on the States were described in the prior challenges and are hereby incorporated by reference.³

The Orders compound the errors of the Prior Schahfer and Culley 2 Orders for all of the reasons set forth in the States' Petitions for Rehearing filed January 22, 2026. As with the Prior Schahfer and Culley 2 Orders, the Orders here should be rescinded because they lack reasoned decisionmaking, exceed DOE's authority, are not rationally tailored to meet the purported emergency, and demonstrated impermissible prejudgment of the relevant issues.

In addition to the grounds laid out in the requests for rehearing on the Prior Schahfer and Culley 2 Orders, NIPSCO's parent company NiSource filed its most recent 10-K report with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 11, 2026. Ex. D. NiSource reported:

Although we had previously intended to retire them by the end of 2025, the two coal units at R.M. Schahfer Generating Station are currently subject to a federal directive to remain open. These units are being replaced with a diverse, flexible, and scalable mix of incremental resources, including short-term contracted capacity resources, expanded demand side management programs, wind, solar, battery energy storage, and new natural gas peaking resources U.S. federal policy actions, **such as additional federal directives preventing the retirement of these or other assets and the duration of such directives**, could create uncertainty around the timing and availability of key input materials necessary to develop and place our electric generation projects in service.

We expect renewable generation, battery energy storage and natural gas generation to be the primary ways in which we will meet our electric generation capacity and reliability obligations to the MISO market and reliably serve our customers when we retire our coal generation capacity An inability to secure and deliver on electric generation projects has negatively impacted, and could in the future negatively impact, our generation transition timeline and could negatively impact our achievement of decarbonization goals and reputation. **Our electric generation strategy may require additional investment to meet our MISO obligations and**

³ The harms include economic harm to ratepayers in the States who are saddled with the increased costs associated with operating the inefficient, coal-burning Campbell Plant, the environmental harms of operating the coal plant, and the harm caused by usurping the States' role in planning resource adequacy and generation.

may require significant future capital expenditures, operating costs and charges to earnings that may negatively impact our financial position, financial results and cash flows.

Id. at 22 (emphasis added). NIPSCO’s SEC filing confirms that DOE’s exercise of emergency authority to wade into the waters of long-term resource planning is hindering regional suppliers’ ability to efficiently participate in the generation market.

CenterPoint Energy filed their most recent 10-K reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 19, 2026. Ex. E. CenterPoint Energy reported:

While Indiana Electric’s 2025 IRP (similar to previous IRPs) preferred portfolios included the retirement of F.B. Culley Unit 2, a coal-fired generation unit, by the end of 2025, the U.S. Department of Energy issued an emergency 202(c) order in December 2025 directing Indiana Electric to continue operating the unit through March 23, 2026. Indiana Electric has filed a complaint with the FERC to request creation of a cost recovery/cost allocation mechanism. If created, a separate filing will be made at a later date with the FERC to seek recovery of all costs incurred to comply with the U.S. Department of Energy’s emergency 202(c) order. Indiana Electric has also filed an application with the IURC in Cause No. 46350 to recover any compliance costs associated with the emergency 202(c) order that are not recovered through the FERC proceedings.

Id. at 72. The additional costs NIPSCO and CenterPoint Energy describe in their SEC filings have already come to pass in other cases. Consumers Energy, the operator of the J.H. Campbell Plant in Michigan has asserted a \$135 million “net financial impact” for the continued operation of the plant to comply with 202(c) orders from May through December of 2025. Ex. F at 117–118. And Consumers Energy is already seeking to recover a portion of those costs from MISO ratepayers.⁴ Here too NIPSCO filed a complaint at FERC seeking a modification of the MISO Tariff to establish a mechanism for recovery and allocation of the cost to comply with the federal emergency orders. Ex. D at 97. The real-world consequences of these types of orders show that requiring coal plants

⁴ FERC Docket ER26-1138.

to remain available to operate when no emergency exists is incredibly inefficient, and they confirm that continued operation cannot “minimize the cost to ratepayers” as the Orders require. Ex. A at 8–9; Ex. B at 8–9.

Tellingly, CenterPoint Energy itself asked DOE not to issue its most recent Order as to Culley 2. In a letter dated February 17, 2026, CenterPoint Energy made clear that the unit, which it described as “inefficient and increasingly unreliable,” was not necessary for reliability purposes, asserting that “current industry data shows sufficient capacity without Unit 2.” Ex. G at 1. It further noted that “extending the life of Unit 2 is neither practical nor financially responsible” *Id.* at 2. CenterPoint Energy thus requested that DOE “abstain from issuing subsequent 202 Orders for Unit 2.” *Id.* DOE should listen to CenterPoint Energy and rescind or vacate its March 23, 2026, Orders.

Rescinding or vacating the Orders would be a step toward normalcy. As noted in the request for rehearing of the Prior Schahfer and Culley 2 Orders, DOE’s use of section 202(c) to require coal plants to remain generally available is novel. Ex. C at 35–36. Recent scholarship confirms that the executive branch has a long history of relying on experts to regulate the power grid, which it has abandoned in its attempt to take over long-term planning through emergency orders like the ones at issue here. Ex. H. DOE’s exercise of emergency authority to require outdated energy sources to operate is not only novel, it relies on fundamental misunderstandings of what constitutes an emergency and uses that misunderstanding to saddle ratepayers with the cost of inefficient energy production. *Id.* at 25.

The latest Schahfer and Culley 2 Orders misapprehend NERC’s 2025 Long-Term Reliability Assessment (LTRA) to reach their findings. Ex. A at 4; Ex. B at 4. As a starting point, the LTRA categorizes MISO as “normal” risk—the lowest risk designation—for 2026, and only

“elevated” risk in 2027.⁵ Ex. I. Further, the Order’s description of the LTRA’s long-term MISO forecasts omits reference to the large amounts of resources planned to be added in MISO pursuant to the “recently approved Expedited Resource Addition Study (ERAS) process” that “is expected to result in additional resources in the MISO system beginning in 2028 that are not included in the model for the 2025 LTRA.” *Id.* at 8. The assessment further provides the following context and explanation as to how it considers those resources in the context of its other evaluations:

The timing of FERC’s approval of MISO’s ERAS process in July meant that the generator additions that MISO plans as part of that process were not included in the resource adequacy modeling for the 2025 LTRA. ERAS is already expected to result in considerable new resource additions to the MISO system in the near term. The additional summer on-peak capacity from ERAS is expected to grow to over 20 GW by summer 2030. These expedited resource additions are expected to reduce the shortfall risk identified in this year’s ProbA. Furthermore, the timing of the ERAS additions would mitigate an identified winter ARM shortfall if the approximately 8.6 GW of winter on-peak capacity anticipated by 2028–29 reaches operation as projected. The latest ERAS projects, along with current load forecasts and resource projections as of July 2026, will be included in the input data for the 2026 LTRA

Id. at 16.

The LTRA likewise concludes that “if ERAS projects come in as currently planned, the projected reserve margin shortfall would be eliminated.” *Id.* at 15. Thus, not only does the Order omit the finding of merely “normal” risk during the period of the Order—which in itself rebuts any “emergency” designation⁶—the Order arbitrarily ignores key evidence from the LTRA contradicting the Department’s assertions as to long-term planning.

⁵ NERC’s “elevated risk” designation in no way signifies an emergency condition, falls below the highest risk designation of “high risk,” and is far from unusual. This point was addressed at length in the challenge to the Prior Schahfer and Culley 2 Orders. Ex. C. at 25–26.

⁶ Even without the planned ERAS resources, the LTRA estimates only that MISO would “fall below reserve margin targets to become a high-risk area beginning Winter 2028” (the end of 2028). *Id.* This would not be a sudden or unexpected emergency during the period of the Orders.

Finally, although the Orders purport to rely on the occurrence of Winter Storm Fern to justify a need for increased power generation, the Orders do not identify any emergency during the time period governed by the Orders, between March 24, 2026 and June 21, 2026. Further, to the extent DOE attempts to rely on the events of Fern to support its Orders, the Orders fail to identify any actual shortfalls, brownouts, or blackouts during Winter Storm Fern that would have required the specific additional capacity from Schahfer or Culley 2 versus other more cost-effective and less-polluting alternatives. Thus, DOE's reliance on Winter Storm Fern does not identify any particular need for which operating coal-burning units at Schahfer or Culley 2 would be an appropriate or even reasonable response, much less one that "best-meets" the purported emergency. To the contrary, forcing inefficient and outdated coal plants to remain online does not "best-meet" any purported emergency because of their slow response time, lack of reliability and high cost. Ex. C at 48–49.

DOE is already in possession of the exhibits the States submitted in support of their petitions for rehearing of the Prior Schahfer and Culley 2 Orders. The States are not resubmitting those same documents since they are incorporated by reference into the record for this petition. If DOE needs additional copies of any documents, please contact any of the signatories to this request.

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NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Long-Term Reliability Assessment

January 2026



Table of Contents

Preface	3	NPCC-Maritimes	63
About This Assessment	4	NPCC-New England	68
Reading This Report	5	NPCC-New York	74
Executive Summary.....	6	NPCC-Ontario	80
Capacity and Energy Risk Assessment.....	6	NPCC-Québec	86
Trends and Reliability Implications	9	PJM	90
Recommendations	10	SERC-Central.....	95
Capacity and Energy Risk Assessment	12	SERC-East.....	102
Assessment Approach	12	SERC-Florida Peninsula.....	112
Risk Categories	12	SERC-Southeast	120
Resource and Demand Projections	23	Texas RE-ERCOT.....	128
Reducing Resource Capacity and Energy Risk	24	WECC-Alberta	134
Demand Trends and Implications	25	WECC-Basin	138
Demand and Energy Projections	25	WECC-British Columbia	143
Reliability Implications	29	WECC-California	147
Resource Mix Changes	30	WECC-Mexico	151
Planned On-Peak Capacity Additions	31	WECC-Northwest.....	154
Transmission Development and Interregional Transfer Capability	37	WECC-Rocky Mountain	159
Transmission Projects.....	37	WECC-Southwest.....	163
Interregional Transfer Capability Study (Canadian Analysis)	38	Demand Assumptions and Resource Categories	167
Regional Assessments Dashboards.....	41	Methods and Assumptions	171
MISO	42	Summary of Planning Reserve Margins and Reference Margin Levels by Assessment Area	175
MRO-Manitoba Hydro.....	49	Recommendations and ERO Actions Summary	177
MRO-SaskPower	54		
MRO-SPP	59		

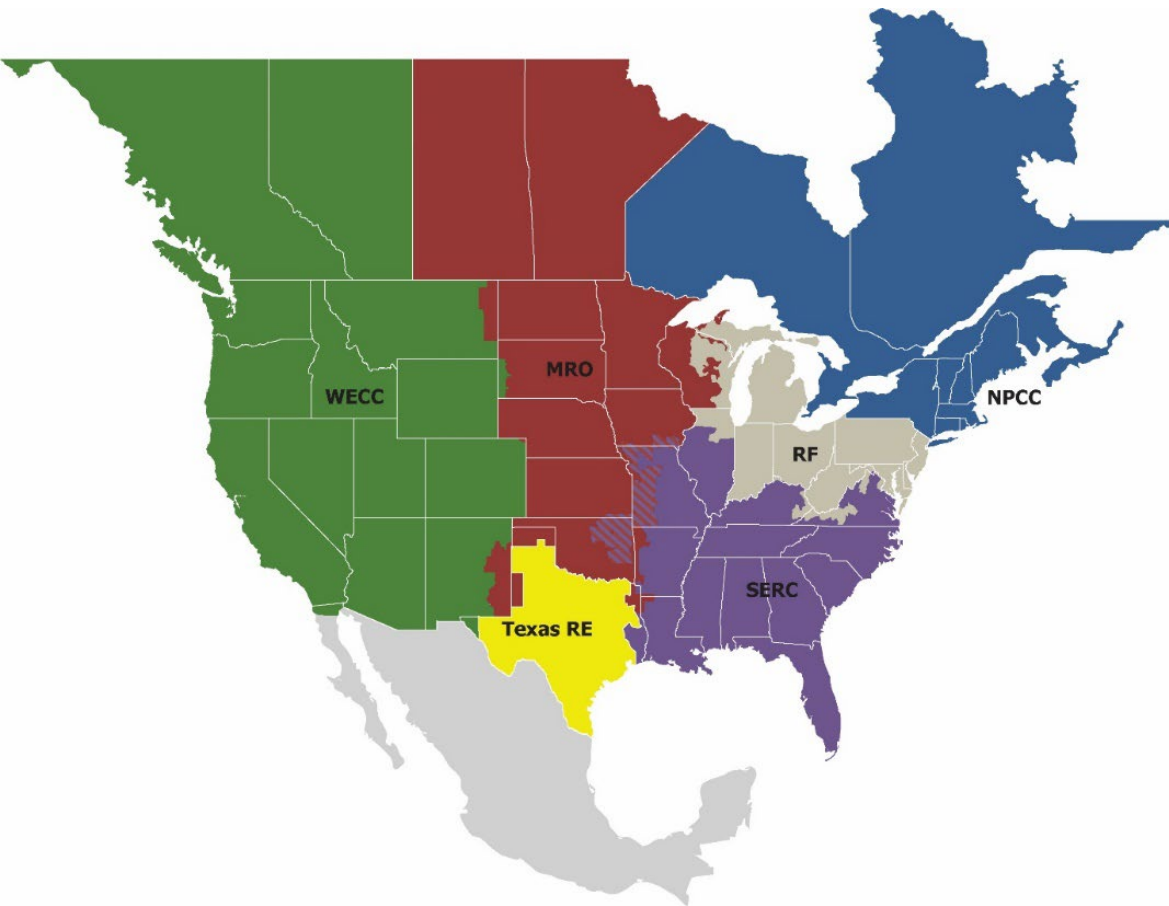
Preface

Electricity is a key component of the fabric of modern society and the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Enterprise serves to strengthen that fabric. The vision for the ERO Enterprise, which is comprised of NERC and the six Regional Entities, is a highly reliable, resilient, and secure North American bulk power system (BPS). Our mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid.

Reliability | Resilience | Security

Because nearly 400 million citizens in North America are counting on us

The North American BPS is made up of six Regional Entities as shown on the map and in the corresponding table below. The multicolored area denotes overlap as some load-serving entities participate in one Regional Entity while associated Transmission Owners/Operators participate in another.



MRO	Midwest Reliability Organization
NPCC	Northeast Power Coordinating Council
RF	ReliabilityFirst
SERC	SERC Reliability Corporation
Texas RE	Texas Reliability Entity
WECC	WECC

About This Assessment

NERC is a not-for-profit international regulatory authority with the mission to assure the reliability of the BPS in North America. NERC develops and enforces Reliability Standards; annually assesses seasonal and long-term reliability; monitors the BPS through system awareness; and educates, trains, and certifies industry personnel. NERC’s area of responsibility spans the continental United States, Canada, and the northern portion of Baja California, Mexico. NERC is the ERO for North America and is subject to oversight by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC, also known as the Commission) and governmental authorities in Canada. NERC’s jurisdiction includes users, owners, and operators of the North American BPS and serves more than 334 million people. Section 39.11(b) of FERC’s regulations provides that “The Electric Reliability Organization shall conduct assessments of the adequacy of the Bulk-Power System in North America and report its findings to the Commission, the Secretary of Energy, each Regional Entity, and each Regional Advisory Body annually or more frequently if so ordered by the Commission.”

The *Long-Term Reliability Assessment* (LTRA), along with NERC’s other reliability assessments and analysis reports, supports the ERO Enterprise vision and mission by providing independent analysis of reliability risks. Other important assessments and reports include the following:

- **Seasonal Reliability Assessments:** The [Summer Reliability Assessment](#) (SRA) and [Winter Reliability Assessment](#) (WRA) provide overall perspective on the adequacy of the generation resources and the transmission systems necessary to meet projected seasonal peak demands. They also identify reliability issues of interest and areas of concern for the upcoming season. Seasonal assessments are published annually prior to each respective season.
- **Special Reliability Assessments:** In addition to the long-term and seasonal reliability assessments, NERC also conducts [special reliability assessments](#) on a regional, interregional, and Interconnection basis as conditions warrant, or as requested by the NERC Board of Trustees or governmental authorities. Special reliability assessments are performed and published on an as-needed basis.
- **State of Reliability Report (SOR):** The [SOR](#) contains an unbiased, data-driven look at BPS reliability for the calendar year, identifying ongoing challenges and informing future-looking reliability assessments. It seeks to inform regulators, policymakers, and industry leaders of the most significant reliability risks facing the BPS and describe the actions that the ERO

Enterprise has taken, and will take, to address them. The SOR is published annually, containing analysis of BPS performance data from the prior year.

- **Event Analysis Reports:** NERC publishes reports of major system events and off-normal system occurrences as one output of the [ERO Event Analysis Program](#). This program employs rigorous post-event analysis and promotes broad understanding of the causes and effects of reliability events. NERC also publishes Lessons Learned for industry.

Reliability assessments and analysis are published on NERC’s [website](#).

Development Process

This assessment was developed based on data and narrative information NERC collected from the six Regional Entities (see [Preface](#)) on an assessment area basis (see [Regional Assessments Dashboards](#)) to independently evaluate the long-term reliability of the North American BPS while identifying trends, emerging issues, and potential risks during the upcoming 10-year assessment period. The [Reliability Assessment Subcommittee](#) (RAS), at the direction of NERC’s [Reliability and Security Technical Committee](#) (RSTC), supported the development of this assessment through a comprehensive and transparent peer-review process that leverages the knowledge and experience of system planners, RAS members, NERC staff, and other subject matter experts; this peer-review process ensures the accuracy and completeness of all data and information. This assessment was also reviewed by the RSTC, and the NERC Board of Trustees subsequently accepted this assessment and endorsed the key findings.

NERC develops the LTRA annually in accordance with the ERO’s Rules of Procedure¹ and Title 18, § 39.11² of the Code of Federal Regulations;³ this is also required by Section 215(g) of the Federal Power Act, which instructs NERC to conduct periodic assessments of the North American BPS.⁴

¹ NERC Rules of Procedure - Section 803

² Section 39.11(b) of FERC’s regulations states the following: “The Electric Reliability Organization shall conduct assessments of the adequacy of the Bulk-Power System in North America and report its findings to the Commission, the Secretary of Energy, each Regional Entity, and each Regional Advisory Body annually or more frequently if so ordered by the Commission.”

³ Title 18, § 39.11 of the Code of Federal Regulations

⁴ BPS reliability, as defined in the [How NERC Defines BPS Reliability](#) section of this report, does not include the reliability of the lower-voltage distribution systems that account for 80% of all electricity supply interruptions to end-use customers.

Considerations

This assessment was developed by using a consistent approach for projecting future resource adequacy through the application of the ERO Reliability Assessment Process.⁵ Projections in this assessment are not predictions of what will happen; they are based on information supplied in July 2025 about known system changes with updates incorporated prior to publication. This 2025 LTRA assessment period includes projections for 2026–2035; however, some figures and tables examine data and information for the 2025 year. NERC’s standardized data reporting and instructions were developed through stakeholder processes to promote data consistency across all the reporting entities that are further explained in the [Demand Assumptions and Resource Categories](#) section. Reliability impacts related to cyber and physical security risks are not specifically addressed in this assessment, which is primarily focused on resource adequacy and operating reliability. NERC leads a multifaceted approach through its Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) to promote mechanisms to address physical and cyber security risks, including exercises and information-sharing efforts with the electric industry and government partners.

The LTRA data used for this assessment creates a reference case dataset that includes projected on-peak demand and system energy needs, demand response (DR), resource capacity, and transmission projects. Data from each Regional Entity is also collected and used to identify notable trends and emerging issues. This bottom-up approach captures virtually all electricity supplied in the United States, Canada, and a portion of Baja California, Mexico. NERC’s reliability assessments are developed to inform industry, policymakers, and regulators as well as to aid NERC in achieving its mission to ensure the reliability of the North American BPS.

Assumptions

In this 2025 LTRA, the baseline information on future electricity supply and demand is based on several assumptions:⁶

- Supply and demand projections are based on industry forecasts that were submitted and validated in July 2025. Any subsequent demand forecast or resource plan changes may not be fully represented; however, updated data submitted throughout the report drafting time frame has been included where appropriate.
- Peak demand is based on average peak weather conditions and forecasted economic activity at the time of submittal. Weather variability is discussed in each Regional Entity’s self-assessment.

⁵ [ERO Reliability Assessment Process Document](#)

⁶ Forecasts cannot precisely predict the future. Instead, many forecasts report probabilities with a range of possible outcomes. For example, each regional demand projection is assumed to represent the expected midpoint of possible future outcomes. This means that a future year’s actual demand may deviate from the projection due to the inherent

- Generation and transmission equipment will perform at historical availability levels.
- Future generation and transmission facilities are commissioned and in service as planned, known planned outages take place as scheduled, and retirements take place as proposed.
- Demand reductions expected from dispatchable and controllable DR programs will yield the forecast results if they are called on.
- Other peak demand-side management programs, such as energy efficiency (EE) and price-responsive DR, are reflected in the forecasts of total internal demand.

Reading This Report

This report is compiled into two major parts:

1. **A reliability assessment of the North American BPS with the following goals:**
 - a. Evaluate industry preparations that are in place to meet projections and maintain reliability, with a special focus on adequacy in the first five years
 - b. Identify trends in demand, supply, reserve margins, and probabilistic resource adequacy metrics
 - c. Identify emerging reliability issues
 - d. Focus the industry, policymakers, and the general public’s attention on BPS reliability issues
 - e. Make recommendations based on an independent NERC reliability assessment process
2. **A regional reliability assessment that contains the following:**
 - a. A 10-year data dashboard
 - b. Summary assessments for each assessment area
 - c. A focus on specific issues identified through industry data and emerging issues
 - d. A description of regional planning processes and methods used to ensure reliability

variability of the key factors that drive electrical use, such as weather. In the case of the NERC regional projections, there is a 50% probability that actual demand will be higher than the forecast midpoint and a 50% probability that it will be lower (50/50 forecast).

Executive Summary

The overall resource adequacy outlook for the North American BPS is worsening: In the 2025 LTRA, NERC finds that 13 of 23 assessment areas face resource adequacy challenges over the next 10 years. Projections for resource and transmission growth lag what is needed to support new data centers and other large loads that drive escalating demand forecasts. Most new resources in development to come on-line in the next five years consist of battery storage and solar photovoltaic (PV), which are inverter-based and weather-dependent resources that increase the complexity of planning and operating a reliable grid. Meanwhile, more fossil-fired generator retirements loom in the next five years, reducing the amount of generation that has fuel on site and impacting the system’s ability to respond to spikes in demand. The continuing shift in the resource mix toward weather-dependent resources and less fuel diversity increases risks of supply shortfalls during winter months. As Resource Planners, market operators, and regulators grapple with steep increases in demand and swelling resource queues, they face more uncertainty, adding to the already-complex endeavor of planning for resource adequacy during this period of rapid grid transformation. To ensure there are sufficient resources for supplying electricity in the future and to reliably meet the growing electricity needs for North Americans, industry, regulators, and policymakers need to be vigilant for shifting projections, keep plans for deactivating existing generators flexible, expedite system development, and perform robust adequacy assessments of future scenarios. In addition, careful planning and broad cross-sector coordination will be needed to navigate a period of potentially strained electricity resources.

The findings presented here are vitally important to understanding the reliability risks to the North American BPS as it is currently planned and being influenced by government policies, regulations, consumer preferences, and economic factors. Summaries of the report sections are provided below.

Capacity and Energy Risk Assessment

The [Capacity and Energy Risk Assessment](#) section of this report identifies potential future electricity supply shortfalls under normal and extreme weather conditions based on current BPS planning forecasts. NERC’s evaluation of resource adequacy in the LTRA considers both the capacity of the resources and the capability of resources to convert inputs (e.g., fuel, wind, and solar irradiance) into electrical energy. NERC used a probabilistic assessment and a deterministic reserve margin analysis from the LTRA process to identify the risk of future electricity supply shortfall and determine a risk category for each assessment area based on consistent risk criteria.⁷ Risk assessment inputs are tied to industry forecasts of electricity supplies, demand, and transmission development, providing a forward-looking snapshot of resource adequacy.

⁷ In some cases, NERC modified the risk category when system studies performed by a system operator or regulator determine that resource adequacy target(s) will not be met. Details of the risk evaluation for each assessment area are in the [Capacity and Energy Risk Assessment](#).

Areas determined to be **High Risk** exceed the upper risk criteria levels. In high-risk areas, planned resources as of July 2025 would result in energy shortfalls that exceed resource adequacy targets or baseline criteria for unserved energy or loss of load.⁸ **Elevated-Risk** areas meet resource adequacy criteria, but planned resources are likely to result in energy shortfalls that are expected to be limited to more extreme weather conditions. More extreme conditions can include temperatures that result in above-normal demand levels, low resource output or availability, fuel supply disruptions, and limitations of normal electricity transfers. **Elevated-Risk** areas are identified in the LTRA when unserved energy and load loss metrics are below the **High-Risk** criteria but are not negligible. **Normal-Risk** areas are expected to have sufficient resources under a broad range of assessed conditions and are below the lowest risk criteria level. The results of the risk assessment are summarized for all elevated- and high-risk assessment areas in [Figure 1](#) and described in [Table 1](#).

⁸ The criteria used for risk determination in the LTRA include resource adequacy targets established by regulatory authorities, traditional 1-day-in-10 years load-loss criteria, and probabilistic loss-of-load-hour and expected unserved energy metrics. See [Risk Categories](#) in this report for a complete description.

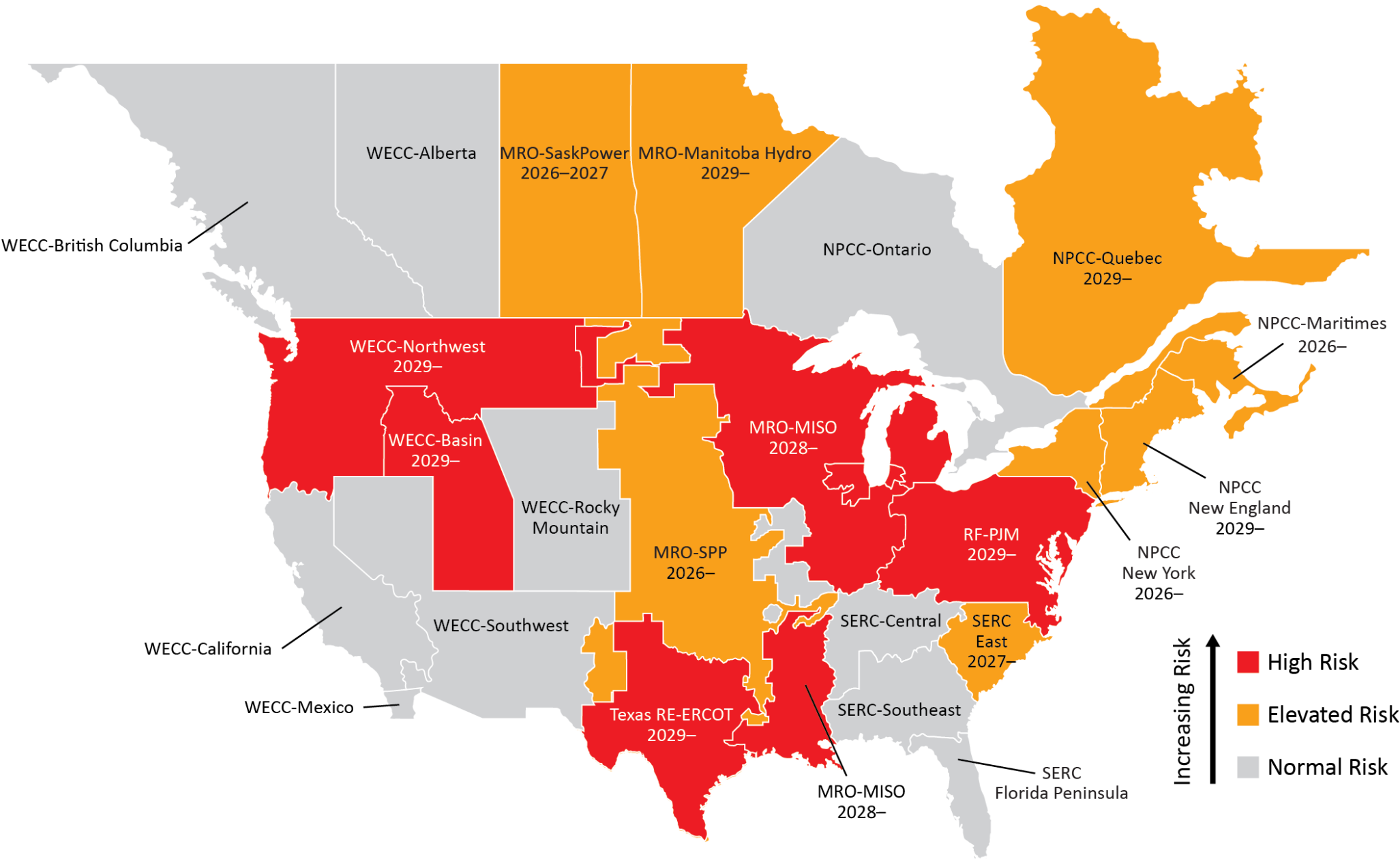


Figure 1: Risk Area Summary 2026–2030

Shows highest risk classification that occurs in the first 5 years and states initial year of occurrence

Table 1: Capacity and Energy Risk Assessment Area Summary

Assessment Area	Risk Level (High, Elevated, or Normal)					Risk Summary
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	
MISO						Projected resource additions do not keep pace with escalating demand forecasts and announced generator retirements. The recently approved <i>Expedited Resource Addition Study</i> (ERAS) process is expected to result in additional resources in the MISO system beginning in 2028 that are not included in the model for the 2025 <i>LTRA</i> . Timely implementation of ERAS resources will eliminate reserve margin shortfall and improve expected unserved energy metrics.
MRO-Manitoba						With rising demand, planned reserves are falling, leading to potential resource shortfalls in low-hydro conditions.
MRO-SaskPower						With current resources, there is risk of insufficient generation during fall and spring when more generators are undergoing maintenance. Expected natural-gas-fired generator additions in Winter 2027 will boost planned reserves and reduce risks of unserved energy.
MRO-Southwest Power Pool (SPP)						Demand forecasts outpace resource additions, leading to falling reserve margins. Scenarios with low wind and high generator forced outages identify energy shortfall risks. SPP’s <i>Expedited Resource Adequacy Study</i> is attracting additional resources.
NPCC-Maritimes						Demand growth forecasts have increased since the 2024 <i>LTRA</i> , while expected capacity contributions from variable energy resources (VER) have declined, causing resource shortfalls in the near term. New natural-gas-fired generation planned for 2028 will reduce the potential unserved energy, but not below the elevated risk threshold.
NPCC-New England						Strong demand growth and persistent winter natural gas infrastructure limitations pose risks of energy shortfalls in extreme winter conditions.
NPCC-New York						Planned retirements of peaking generators create localized system adequacy needs as described in the New York ISO 2025 <i>Q3 Star Report</i> .
NPCC-Québec						Demand growth projections are outpacing planned resource additions, leading to projected resource shortfalls in the winter season.
PJM						Current projections for resource additions do not keep pace with escalating demand forecasts and expected generator retirements. The anticipated resource margin falls below the Reference Margin Level starting in 2029. Recently approved new generation projects for expedited interconnection under the PJM Reliability Resource Initiative were not far enough along to include in the <i>LTRA</i> risk analysis.
SERC-East						Current projections for resource additions do not keep pace with escalating demand forecasts and planned generator retirements. With projected resources, supply shortfalls would occur in below-normal winter temperatures, resulting in unserved energy.
Texas RE-ERCOT						Probabilistic unserved energy metrics for 2026–2027 have improved since the 2024 <i>LTRA</i> , but continued rapid load growth outpaces projected resource additions in later years. To mitigate increasing resource adequacy risks from load growth, Texas lawmakers have granted ERCOT operators additional authority to curtail new large loads if necessary to prevent grid emergencies. Texas lawmakers also established funding programs to expedite new resources that address reliability needs.
WECC-Basin						Demand forecasts outpace resource additions and expected generator retirements, leading to falling reserves. Resource additions nearing completion are predominantly solar PV, leading to a more variable resource mix. Unserved energy risk is in summer.
WECC-Northwest						Rapid forecasted demand growth is driving the need for more resources. Resource additions nearing completion are predominantly solar PV, battery, and wind, leading to a more variable resource mix. Periods of unserved energy are projected for both summer and winter.

Regional Assessments Dashboards

The [Regional Assessments Dashboards](#) section contains dashboards and summaries for each of the 23 assessment areas, developed from data and narrative information collected by NERC from the six Regional Entities. Probabilistic assessments (ProbA) are presented that identify energy risk periods and describe the contributing demand and resource factors.

Responding to Trends in Resource Adequacy

As resource adequacy concerns have expanded and grown more acute in many parts of the North American BPS, more actions have been taken by industry and regulators to bolster resources.

- Projected retirements have shrunk from the *2024 LTRA*. Growing demand, market signals, and resource plans have highlighted the potential need to keep resources on-line longer than previously anticipated. Though the confirmed and announced potential retirements over the next 10 years remain high and total over 105 GW in peak seasonal capacity, this is roughly 10 GW lower than the 10-year retirement projections last year.
- The initiation of market mechanisms like capacity accreditation has also more precisely highlighted the loss-of-load risks posed by a generation mix that has increasing amounts of variable resources. Market procurements are becoming more effective in procuring resources as a result.
- Expedited resource programs that were approved by FERC in late Summer 2025 for MISO, PJM, and SPP have resulted in acceleration and prioritization for resources that can address identified reliability risks. Most new resources brought in through recently approved expedited resource programs are not included in the *2025 LTRA* risk assessment.
- Lawmakers in Texas have provided ERCOT with curtailment management authority over new large loads to prevent grid emergencies and established funding to speed new generating capacity to the grid.

The [Capacity and Energy Risk Assessment](#) and [Regional Assessments Dashboards](#) sections provide details on these examples and initiatives in other assessment areas.

Trends and Reliability Implications

Demand, resource, and transmission trends affect long-term reliability and the sufficiency of electricity supplies. A summary for each is provided below and further discussed within the [Demand Trends and Implications](#) and [Transmission Development and Interregional Transfer Capability](#) sections.

Demand Trends and Implications

Electricity peak demand and energy growth forecasts over the 10-year assessment period continue to climb higher than at any point in the past two decades. Over the 10-year period, aggregated assessment area summer peak demand is forecast to rise by over 224 GW. This is 69% higher than last year’s 10-year growth projection of 132 GW. Winter peak demand is expected to grow by 245 GW, continuing to outpace summer and exceed prior-year projections. New data centers for artificial intelligence and the digital economy account for most of the projected increase in North American electricity demand over the next 10 years.

Demand and large-load projections throughout the LTRA are based on load-serving entity (LSE) and BPS system planner forecasts provided to NERC during LTRA development, reflecting mid-2025 plans. LSE load forecasts are based on information from the interconnection process and agreements between utilities and owners of connecting loads, such as facility peak demand, load flexibility, and some operating characteristics. To be counted in load forecasting, data center projects have advanced from speculative and exploratory stages into development commitments necessary to drive grid planning studies. Still, large loads inherently add volatility to load forecasts as project timelines and commitments can vary with factors related to construction, permitting approvals, grid development, and data center owner decisions. ERCOT and PJM, the grid planners and operators for two areas experiencing vigorous large-load and data center development, have each prepared revised load forecasts since the *2025 LTRA* data collection period that, due to timing, is not used in this LTRA. Both forecasts indicate that some large-load projects have slowed or failed to materialize within the shorter-term horizon, while interconnection requests for later years continue to increase. Load forecasts that are revised downward can shrink the energy shortfalls that are projected in this LTRA.

Resource Additions and the Changing Resource Mix

The shift toward a more variable resource mix continues, as battery, solar PV, and hybrid generation lead the most recent and projected near-term additions and as fossil-fired generators retire. From 2024 to 2025, the existing capacity from fossil-fueled generators fell by 21 GW, while BPS capacity for peak demand hours from battery, wind, and solar resources increased by 23 GW.

In a shift from a key insight from the *2024 LTRA*, solar PV is no longer the sole, predominant generation type planned over the next 10 years. New battery resource projects have grown to match solar projections, and, together, solar and battery capacity additions represent two-thirds of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 resources in this year’s 10-year LTRA study period. Natural-gas-fired generator additions represent 15% of the projected capacity additions followed by wind and hybrid at 8% each. While interconnection queues continue to swell, considerable uncertainty surrounds the timing and amount of resource additions. Overall, on-peak resource capacity in Tier 1 and Tier 2 has grown modestly since

the 2024 LTRA by 7 GW (1.7%). This is slightly less than in the prior year when Tier 1 and Tier 2 capacity grew by 44 GW.

As older fossil-fired generators retire and are replaced by more battery and solar PV resources, the resource mix is becoming increasingly variable and weather-dependent. The share of VERs in the existing BPS on-peak resource capacity increased from 9.5% to 10.2% over the last year. VERs have different physical and operating characteristics from the generators that they are replacing, affecting the essential reliability services (ERS) that the resource mix provides. Frequency response, or the ability of the BPS to maintain stable frequency, is one such ERS that NERC assesses on an Interconnection basis to ensure future resource mix reliability. Battery storage can enhance system frequency response. Other IBRs provide little or no frequency response capability, requiring grid operators to ensure that enough synchronous generators and other facilities are on-line for system stability. This year’s LTRA finds that the future resource mix in each Interconnection through 2027 has sufficient resource types to provide for adequate frequency response. As generators are deactivated and replaced by new types of resources, ERSs must still be maintained for the grid to operate reliably.

The thermal generation component of the resource mix is increasingly reliant on natural gas for fuel as new natural-gas-fired generators are added to the BPS and as some existing coal-fired generators undergo fuel conversion. Overall, 13 out of 23 assessment areas are adding capacity to their fleet of natural-gas-fired power plants over the next 10 years: 53 GW of new natural-gas-fired winter capacity is in the planning queues, and new ERAS programs will add more. As new natural-gas-fired generators progress through interconnection processes, Generator Owners, grid planners, and natural gas infrastructure developers need to take steps to ensure that regional natural gas infrastructure can reliably serve the needs of BPS generators.

Transmission Development and Interregional Transfer Capability

Transmission projections reported for the 2025 LTRA reflect an increase in transmission development, continuing a trend that emerged in the 2024 LTRA. This year’s cumulative level of 41,000 miles (66,000 km) of transmission (>100 kV) under construction or in various stages of development for the next 10 years is substantially higher than the 2024 LTRA 10-year projections (28,275 miles or 45,504 km). Transmission in construction has yet to increase substantially over past-year levels; rather, the large increase in transmission projects is seen in planning phases. Several Planning Coordinators (PC) have recently approved, or are actively contemplating, expansive extra-high voltage (EHV) overlays on their systems to address new generator additions and a variety of reliability needs, including Hydro-

Québec, ERCOT, SPP, MISO, PJM, BC Hydro, and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) in Ontario.

Interregional transmission projects that support energy transfers across Interconnections make up a small but important portion of total BPS transmission development. They can allow entities to take advantage of geographic diversity during extreme weather, such as Winter Storm Elliott,⁹ including scenarios identified in the *Interregional Transfer Capability Study* (ITCS) published by NERC in 2024, and the separate *Interregional Transfer Capability Study (Canadian Analysis)*. About 4% of transmission projects reported for the 2025 LTRA are for tie-lines that support transfers between neighboring systems, lower than the 6% reported in the 2024 LTRA.

Transmission development in some areas is hampered by growing risks in procurement and supply chain delays. Other reasons for delays include economic impacts, planning and construction issues, permitting issues, or changing needs. Of nearly 900 projects that were under construction or in planning for the next 10 years, at least 390 projects have been delayed from their originally expected in-service dates.

Recommendations

To address the energy and capacity risks identified in this LTRA, NERC recommends the following priority actions:

- 1. **Integrated Resource Planners, market operators, and regulators: Expedite new resources to meet growing demand and carefully manage generator deactivations.** BPS planners should develop, implement, or enhance mechanisms to expedite resource additions to the grid that provide the services needed to address anticipated reliability issues related to each area’s needs. Independent System Operator/Regional Transmission Organizations (ISO/RTO) should evaluate mechanisms and process enhancements for obtaining information on expected generator retirements that would support early identification of reliability risks. State and provincial regulators and ISO/RTOs need to have mechanisms they can employ to extend the service of generators seeking to retire when they are needed for reliability, including the management of energy shortfall risks. Regulators must support resource development and manage the pace of retirements such that replacement infrastructure can be developed and placed in service to support reliability needs.
- 2. **NERC, industry, and regulators: Understand and manage reliability risks accompanying large-load growth and leverage potential capabilities in new types of loads to provide flexibility to operators during times of grid stress.** An increasing number of large commercial and industrial

⁹ [Winter Storm Elliott Report: Inquiry into Bulk-Power System Operations During December 2022 | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#)

loads is rapidly connecting to the BPS. Emerging large loads—such as data centers (including cryptocurrency and artificial intelligence applications) and hydrogen fuel plants—present unique challenges in BPS planning and operations. Stakeholders should support NERC’s Large Loads Action Plan¹⁰ and collaborate through NERC’s Large Loads Task Force.¹¹ ISO/RTOs should collectively work to create more uniform requirements to address the emerging reliability issues associated with large data center loads.

3. **NERC, Regional Entities, and industry: Improve the LTRA by incorporating new analysis and criteria to inform stakeholders of future reliability risks.** NERC increased the frequency of the ProbA from biennial to annual and included unserved energy and load-loss metrics as the basis for risk analysis in this year’s LTRA. To promote consistency in analysis and develop assessment capabilities, NERC and the Regional Entities piloted Interconnection-wide energy assessments using a common probabilistic resource adequacy tool in 2025. Wide-area energy analysis will support the evaluation of interregional transfer capabilities and the effects of extreme weather and regional fuel supply issues on the BPS at an Interconnection level. Industry should work with NERC through its technical groups to implement ERO energy assessments in the 2026 LTRA and continue to improve consistency in the annual ProbA. NERC and the Regional Entities, in consultation with the RSTC, should also continue to enhance NERC’s LTRA to assess ERSs in the future system and the potential impact of new and evolving electricity market practices, regulations, or legislation on resource adequacy.
4. **Regulators and policymakers: Streamline siting and permitting processes to remove barriers to resource and transmission development.** As ISO/RTOs continue looking for opportunities to speed transmission planning processes, many states are also taking steps to expedite siting and permitting. Siting and permitting issues are among the most common causes for delayed transmission projects. Support from regulators and policymakers at the federal, state, and provincial levels is urgently needed.
5. **Regulators, electric industry, and gas industry member organizations: Continue identifying and implementing solutions for addressing the operating and planning needs of the interconnected natural gas-electric energy system.** As various initiatives launched in past years roll out recommendations for addressing reliability needs, stakeholders should act with urgency on implementation. Continued collaboration through readiness forums and working groups remains a priority. While new regulatory and oversight mechanisms of the natural gas industry have yet to solidify, voluntary actions for managing natural gas production, processing, and delivery risks are needed. NERC, gas and electric industry, and research partners should continue studies and assessments of regional fuel supply risks to BPS generation.

6. **Regional transmission organizations, independent system operators, and FERC: Continue to ensure that ERSs are maintained.** The changing composition of the North American resource mix calls for more robust planning approaches to ensure adequate ERSs.¹² Retiring conventional generation is being replaced with large amounts of wind and solar; planning considerations must adapt with more attention to ERSs. As replacement resources are interconnected, these new resources should be capable of supporting voltage, frequency, ramping, and dispatchability. Many technologies can contribute to ERSs, including VERs; however, policies and market mechanisms need to reflect these requirements to ensure that these services are provided and maintained. ISO/RTOs and FERC have taken steps in this direction, and these positive steps must continue.

In addition to these priorities, NERC recommends continued progress in areas identified previously in NERC’s LTRA and other assessment reports. All recommendations are listed in the [Recommendations and ERO Actions Summary](#).

¹⁰ NERC’s Large Loads Action Plan: <https://www.nerc.com/initiatives/large-loads-action-plan>

¹¹ NERC’s Large Loads Task Force webpage: [Large Loads Task Force \(LLTF\)](#)

¹² Essential Reliability Services:

<https://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/ERS%20Abstract%20Report%20Final.pdf>

Capacity and Energy Risk Assessment

Resource Planners and state and provincial policymakers use resource adequacy criteria to ensure that sufficient resources are available to meet demand and prevent unacceptable levels of energy shortfall. In their application, traditional capacity-based adequacy criteria were not designed to consider the magnitude, frequency, duration, and timing of potential energy shortfalls. Such [considerations](#) have become increasingly important as the resource transformation evolves from capacity-based resources with assured and stored energy supplies to energy-constrained resources that are increasingly impacted by weather and environmental conditions. NERC’s LTRA includes all-hours probabilistic indices to measure these additional dimensions of risk and provide a more complete analysis to inform system plans.

Assessment Approach

NERC evaluates industry-provided resource adequacy data and credible studies to assess risks of future energy shortfalls as the system is currently planned. Probabilistic and deterministic analyses provide forward-looking snapshots of resource adequacy tied to industry forecasts of electricity supplies, demand, and transmission development. The risk analysis entails these components:

- Assessing load-loss metrics determined from probability-based simulation of projected demand and resource availability over all hours. This approach identifies high risk periods and potential energy constraints resulting in load-loss events. The 2025 ProbA is performed for each assessment area and examines the system as planned for the years 2027 and 2029. Loss-of-load hours (LOLH) and expected normalized unserved energy (NEUE) from NERC’s ProbA are used to identify risk levels.
- Comparing the margin between projected resources and peak net demand, or reserve margin, to a reserve margin target (known as the Reference Margin Level (RML)) that represents the accepted level of risk based on a probability-based loss-of-load analysis.

NERC also incorporates other findings from scenarios or information from system studies to address assessment area-specific adequacy risks when needed. See MRO-SPP, NPCC-New England, and NPCC-New York.

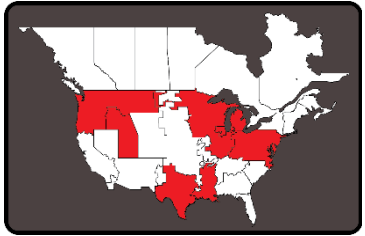
The risk determination is based on data and information provided to NERC during LTRA development and represents a snapshot in time. Integrated resource planning and ISO/RTO resource adequacy mechanisms vary across North America and can be implemented to respond to resource adequacy issues on many different timescales.

The [Demand Assumptions and Resource Categories](#) section provides further details on these approaches. Assessment area dashboards (see [Regional Assessments Dashboards](#)) provide resource capacity and energy risk assessment results for all areas.

Risk Categories

For the 2025 LTRA, NERC uses the following three levels of risk category determination for each assessment area and associated years for which there is a risk of energy shortfall during the first five years of the LTRA period (i.e., 2026–2030). The details for the risk criteria determination are shown below for each category of risk.

An assessment area is determined as **High Risk** when established resource adequacy targets or requirements are not met or when probabilistic or deterministic energy analyses find that planned resources produce shortfalls resulting in unserved energy or load loss exceeding criteria for baseline resource adequacy specified below. Regulatory authorities or market operators establish resource adequacy targets. Most targets in North America are currently based on a 1-day/event load loss in a 10-year planning requirement. See [Summary of Planning Reserve Margins and Reference Margin Levels by Assessment Area](#). Recently, regulators and policymakers in many states and market areas have begun to consider or develop resource adequacy targets based on additional criteria that can better address energy risks and extreme weather-related supply disruption.¹³ High risk areas are those where today’s demand forecasts and resource projections indicate a shortfall in future planned resources for expected (i.e., most likely, aka 50/50) demand and typical resource performance. More severe operating conditions associated with unusual heat waves or deep-freeze events would further exacerbate shortfalls in planned resources.



For the 2025 LTRA, NERC uses the following criteria to determine areas and associated years for which there is high risk of insufficient planned resources during the first five years of the LTRA period (i.e., 2026–2030):

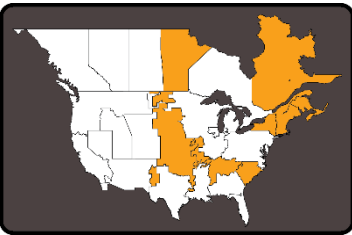
- Annual LOLH exceeds 2.4 hours/year for one or more years in the ProbA; or
- Annual normalized expected unserved energy (EUE) exceeds 0.002% (20 ppm) for one or more years in the ProbA; or

¹³ See the NERC-National Academy of Engineering Workshop Report [Evolving Planning Criteria for a Sustainable Power Grid](#).

- Resource adequacy target(s) established by regulatory authority or system operator are not met.

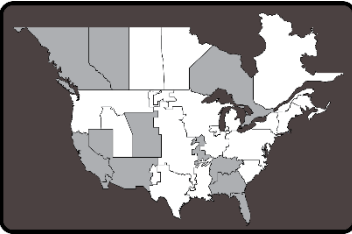
Resource Planners, regulators, and market operators in assessment areas identified as having a high risk of resource shortfalls can mitigate these risks through timely actions that address capacity and energy risks.

An assessment area is determined to have **Elevated Risk** when it meets the established resource adequacy targets and baseline criteria specified earlier but does not meet more stringent thresholds of unserved energy and load loss that provide for reliability in more extreme weather conditions. More extreme conditions can include temperatures that result in above-normal demand levels, low resource output or availability, and/or disruption of normal electricity transfers. In the analysis, elevated risk may be found by modeling above-normal demand and low resource availability. The risk can also be identified by examining output data from probabilistic analysis tools to determine the underlying conditions for load-loss events. For the *2025 LTRA*, assessment areas are classified as elevated risk when they meet any one of the following criteria in the first five years of the LTRA period (i.e., 2026–2030):



- Annual LOLH is between 0.1 and 2.4 hours/year for one or more years in the ProbA
- Annual normalized EUE is less than 0.002% (20 ppm) but greater than or equal to 0.0002% (2 ppm) for one or more years in the ProbA
- Resource adequacy target(s) established by regulatory authority or system operator are met, but plausible scenarios of above-normal demand and/or low-resource conditions indicate risk of loss of load

An assessment area is determined to have **Normal Risk** if resource adequacy criteria are met, and there is a low likelihood of electricity supply shortfall even when demand is above forecasts or resource performance is abnormally low (e.g., above-normal forced outages or low VER performance). Although areas determined as normal risk are expected to have sufficient resources for plausible extreme¹⁴ conditions, they are not immune to the effects of high-impact, low-frequency weather events that affect demand and generation simultaneously. For the *2025 LTRA*,



assessment areas are classified as normal risk based on an evaluation of the following criteria for each of the first five years of the LTRA period (i.e., 2026–2030):

- Annual LOLH is below 0.1 hours/year.
- Annual normalized EUE is below 0.0002% (2 ppm).
- Resource adequacy target(s) established by regulatory authority or system operator are met and reserves are expected to be available in plausible scenarios of above normal demand and/or low-resource conditions associated with a once-per-decade event indicate risk of load loss.

Application of the Risk Criteria: NERC uses industry-provided demand and resource information and the results from the ProbA performed by NERC Regional Entities, ISO/RTOs, and regulated utilities to determine risk of energy and capacity shortfalls. The methods, assumptions, and approaches used by entities to perform probabilistic assessments affect the results and outputs. In last year’s LTRA, NERC incorporated new probabilistic assessment risk criteria (LOLH and EUE) from the NERC-National Academy of Engineering Workshop Report, [Evolving Planning Criteria for a Sustainable Power Grid](#), alongside established reserve margin criteria. In instances where an assessment area’s probabilistic assessment results and reserve margins give mixed indications as to the risk category, adherence to resource adequacy targets (e.g., required RML and load-loss criteria) established by regulatory jurisdictions took precedence. Any other apparent contradictions with metrics and criteria were generally assessed according to results of all-hours probabilistic analysis.

A numerical summary of the assessment areas’ risk profile measured against the NERC risk criteria is summarized in **Table 2**. A risk description summary for each assessment area at an **Elevated Risk** or a **High Risk** is provided in the **High-Risk Area Details** or **Elevated-Risk Area Details** sections following **Table 2**. Full details about all assessment areas are provided in the **Regional Assessments Dashboards** section.

¹⁴ Plausible extreme conditions considered by NERC in this assessment are similar to those experienced during Winter Storm Elliott, Winter Storm Uri, and the 2020 Western Wide-Area Heat Dome.

Table 2: Capacity and Energy Risk Assessment Numerical Summary

	NEUE (ppm)		LOLH (hours/year)		Anticipated Reserve Margin					Reference Margin Level ¹⁵				
Summer-Peaking Areas	2027	2029	2027	2029	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
MISO	1.13	42.39	0.23	6.61	11.0%	11.2%	9.5%	8.6%	4.3%	8.1%	8.3%	8.5%	8.5%	8.5%
MRO-SPP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.4%	30.3%	28.4%	25.1%	22.6%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%
NPCC-New England	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	18.3%	21.7%	24.8%	23.7%	23.6%	13.4%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%
NPCC-New York	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.03	22.3%	24.5%	24.5%	23.6%	22.5%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%
NPCC-Ontario	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.6%	19.8%	28.1%	18.7%	19.7%	16.1%	19.0%	22.6%	15.8%	19.5%
PJM	3.50	65.50	0.61	9.97	29.7%	28.3%	24.3%	18.9%	13.9%	18.6%	20.1%	21.9%	23.9%	26.3%
SERC-Central	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.1%	20.8%	19.7%	18.5%	16.5%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%
SERC-East	0.98	2.27	0.15	0.33	30.6%	30.5%	30.5%	31.5%	34.9%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%
SERC-Florida Peninsula	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.4%	25.2%	24.3%	22.6%	21.1%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%
SERC-Southeast	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.9%	29.5%	29.8%	24.9%	20.9%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%
Texas RE-ERCOT	8.70	18.84	0.95	3.64	28.2%	30.5%	31.8%	30.8%	29.9%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%
WECC-Basin	0.04	2,250	3.00	310.00	36.3%	37.9%	27.4%	19.7%	15.2%	13.5%	14.0%	13.6%	12.4%	12.3%
WECC-California	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.2%	47.0%	46.1%	45.6%	42.7%	20.3%	19.2%	19.3%	19.7%	19.3%
WECC-Mexico	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.9%	13.8%	29.9%	27.0%	24.6%	7.8%	8.0%	9.1%	7.2%	7.0%
WECC-Rocky Mountain	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.3%	60.0%	53.2%	38.1%	30.5%	17.8%	17.0%	16.2%	16.1%	15.7%
WECC-Southwest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.1%	39.6%	38.6%	38.4%	36.1%	13.3%	13.7%	13.6%	12.6%	12.2%
Winter-Peaking Areas	2027	2029	2027	2029	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031
MRO-Manitoba Hydro	0.12	0.23	0.03	0.06	13.9%	16.7%	15.4%	13.6%	1.2%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
MRO-SaskPower	5.24	0.19	1.09	0.05	25.9%	35.0%	33.4%	32.3%	31.2%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%
NPCC-Maritimes	0.52	0.25	0.25	0.10	17.2%	18.5%	25.6%	23.0%	21.7%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%
NPCC-Québec	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.11	15.6%	16.7%	14.7%	13.0%	11.5%	11.9%	12.2%	12.2%	12.2%	12.2%
WECC-Alberta	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.2%	45.3%	40.7%	38.0%	33.0%	11.8%	17.6%	14.3%	15.6%	11.6%
WECC-British Columbia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.4%	19.1%	19.5%	24.1%	24.2%	11.7%	12.1%	12.1%	11.6%	11.6%
WECC-Northwest	0.00	36.64	0.00	85.00	30.2%	29.3%	23.3%	19.1%	15.7%	17.8%	17.4%	16.1%	15.8%	15.5%

¹⁵ Refer to the [Regional Assessments Dashboards](#) and the [Summary of Planning Reserve Margins and Reference Margin Levels by Assessment Area](#) table.

High-Risk Area Details

The assessment areas below exceed the highest level of risk criteria for the **High-Risk** classification during one or more years of the 2026–2030 period. Areas are listed in order of appearance in the [Regional Assessments Dashboards](#) section.

MISO (Normal Risk 2026/ Elevated Risk 2027/ High Risk 2028–)

Escalating demand forecasts and uncertainty around new resource commercialization timing contribute to heightened resource adequacy concerns in the MISO area. MISO forecasts its peak total internal demand at 127 GW during the 2026 summer season (up over 2.6 GW since the same year’s projection in the 2024 LTRA) and expects that summer demand will grow to 143.7 GW by 2035. The largest contributor to this accelerated demand growth is data center additions with 18 GW of data center loads projected by 2035. MISO’s accredited thermal capacity has decreased by 8.8 GW, driven primarily by reductions in accredited capacity of existing facilities and retirements. New solar PV resources contribute to a 5.7 GW increase in MISO’s accredited non-thermal capacity since last year.

As of July 2025, MISO has more than 54 GW nameplate capacity of generation—predominantly solar and battery—with signed generation interconnection agreements that are projected to come on-line over the next few years. As of December 2025, that figure increased to more than 70 GW of nameplate capacity. In addition to these resources, MISO instituted the [ERAS](#) process to respond to generation needs. The ERAS process provides a framework for the accelerated study of generation projects that address urgent resource adequacy and reliability needs in the near term. ERAS projects are not in the model for the 2025 LTRA. If ERAS projects come in as currently planned, the projected reserve margin shortfall would be eliminated.

Based on the current resource and demand forecasts, MISO begins to meet elevated-risk criteria in 2027 (see [Table 3](#)). While resources are adequate for regulatory requirements, the ProbA results show load loss and unserved energy exceeding the elevated-risk threshold. The Summer season makes up the bulk of annual risk in this region and is seen to materialize during late afternoon and evening hours when demand is high and solar resource output begins to decline. The ProbA also identifies winter risk periods during early morning and hours after 7:00 p.m. Additionally, shortfall risks could expand into spring and fall generator maintenance periods when the available dispatchable generation is not enough to counter wind and solar variability when demand is high.

As the demand forecast rises in subsequent years, and with currently projected generator retirements and planned resource additions, the ProbA shows worsening results. While resources are adequate for regulatory requirements (i.e., loss of load expectation (LOLE) of 0.1 day in a year), the ProbA results show load loss and unserved energy exceeding the elevated risk threshold criteria.

For the 2029 ProbA study, MISO assumed 14 GW of generator retirements that are uncertain to occur by 2029.

Table 3: MISO Base-Case Summary of Results		
	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	797	31,654
NEUE (ppm)	1.13	42.39
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.23	6.61
Category	Elevated	High

With model assumptions, MISO would exceed load-loss and unserved energy criteria and fall below reserve margin targets to become a high-risk area beginning in Winter 2028 (see [Figure 2](#)). Projections for resource additions are predominantly solar PV, with some battery and wind resources. The small amounts of natural-gas-fired generation in signed interconnection agreements do not offset planned generator retirements, and, as a result, MISO is projecting shortfalls in planned resources for winter peak periods.

These results offer a point-in-time snapshot of risk based on the data available during the time of this year’s analysis. The regulatory structure within MISO provides utilities and regulators with many tools to ensure alignment of large-load additions, generator retirements, and generator additions. Regulators and utilities in the MISO region are statutorily required to ensure reliability and can work to address uncertainties associated with these three phenomena.

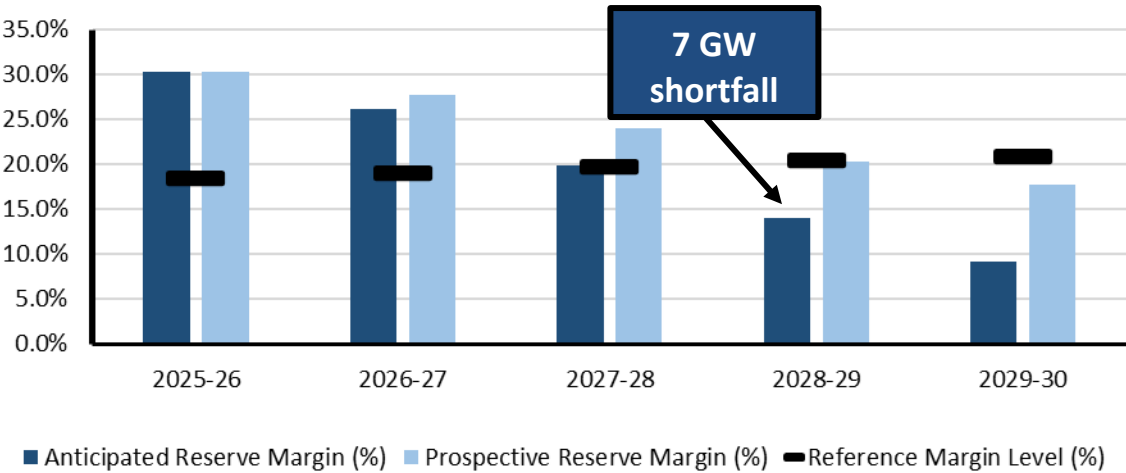
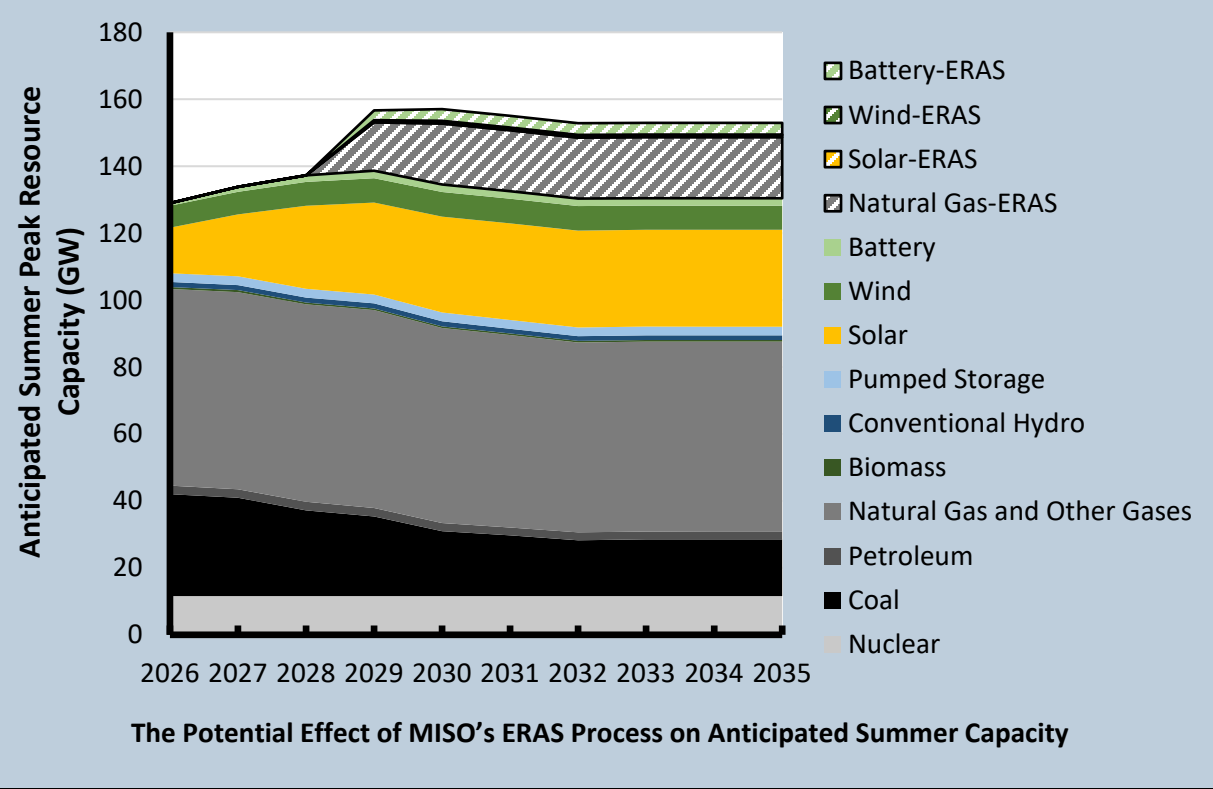


Figure 2: MISO Winter Planning Reserve Margins

Currently, MISO has surplus transfer capacity within its assessment area, but transfers between subregions have been historically constrained by a transmission limitation between the northern and southern MISO subregions.

The timing of FERC’s approval of MISO’s ERAS process in July meant that the generator additions that MISO plans as part of that process were not included in the resource adequacy modeling for the 2025 LTRA. ERAS is already expected to result in considerable new resource additions to the MISO system in the near term. The additional summer on-peak capacity from ERAS is expected to grow to over 20 GW by summer 2030. These expedited resource additions are expected to reduce the shortfall risk identified in this year’s ProBA. Furthermore, the timing of the ERAS additions would mitigate an identified winter ARM shortfall if the approximately 8.6 GW of winter on-peak capacity anticipated by 2028–29 reaches operation as projected. The latest ERAS projects, along with current load forecasts and resource projections as of July 2026, will be included in the input data for the 2026 LTRA, and ERAS summer capacity additions are summarized by the diagonal hatched stacked areas in plot below.



PJM (Elevated Risk 2026–2028/ High Risk 2029–)

Demand for electricity in PJM is growing at its fastest pace in years, driven primarily by data centers, followed by electrification and manufacturing loads. PJM expects its summer peak demand to grow by 56 GW to a total of 210 GW in 2035, and its winter peak demand is expected to climb by 62 GW to reach 198 GW by winter 2034–35. PJM’s annual net energy for load growth rate is projected to average 4.8% per year over the next 10 years, up from 2.3% in last year’s projections.

At the same time, PJM faces an extreme and rapid tightening of capacity resources in the near term because of generator retirements and project delays. A large share of PJM’s new interconnection requests is from VERs, approximately 40% of which are solar, and dispatchable resources are currently leaving the system faster than they can be replaced with other dispatchable technologies. These factors, paired with PJM’s limited reliance on transfers from neighboring areas to meet resource adequacy targets (maximum total transmission interchange capability is <2% of PJM’s internal generation capacity), have led to a projection that PJM’s ARM may fall below its Installed Reserve Requirement (or RML) in 2029 (see [Figure 3](#)).

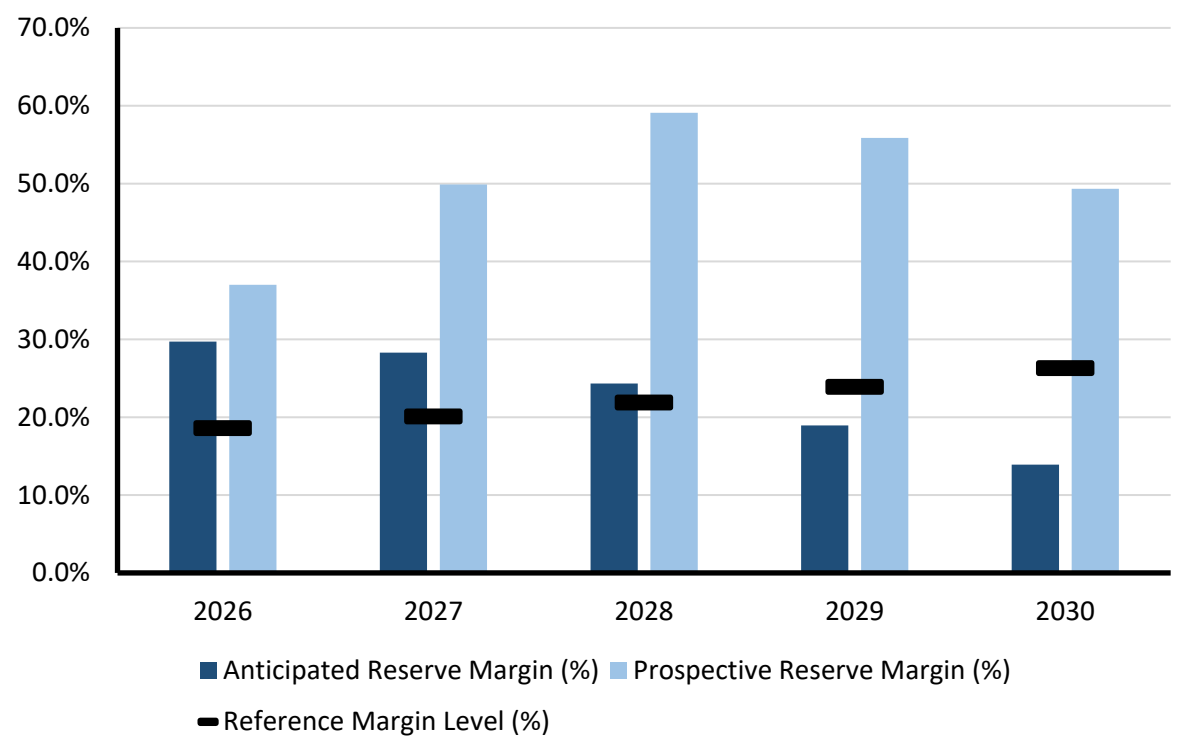


Figure 3: PJM Summer Planning Reserve Margins

As part of its reforms to speed interconnection with the system, PJM has approximately 30,000 MW of generation projections in the transitional interconnection queue to be processed in 2026. PJM’s new cycle process opens in April with a one- to two-year timeline for reviews, depending on the impact to the system. From the time of the original 2025 LTRA data submittal to recent evaluation, PJM projected an additional 8.3 GW of Tier 1 summer resource capacity over the next seven years. Tier 1 resource additions will provide 3.4 GW of winter capacity. However, many of these projects continue to be slowed or stopped by factors affecting multiple regions across the continent, including local opposition, state/local permitting delays, supply chain challenges or financing.

In 2025, FERC approved a PJM-proposed expansion of Surplus Interconnection Service to augment the operating efficiency and availability of existing resources, and the Reliability Resource Initiative (RRI), which attracted 11,000 MW of nameplate capacity in proposed, shovel-ready generation projects. Such initiatives also impacted Tier 2 resources from 2026 to 2031, netting an additional 8.2 GW in summer capacity from the original 2025 LTRA data submittal and 4.1 GW in winter capacity. This net increase factors resources that transitioned from Tier 2 to Tier 1, the Reliability Resource Initiative, and any recently withdrawn projects.

Setting aside the impact of such initiatives, results of the ProbA using PJM’s current resource and demand forecasts indicate that the area is at an elevated risk of resource shortfalls at the beginning of the 10-year horizon (see [Table 4](#)). Because this year’s ProbA does not study years earlier than 2027, the elevated-risk determination is based on results of the 2024 ProbA and consideration of the declining ARM in PJM since last year’s LTRA (2026 Summer ARM has fallen from 35.7% to 29.7%). The greatest risk of resource shortfalls leading to unserved energy or load loss in PJM occurs in the winter months during the early morning and evening hours. The risk is associated with generator availability and performance issues that can arise from equipment freezing and fuel supply issues during extreme winter conditions. PJM falls into the high-risk category beginning in 2029 as demand forecasts continue to climb, generators reach planned retirement dates, and the projected resources become less certain. The winter risk profile indicates that new resources will need to be capable of reliably serving winter load.

Table 4: PJM Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	538	3,251	67,581
NEUE (ppm)	0.00	3.50	65.50
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.1	0.61	9.97
Category	Elevated	Elevated	High
*Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

Texas RE-ERCOT (Elevated Risk 2026–2028/ High Risk 2029–)

The Texas RE-ERCOT assessment area is forecast to experience continued rapid electric demand growth over the next 5–7 years. ERCOT forecasts summer peak total internal demand to increase from 94,650 MW for 2026 to 154,077 MW for 2035, an average annual increase of 5.6%. This load growth is mainly driven by forecasted interconnections of large loads totaling 45 GW by 2030, of which 23 GW are data centers.

ERCOT continues to evolve its planning methods as fluctuations in recent large interconnections activity continue to affect both near- and long-term demand expectations. Several projects have slowed or failed to materialize within the shorter-term horizon, while interconnection requests for later years continue to increase. Such fluctuations do not, however, undercut the significance of demand growth attributable to large loads.

Responding to rapidly escalating demand from data centers and other large industrial loads, ERCOT, regulators, and lawmakers in Texas are adapting with policy and planning approaches to address emerging supply risks. Actions provide ERCOT with new curtailment management tools for large loads, establish criteria for when to incorporate new large loads in system planning, and help fund and speed new generating capacity to the grid. Furthermore, the first reliability assessment for the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)-approved Reliability Standard, and potential approval of market design changes to address deficiencies, is scheduled for completion by year-end 2026. Such market design changes would further mitigate energy risk.

Signed into law in June 2025, Texas Senate Bill 6 directs the PUCT to establish uniform large-load interconnection standards that, among other things, provide ERCOT with new large-load curtailment management tools and provide ERCOT authority to direct (or require transmission service providers to direct) large loads to curtail their load prior to and during declared energy emergency situations. For the 2025 LTRA, ERCOT’s DR contributions have increased substantially to reflect the authority and capability to curtail new large loads during energy emergencies. For Summer 2026, DR contributes 13.3 GW to resource adequacy (up from the 2.7 GW projection in the 2024 LTRA), and contributions from DR rise to 53.1 GW by 2030. Because new large loads can be curtailed during energy emergencies, the rapid rise in projected large loads has substantially less effect on Planning Reserve Margins in ERCOT than in the 2024 LTRA.

The ARM is above the 13.75% RML for all years (see [Figure 4](#)).

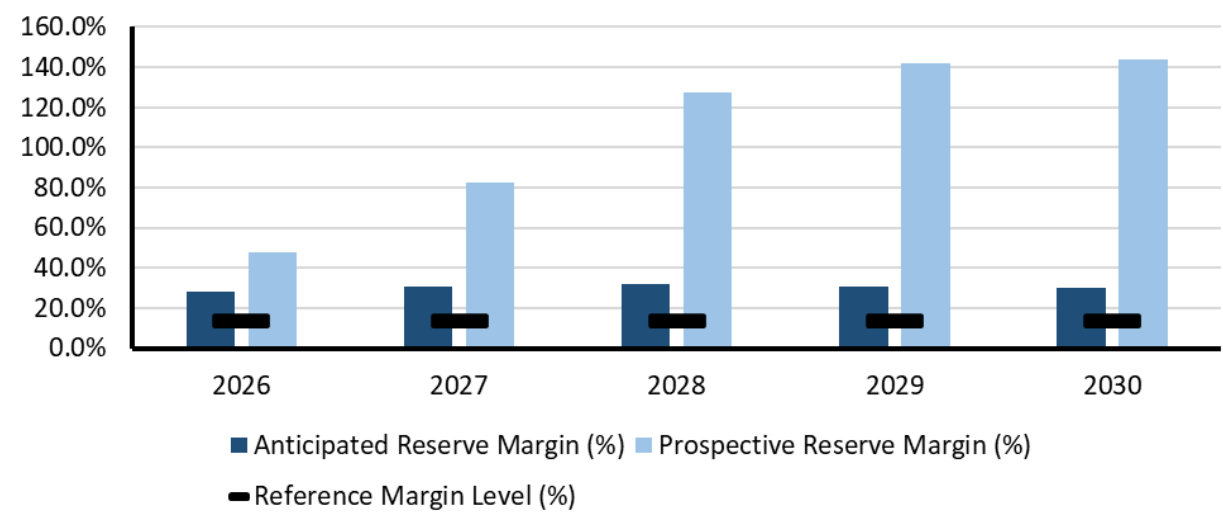


Figure 4: TEXAS RE-ERCOT Summer Planning Reserve Margins

ERCOT’s Planning Reserve Margins in the 2025 LTRA are also being affected by the implementation of new capacity contribution methods. ERCOT has switched from using historical average on-peak capacity factors to average effective load carrying capabilities (ELCC) for VERs, and the resulting capacity derates largely offset the gains that load management programs have on ARM. In the case of solar, ELCCs are significantly lower than prior years. ELCC values are probabilistically derived and reflect resource reliability value, and in the case of solar, this value has been decreasing as reserve scarcity risk shifts to the evening hours when solar availability is low.

The ProbA results for Texas RE-ERCOT reveal some improvement in near-term resource adequacy when compared to the 2024 LTRA, but the area remains an elevated risk through 2027 before forecasted load growth drives the area to high risk (see Table 5). ERCOT’s ProbA modeling includes demand-side management protocols that reasonably reflect large load curtailments described above, and other programs used in ERCOT’s market. This modeling contributes to the improved unserved energy and load-loss hour metrics that are observed between the 2024 ProbA and the current ProbA. Battery resource additions since last year and improved modeling in the resource adequacy analysis tool also contribute to these improved metrics.

Table 5: Texas RE-ERCOT Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	11,090	5,865	17,053
NEUE (ppm)	18.95	8.70	18.84
LOLH (hours per Year)	1.57	0.95	3.64
Category	Elevated	Elevated	High
*Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

ERCOT’s ProbA study results show that most resource adequacy risk is in the winter, and this is mainly driven by the large demand variability associated with winter temperatures. By 2029, there is significant risk in the summer and slight risk in the shoulder seasons, driven by the considerable growth of large loads across the year. For non-winter months, ERCOT continues to experience the highest reserve scarcity risk during the early evening hours (peaking at hour ending (HE) 9:00 p.m.) based on probabilistic capacity reserve modeling for monthly peak load days. During these periods, the drop-off in solar generation causes margins to decrease when load remains high. Battery storage helps reduce these short-duration energy risks. ERCOT expects battery energy storage capacity to reach 18.9 GW by Summer 2026 (Existing and Tier 1 resource categories) and grow to 25.2 GW by 2029. ERCOT typically sees the greatest energy provided by energy storage during net load peaks when solar is ramping off in the evening, or during early morning hours prior to solar ramping up.

In response to the rapid and unprecedented load growth, the PUCT in April 2025 approved three 765 kV import paths identified in the *Permian Basin Reliability Study*, which introduced the new 765 kV voltage class into the ERCOT region after six decades since the introduction of the 345 kV voltage class. The Texas 765-kV Strategic Transmission Expansion Plan (TX 765-kV STEP) tackles the unprecedented load growth expected by 2030 and enhances transfer capability by an additional 600 MW to 3,000 MW. This 765 kV addition enables power to flow more efficiently through long-distance transmission from resource-rich regions to load centers.

WECC-Basin (Elevated Risk 2026–2028/High Risk 2029–)

Forecasted load growth and planned generator retirements in the Great Basin (WECC-Basin assessment area) present resource adequacy challenges. Over the next 10 years, the summer demand forecast will rise by over 1.7 GW (17%, or 1.8% compounded annually), while at the same time the capacity from currently existing resources will decline by nearly 2.3 GW through generator retirements and other capacity changes. Solar resources are the predominant type nearing project completion: There is 3.5 GW of nameplate solar capacity (capable of providing 2.3 GW to summer capacity) in Tier 1 resources for the assessment period, making up nearly half of all resources in the

Tier 1 and Tier 2 planning.¹⁶ The projected resources, with planned retirements and additions, are not sufficient for forecasted demand, resulting in some unserved energy and load-loss hours in the future-year energy analysis. While the ARM does not fall below the RML during the 2026–2035 time frame and indicates substantial surplus, the ProbA results indicate significant EUE and LOLH (see [Table 6](#)).

Table 6: WECC Basin Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	N/A	3	200,892
NEUE (ppm)	N/A	0.04	2,250.70
LOLH (hours per Year)	N/A	3.00	310.00
Category	-	High	High
*No prior results as the assessment area is new for the 2025 LTRA.			

The risk of shortfall in the WECC-Basin area is concentrated in the summer months when seasonal electricity demand is highest. ProbA results for 2027 indicate that risk is most concentrated to the month of peak demand and the hours around sunset as solar output declines. The LOLH in 2027 and 2029 coincides with the evening solar down ramp and the persistence of elevated demand after peak. For 2029, as planned retirements of coal-fired generation and all currently projected resource additions are reflected in the resource mix, risk periods expand across all summer months, and the hours of risk extend from midday to nighttime. In WECC’s ProbA modeling, energy transfers from neighboring areas are helping WECC-Basin meet supply deficits, but at times they are insufficient, resulting in unserved energy and load-loss hours.

Unlike the ProbA results from other areas, WECC’s probabilistic model produces values higher values for load loss and EUE because the results are not probabilistic weighted averages. Taking this into account, NERC assesses WECC Basin as an elevated risk through 2029 even though the reported load-loss hours from the simulations exceed high-risk criteria

WECC-Northwest (Normal Risk 2026–2028/ High Risk 2029–)

Peak load in the WECC-Northwest assessment area is forecast to increase by 6.6 GW (19%) over the next 10 years, driven by an influx of data centers into the Pacific Northwest. There are over 10 GW of new wind, solar, and battery projects expected to connect over the next five years (nameplate capacity) and provide an expected on-peak capacity contribution in winter of 3.2 GW. Additional resources will be needed to avoid shortfalls in planning reserves and prevent energy risks from

¹⁶ Tier 1 resources in the LTRA are those resources in the interconnection process that have high confidence of being realized and generally under construction or have signed interconnection agreements. Tier 2 resources have more uncertainty in being realized and are in earlier development stages such as undergoing interconnection planning study.

emerging. While the ARM does not fall below the RML during the 2026–2030 time frame, the ProbA results based on current resource projections and demand forecasts indicate significant EUE and LOLH by 2029 (see [Table 7](#)).

Table 7: WECC Northwest Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	N/A	0	8,080
NEUE (ppm)	N/A	0.00	36.64
LOLH (hours per Year)	N/A	0.00	85.00
Category	N/A	Normal	High
* No prior results as the assessment area is new for the 2025 LTRA.			

Resource adequacy concerns in the U.S. Northwest can arise in the summer and winter seasons. Peak demand occurs in the winter months. In the ProbA results, load-loss hours occur at a greater frequency during winter high-demand periods. The summer months also have an emerging risk of shortfalls according to the ProbA: The 2029 study year had approximately 85% of identified unserved energy occurring between the afternoon-to-evening hours of mid to late summer.

Elevated-Risk Area Details

The below areas are classified as **Elevated Risk** as they are projected to meet resource adequacy criteria and have energy and capacity for normal forecasted conditions but are at risk of supply shortfall in extreme conditions. Areas are listed in order of appearance in the [Regional Assessments Dashboards](#) section.

MRO-Manitoba Hydro (Normal 2026–2028/ Elevated 2029–)

The Winter 2026–2027 peak demand forecast grew by 127 MW, exceeding the projected 29 MW growth from the 2024 LTRA. Demand growth is driven primarily by population growth and expected economic activity. Conversely, the forecasted annual peak demand growth rate for the next 10 years has fallen to almost 1.4%, down from around 1.8% projected in the 2024 LTRA. Generating resources are projected to remain largely the same over the 10-year planning period.

Similar to prior probabilistic assessments, Manitoba Hydro’s 2025 ProbA indicates elevated-risk levels of load loss in the later (year 4) study year (see [Table 8](#)). Resource adequacy concerns and load-loss risk in the ProbA arise from studied very low hydro conditions. Although the Manitoba system is

winter-peaking, the risk is primarily present during the summer season, with some risk also identified in the spring shoulder season. Planned electricity supply resources could fall short during an extreme and prolonged drought, affecting the predominantly hydroelectric system.

Table 8: MRO-Manitoba ProbA Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	5	3	6
NEUE (ppm)	0.18	0.12	0.23
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.06	0.03	0.06
Category	Normal	Normal	Elevated
* Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

MRO-SaskPower (Elevated 2026–2027/ Normal 2028–)

Large industrial loads in Saskatchewan are driving average annual peak demand growth of 1.0% compounded annually over the next 10 years, down slightly from the 2024 LTRA’s projection (1.35%). To respond to demand growth, SaskPower recently added 370 MW of natural-gas-fired generation, 220 MW of VERs, and a 20 MW/20 MWh battery storage system to its system and is projecting on-peak resource additions of 700 MW over the next 10 years—a slight decrease from last year’s projection (~1 GW). Nameplate additions include 400 MW of wind, 300 MW of solar, and 525 MW of natural gas to offset ~32 MW of confirmed waste heat recovery and wind generation retirements. Saskatchewan is also deferring generator retirements and reactivating recently deactivated coal units and is bolstering both its intra-regional and interregional transmission system to diversify its current portfolio that relies heavily on firm transfers with Manitoba. Reserve margins are expected to remain above SaskPower’s RML for the entire 10-year period of the 2025 LTRA.

SaskPower is a winter-peaking system, but MRO-Saskatchewan’s probabilistic studies concluded that LOLH and EUE could occur during planned outages of large generators during peak demand hours in the spring and fall seasons. The ProbA reveals load-loss risk during the months of May, August, September, and October in 2027 based on current planned resources and load forecasts. Monthly and annual results improve in 2029 with SaskPower’s projected resource additions (see Table 9).

Table 9: MRO-SaskPower Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	76	145	5
NEUE (ppm)	2.81	5.24	0.19
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.55	1.09	0.05
	Elevated	Elevated	Normal
*Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

MRO-SPP (Elevated 2026–)

Resource additions and delays in generator retirements since the 2024 LTRA are improving the resource adequacy outlook for 2026, while higher demand forecasts and less capacity projects in development are causing lower planned reserves in later years. SPP’s ARMs are projected to remain above RMLs until after 2030 (see Figure 5). Additionally, ProbA results of the planned resources and demand forecast did not identify EUE or load-loss hours in studied years. Seasonal resource adequacy assessments by NERC have identified risks of insufficient operating reserves during periods of low wind and high generator outages.¹⁷ SPP is an elevated risk because it is projected to have lower planned reserves with a similar mix of VERs and dispatchable thermal generation in the future.

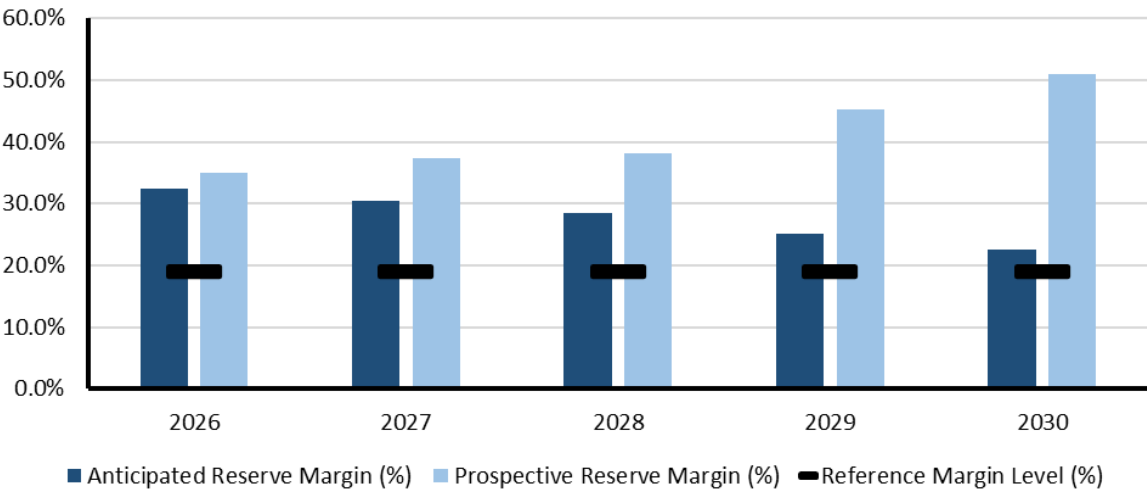


Figure 5: MRO-SPP Five-Year Planning Reserve Margin—Summer

¹⁷ See [NERC 2025 Summer Reliability Assessment](#)

Recent and newly approved resource adequacy initiatives in SPP are aimed at addressing demand growth and energy challenges associated with the evolving resource mix. SPP has approved higher Planning Reserve Margin requirements for LSEs that take effect beginning in the summer of 2026, along with a new winter reserve margin requirement starting later that year. These reserve margin requirements respond to growing resource adequacy challenges by obligating LSEs to obtain more firm resources for the summer and winter seasons. New performance-based resource accreditation will more accurately account for generator contributions to serving area demand during times of greatest need. The *Expedited Resource Adequacy Study* process, approved by FERC in July, is providing an accelerated pathway to interconnection for generation that supports identified resource adequacy needs.

NPCC-Maritimes (Elevated 2026–)

The Maritimes area peak loads are expected to increase by 8% during summer and by 10% during winter seasons over the 10-year assessment period (see [Table 10](#)). This translates to compound average growth rates of 0.8% in summer and 1% in winter, which are higher than the *2024 LTRA* projections (0.4% in summer and 0.6% in winter). Resource projections for Maritimes have diminished slightly since the *2024 LTRA* due to smaller peak capacity contributions from certain VERs through most of the planning period.

Firm capacity transfers in the first two years of the assessment period (2026–2027 and 2027–2028) decreased significantly from the *2024 LTRA* (322 MWs to -32MWs in 2026 and 215 MWs to 75 MWs in 2027). As a result, the ARM is below the 20% RML in those years, 17.2% and 18.5%, respectively. Beginning in 2028, the capacity transfers for the remaining assessment period are consistent with those in the *2024 LTRA*, and ARMs are projected to remain above the RML of 20% until 2032 when the ARM dips to 18.2%.

Table 10: NPCC-Maritimes Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	5	15	7
EUE (ppm)	0.17	0.52	0.25
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.09	0.25	0.10
*Results from the 2024 The ProbA simulations			

The ProbA for 2027 indicates elevated levels of unserved energy in the peak winter month of February. Load growth projections and resource mix characteristics are the primary driver. A few hours of risk occur in other winter months. Resource additions contribute to the improved EUE and LOLH metrics for the 2029 study year.

NPCC-New England (Normal 2026 –2028/ Elevated 2029–)

Since the *2024 LTRA*, 650 MW of fossil-fired generation has retired in New England, while wind, battery, and solar projects and uprating to an oil-fired power plant are projected to increase summer capacity by 1 GW in Summer 2026. Winter capacity is also increasing by a similar amount due to the expected contribution of offshore wind by winter 2026–2027. New England is among the areas projecting the highest growth in winter electricity demand, with winter peak demand forecast to increase by 7.1 GW (36%) from the Winter 2025–2026 forecast over the next 10 years. This demand forecast has changed little since the *2024 LTRA*.

ProbA results and reserve margin assessment for the NPCC-New England Assessment Area indicate that the risk of unserved energy in New England is small (see [Table 11](#)). Unserved energy risk is concentrated in the summer months when area demand currently peaks. However, escalating winter electricity demand and the performance challenges faced by the current and future resource mix in extreme, long-duration cold weather events is a persistent reliability concern. New England has already experienced constraints on electric energy production due to the availability of natural gas during winter. Interstate natural gas pipelines serving New England run at full capacity with (firm) gas utility contracts serving their residential, commercial, and industrial (RCI) customers. An extended cold spell or a series of cold spells can threaten regional natural gas fuel delivery infrastructure and result in insufficient fuel for electric generators. Dual-fueled generation provides crucial alternative energy to maintain electric system reliability. In scenarios of extended extreme cold, stored liquid fuels can become depleted and result in insufficient generation for demand.

Table 11: NPCC New England Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	11	<1	2
NEUE (ppm)	0.10	0.00	0.02
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.10	0.00	0.00
Category	Normal	Normal	Normal
* Provides the 2024 ProbA results for Comparison			

NPCC-New York (Elevated 2026–)

The *LTRA* anticipated and Prospective Reserve Margins are above RML of 15% for all 10 years. However, the system margins are narrowing throughout the assessment period. Although expected resource contribution is great enough to meet expected demand, there is risk due to the variability in the demand forecast with a greater risk added due to the variability in resource contribution. Demand could be 10–13% higher than expected, which could cause strain on the system.

This impact is shown in the increasing LOLH and EUE shown in [Table 12](#).

Table 12: NPCC New York Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	2	<1	12
NEUE (ppm)	0.01	0.00	0.08
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.01	0.00	0.03
Category	Normal	Normal	Normal
* Provides the 2024 ProbA results for Comparison			

While NPCC’s ProbA results and reserve margin assessment for the New York assessment area indicate that the risk of unserved energy in New York is relatively small, an assessment performed by NYISO, the *2025 Quarter 3 Short-Term Assessment of Reliability (STAR)*,¹⁸ identified transmission security reliability needs in the New York City and Long Island parts of the system to ensure summer reliability. With little reliability margin, plausible futures point to system issues within the next 10 years. Depending on demand growth and retirement patterns, the system may need several thousand megawatts of new dispatchable generation over that time frame.

Due to the reliability needs identified in the STAR report, NERC assesses that NPCC-New York is an elevated risk area and that, with current resource and transmission system projections, localized supply shortfalls are likely in extreme conditions.

NPCC-Québec (Normal 2026–2028/ Elevated 2029–)

Québec’s demand forecast has increased since the 2024 LTRA, driven by electrification of transportation, industrial decarbonization, and electric heating. New sectors such as hydrogen production, battery manufacturing, and data centers are also contributing to demand growth. Québec’s demand peaks at 41.4 GW in 2026–2027, rising to 49.6 GWs by 2035–2036, an increase of 8.2 GWs compared to the assessment period growth of 7.5 GWs projected in the 2024 LTRA.

With stable resources over the 10-year assessment period, Québec’s ARMs remain above the 12.2% RML for the first four years, falling below in 2030–2031 and all subsequent years. Québec and Ontario have a firm seasonal capacity exchange agreement through 2030–2031 that allows Québec to import 600 MW in winter.

¹⁸ Additional details available in the report: <https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/16004172/2025-Q3-STAR-Report-Final.pdf/>

Hydro-Québec’s Action Plan 2035 and a memorandum of understanding with Newfoundland and Labrador outline major new capacity additions, including hydro upgrades, new large hydro power plants, wind and solar development, and potential battery storage and natural-gas-fired generation. These resources are not included in the present assessment due to their early development stage but are expected to be incorporated gradually into future assessments.

Hydro Québec is a winter-peaking area. There were no significant LOLH or EUE estimated for Winter 2027–2028. For Winter 2029–2030, EUE and LOLH are above the elevated risk criteria See [Table 13](#).

Table 13: NPCC Québec Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	8	8	63
NEUE (ppm)	0.04	0.00	0.29
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.01	0.00	0.11
Category	Normal	Normal	Elevated
* Provides the 2024 ProbA results for Comparison			

SERC-East (Normal 2026/ Elevated 2027–)

SERC-East is projecting over 5.7 GW of coal unit retirements over the 10-year assessment horizon. These continued retirements from prior years continue to trigger reserve margin targets and ProbA thresholds for elevated risk. To offset the upcoming retirements, SERC-East has planned 2 GW of solar resources and 8.9 GW of gas additions over the next 10 years. The 2025 ProbA reveals elevated levels of risk occurring in both the 2027 and 2029 study years, as shown in [Table 14](#) below.

Table 14: SERC-East ProbA Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	143	232	539
NEUE (ppm)	0.60	0.98	2.27
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.09	0.15	0.33
Category	Normal	Elevated	Elevated
* Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

Normal-Risk Area Details

All other assessment areas (see [Figure 1](#)) are classified as normal risk. In these areas, resource adequacy criteria are met, and there is a low likelihood of electricity supply shortfall even when demand is above forecasts or resource performance is abnormally low (e.g., above-normal forced outages or low VER performance).

Resource and Demand Projections

The [Capacity and Energy Risk Assessment](#) section is a forward-looking snapshot of resource adequacy that is tied to industry forecasts of electricity supplies, demand, and transmission development. Later sections in this report describe important trends in each of these forecast areas. The future electricity supply will come from a resource mix that is more variable, weather-dependent, and reliant on natural gas for fuel, requiring broad coordination and careful attention to manage reliability risks. Future electricity demand is being shaped by many factors that collectively influence peak demand forecast levels, peak seasons, and hourly profiles. Peak demand and energy forecasts are projected to continue rising dramatically over the 2025 LTRA assessment period, exceeding their highest rates in recent years. Ongoing challenges with resource and transmission development and the continued pace of generator retirements raise concerns that the risk assessment map will expand with more elevated- and high risk areas in the future.

Risk from Additional Generator Retirements

Accelerated retirements of the existing coal, natural gas, petroleum, and nuclear generators can negatively affect the resource adequacy and reliability of the BPS in the next 10 years. In the preceding [Capacity and Energy Risk Assessment](#), NERC accounted for nearly 92GW of nameplate of fossil-fired and nuclear generator retirements that are anticipated through 2035. NERC’s risk analysis did not include an additional 65 GW of nameplate fossil-fired generators that have announced plans to retire over the decade but have yet to enter deactivation processing with the planning authorities. Combined, the confirmed and announced-potential retirements over the next 10 years total over 105 GW in peak seasonal capacity, roughly 10 GW lower than the 10-year retirement projections in the 2024 LTRA (see [Figure 6](#)). Projected retirements overall, both confirmed and unconfirmed, have shrunk from the prior year’s LTRA as reliability needs have expanded with the continued growth in anticipated large-load interconnections. The initiation of market mechanisms like capacity accreditation has also more precisely highlighted the loss-of-load risks posed by a generation mix that has increasing amounts of variable resources. Growing demand and evolving planning methodologies have highlighted the potential need to keep resources, particularly non-variable resources, on-line longer than previously anticipated.

¹⁹ Confirmed generator retirements are reported to NERC by each assessment area in this 2025 LTRA development process. NERC obtained data on announced, unconfirmed generator retirements from Energy Ventures Analysis, Inc. and from each

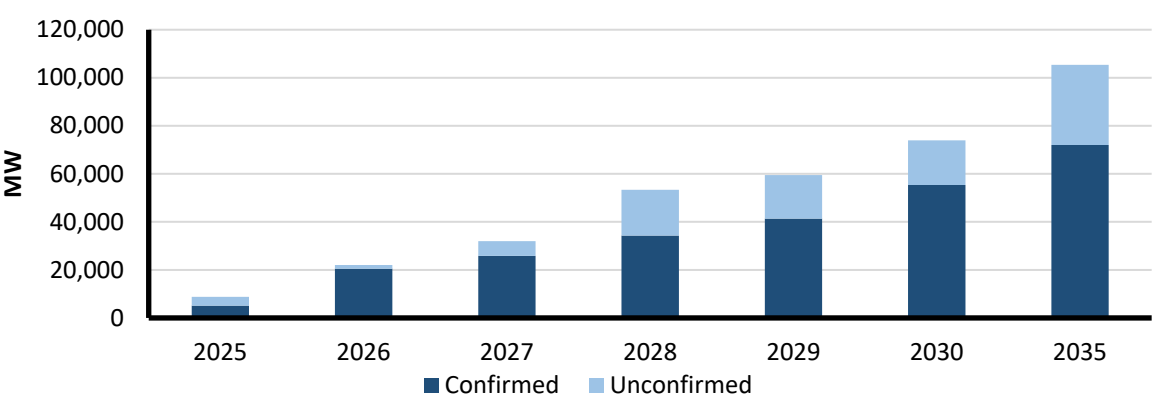


Figure 6: Projected Generation Retirement Capacity Through 2035

[Figure 7](#) shows the total capacity of reported retirements (i.e., reported to ISO/RTOs and planning entities) as well as owner-announced, unconfirmed retirements of fossil-fueled and nuclear generators across the BPS over the next 10 years in each assessment area.¹⁹ MISO continues to lead the assessment areas in the amount of projected retiring capacity at roughly 35 GW.

The yearly projections of future retirements and an assessment area view are provided in the [Risk from Additional Generator Retirements](#) section.

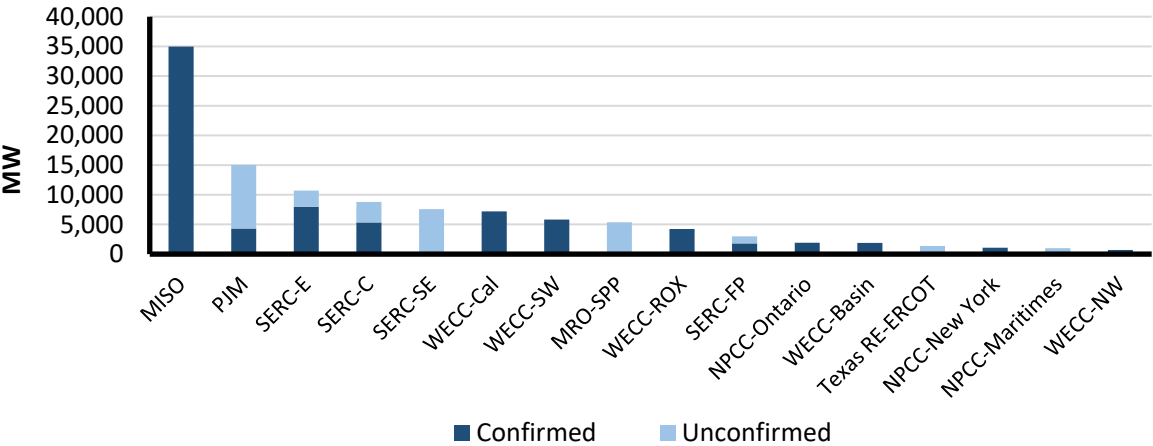


Figure 7: Projected Capacity Retirements of Nuclear and Fossil Generation 2025–2035

assessment area. Some sources of information on announced generator retirements include EIA 860 data, trade press, and utility integrated resource plans.

Reducing Resource Capacity and Energy Risk

The risk of electricity supply shortfalls in the assessment period can be lowered through the concerted efforts of resource and system planning stakeholders. The actions taken in electricity markets and regulatory jurisdictions with the improving trends noted previously provide examples of what can work: obtaining additional firm resources to meet resource adequacy targets, delaying generation retirements when reliability needs dictate, and using capacity targets and energy risk metrics based on better resource and demand models. Specific and actionable recommendations are contained in the [Executive Summary](#).

Resource Adequacy Program Attributes

Utilities, market operators, and regulators across North America are adapting their resource adequacy programs to address mounting challenges, including load growth, changing load behavior, resource mix transition, extreme weather, and evolving end-use need for electricity. NERC and industry stakeholders have recognized key resource adequacy program attributes that may become needed to address specific challenges faced by system planners and operators. [Table 15](#) includes five of these attributes and a brief description of how the attribute can be implemented. Assuring an adequate supply of electricity requires modernizing planning approaches. NERC encourages each assessment area to evaluate the program attributes needed to plan effectively for current and future challenges and implement those identified as essential.

Table 15: Resource Adequacy Program Attributes		
Attributes	Objective	Implementation
1. Uses Energy Risk Criteria	To ensure energy adequacy in systems with VER and fuel limitations, resource planners and markets need to augment existing 1-day-in-10 load-loss criteria with additional energy risk metrics.	Establish criteria based on EUE or similar energy risk metric(s).
2. Evaluates Resource Contributions at Risk Periods	As periods of shortfall risk on the system change with changing resource and demand characteristics (e.g., risks during winter and summer, peak net demand, and shoulder seasons), methods for assigning resource contributions in resource procurement and assessments must evolve.	Adopt effective load-carrying capability or other probabilistic methods for determining resource contributions during risk periods.
3. Load Forecasting Accounts for Growth Uncertainty	Future electricity demand is being influenced by the pace of electrification, industrialization, data center development, and DER adoption. Load forecasts for adequacy assessment and resource planning need to account for new growth patterns and uncertainty.	Capture the forecast drivers needed for the area and address uncertainties.
4. Considers Effect of Extreme Scenarios on Adequacy	To reduce the unique resource adequacy risks from wide-area extreme weather events, resource adequacy programs should evaluate potential system impacts and weather scenarios to mitigate risk to the BPS.	Analysis considers low-probability energy events (e.g., drought, multi-day weather patterns) and adequacy criteria include load-loss event magnitude and duration.
5. Includes Coordinated Interregional Transfer Capability	Interregional transfer capability can provide enhanced reliability and resilience and is most effective when resource adequacy programs include coordination with neighbors.	Model transfer limits and deliverability; implement processes for seams coordination.

Demand Trends and Implications

Demand and Energy Projections

Electricity peak demand and energy growth forecasts over the 10-year assessment period continue to climb higher than at any point in the past two decades. See [Figure 8](#) for seasonal peak demand growth over the current and prior assessment periods and [Figure 9](#) for net energy growth. Over the 10-year period, aggregated assessment area summer peak demand is forecast to rise by over 224 GW. This is 69% higher than last year’s 10-year growth projection of 132 GW. Winter demand growth continues to outpace summer demand growth: The 10-year aggregated winter peak demand is forecast to rise by over 245 GW, a 65% increase from last year’s 149 GW growth projection. Compound annual growth rates (CAGR) for summer and winter peak demand are the highest since NERC’s tracking started in 1995. A map of the primary demand drivers for the North American BPS is illustrated for each assessment area in [Figure 10](#).

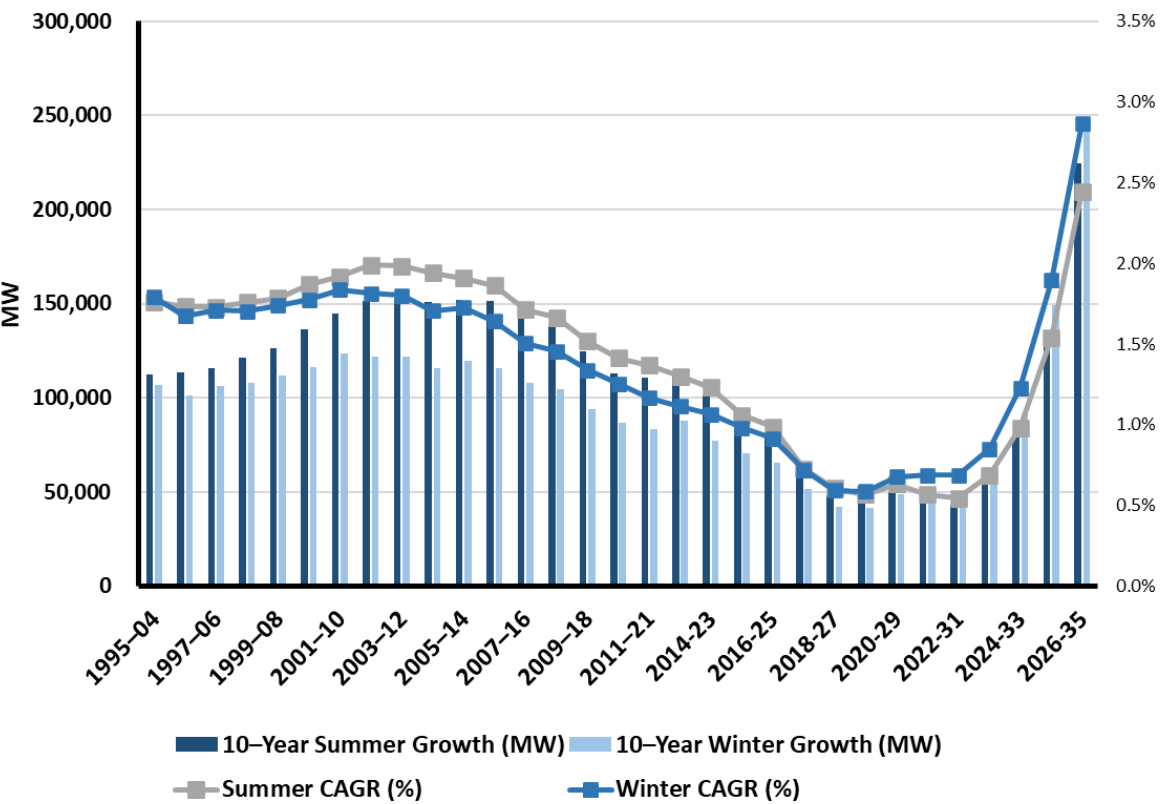


Figure 8: 10-Year Summer and Winter Peak Demand Growth and Rate Trends

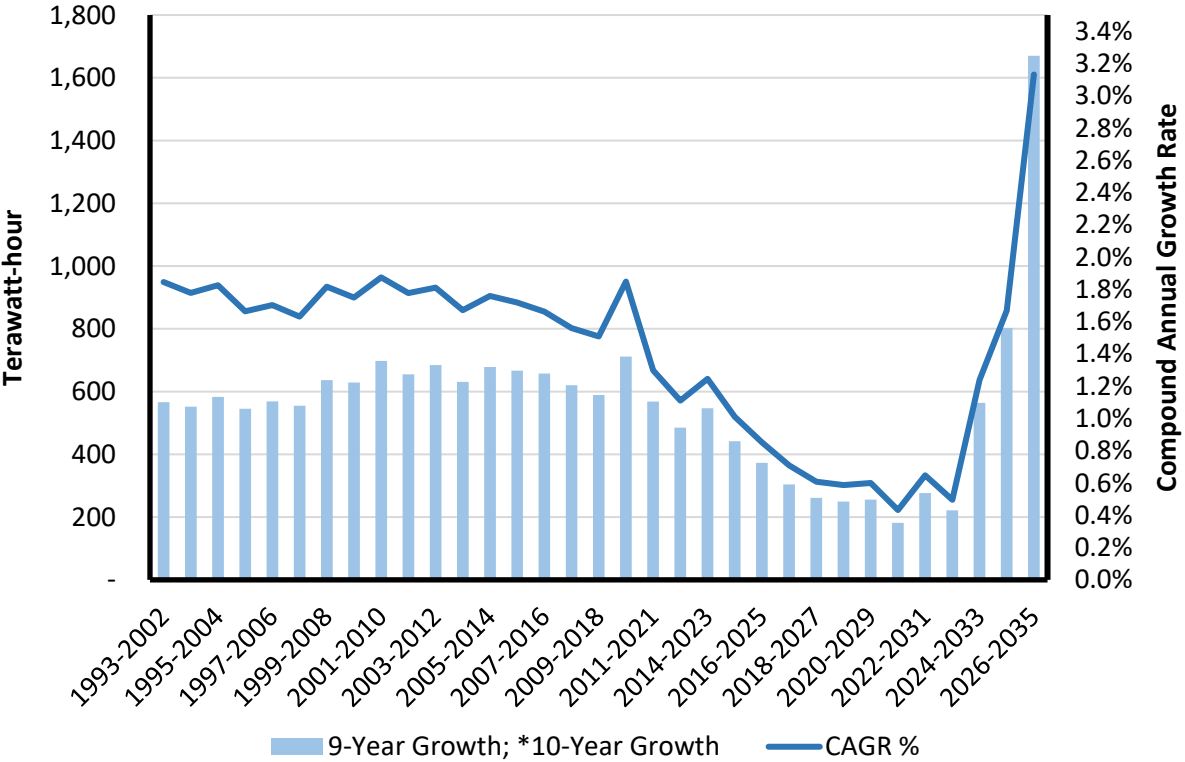


Figure 9: Net Energy for Load Growth and Rate Projections

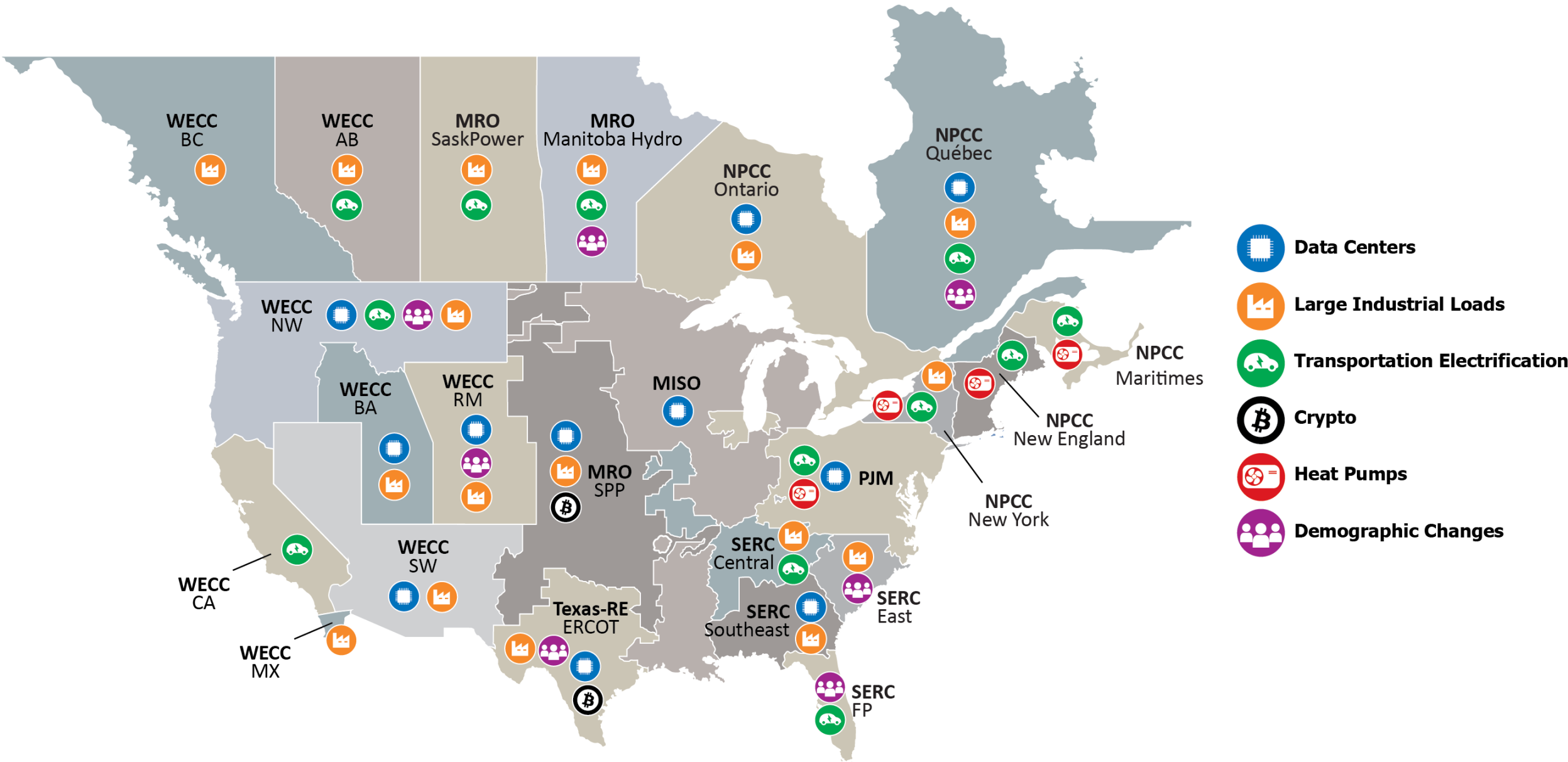


Figure 10: Primary Demand Drivers by Assessment Area

Data Centers and Large Commercial and Industrial Loads

New data centers for artificial intelligence and the digital economy account for most of the projected increase in North American electricity demand over the next 10 years. These and other large commercial and industrial loads are connecting rapidly to the BPS. The emerging large loads present unique challenges to forecasting and planning for increased demand.

Load forecasts collected by NERC for the 2025 LTRA reveal the massive build-out of data centers in many parts of North America. Texas, PJM, and the WECC assessment areas are reporting steep demand increases due primarily to new data centers and large loads. BAs within WECC reported that planned data centers account for an average of 10% of demand, with some BAs reporting as high as 40% of the demand forecast. See Figure 11 and Figure 12 for projections in ERCOT and most WECC assessment areas, respectively.

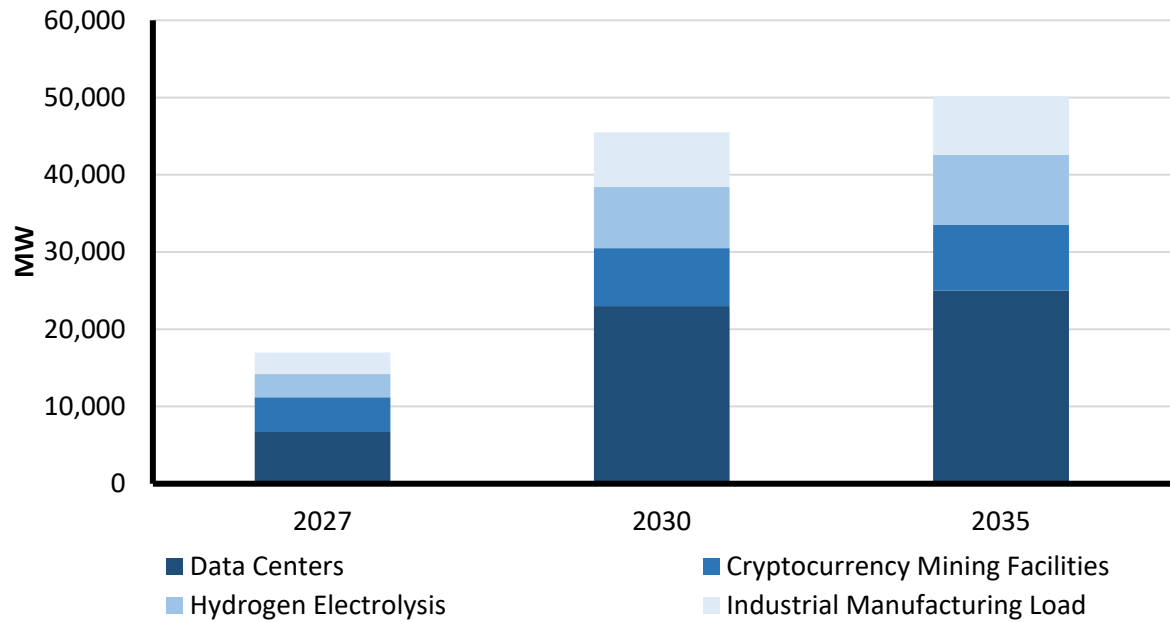


Figure 11: Large-Load Projection Breakdown in ERCOT

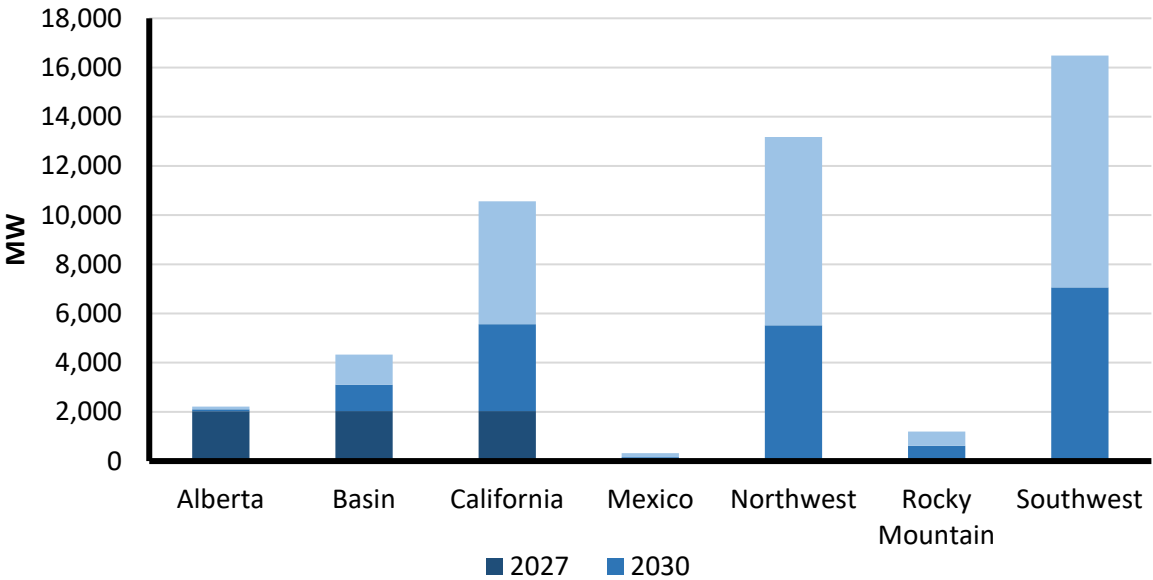


Figure 12: Large-Load Projection by Year in WECC Assessment Areas

Demand forecasts and large load projections throughout the LTRA are based on LSE and BPS system planner forecasts. LSE load forecasts are based on information from the interconnection process and agreements between utilities and owners of connecting loads, such as facility peak demand, load flexibility, and some operating characteristics. To be counted in load forecasting, data center projects have advanced from speculative and exploratory stages into development commitments necessary to drive grid planning studies. Consequently, data center and large load growth forecasts in the LTRA are likely to be more conservative than predictions from the technology industry or from economic, research, academic, and policy organizations.

In Texas, fluctuations in recent large-load interconnections activity continue to affect both near- and long-term demand expectations. Utilities and system operators are also gaining insights from large-load development and operating behaviors and applying them to future forecasts. Several projects have slowed or failed to materialize within the shorter-term horizon, while interconnection requests for later years continue to increase. New data center demand projections in Texas are reduced by almost 50% of their original requested load level to reflect the observed consumption behavior of existing data center sites during their initial operations. ERCOT also slashes most new large loads that have yet to enter a contract for transmission service from its long-term demand forecast and adjusts

expected in-service dates to account for historical delays. Similarly, PJM is refining processes for large load forecasting starting with its 2026 load forecast.²⁰

There is already evidence that large loads impact BPS reliability. For example, the Eastern and ERCOT Interconnections have observed load-reduction events²¹ with each Interconnection experiencing approximately 1,500 MW of voltage-sensitive load reduction. The event in the Eastern Interconnection was primarily attributed to data centers and other power electronic loads (PEL) transferring load to backup generation and caused frequency overshoot and high voltages. The ERCOT Interconnection event involved many different types of loads of varying size reducing consumption during an extended low-voltage period in West Texas due to a protection system misoperation. These load-reduction events highlight some of the potential risks posed by large loads utilizing the BPS and why NERC is closely examining this issue. NERC’s RSTC established a Large Loads Task Force (LLTF)²² to better understand the reliability implications of growth in large loads and develop solutions. The LLTF published the white paper *Characteristics and Risks of Emerging Large Loads*²³ in 2025, and another white paper, *Assessment of Gaps in Existing Practices, Requirements, and Reliability Standards for Emerging Large Loads*, is forthcoming.²⁴

Electrification and Demand Growth

Electrification of household appliances (e.g., heat pumps for household heating) and projections for electric vehicle growth over this assessment period are components of the demand and energy estimates provided by each assessment area. Since the 2024 LTRA, peak season CAGR has risen in all assessment areas except five: MRO-Manitoba Hydro’s winter CAGR fell from 1.79% to 1.37%, MRO-SaskPower’s winter CAGR fell from 1.32% to 0.89%, NPCC-New England’s summer CAGR from 1.28% to 1.05%, NPCC-New York’s summer CAGR from 0.87% to 0.84%, and SERC-East’s summer CAGR fell from 1.88% to 1.17%. Rising peak demand forecasts are contributing to the lower reserve margins projected for nearly all assessment areas.

Peak Season Transition

Some of the sharpest peak demand forecast increases and growth rates can be seen in winter seasons as electrification in heating systems and transportation influence forecasts. Dual-peaking or changing from summer to winter peaking is anticipated in several areas, including the U.S. Southeast and Northeast. Electrification of heating systems and the anticipated growth of electric vehicles (which are expected to charge overnight and coincide with periods of electricity demand for heating) are driving factors. Such changes have wide-ranging implications for how the grid and resources are

planned and operated. For example, resource output and fuel risks are significantly different in winter, requiring the focus of resource adequacy processes to change. The following are the areas that anticipate a change from summer-peaking systems to winter-peaking (or dual-season peaking) systems and the approximate year of the transition:

- NPCC-New England (mid-2030s)
- NPCC-New York (late-2030s)
- NPCC-Ontario (2030; dual-season peaking)
- Texas RE-ERCOT (2035)

In the U.S. Southeast, SERC-Central and SERC-East became dual-peaking systems in recent years. SERC-Southeast recently began experiencing slightly higher peak demand in winter compared to summer. In Canada, WECC-Alberta has been operating as a dual-peaking system.

Demand Response

Demand-side management programs are growing for many assessments areas. DR is one form of demand-side management. It consists of mainly commercial and industrial end users that have entered into agreements with load-serving entities to curtail demand when needed by grid operators. DR can assist with reducing load during critical periods of increased demand, such as heat waves or winter storms. Figure 13, Figure 14, and Figure 15 show the increasing projections for DR in the first year of the forecast for the past five LTRA reports in Texas RE-ERCOT, NPCC-Québec, and NPCC-New York, respectively. Other forms of demand-side management include EE and conservation programs administered by utilities. The reported contributions from DR, EE, and conservation programs reduce total electricity demand in load forecasts and provide reliability benefits that are accounted in LTRA reserve margin calculations and the ProbAs.

²⁰ Planned revisions to PJM’s treatment of large load forecasts from PJM’s Load Analysis Subcommittee: [20250613-item-03--large-load-adjustment-process-improvement-discussion.pdf](#)
²¹ “Incident Review - Considering Simultaneous Voltage-Sensitive Load Reductions,” NERC, Jan. 2025. Available: https://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Documents/Incident_Review_Large_Load_Loss.pdf

²² NERC Large Loads Task Force webpage: [Large Loads Task Force \(LLTF\)](#)
²³ The LLTF’s *Characteristics and Risks of Emerging Large Loads* White Paper
²⁴ The LLTF’s [action plan](#) is updated regularly and contains links to white papers, guidance, and presentations.

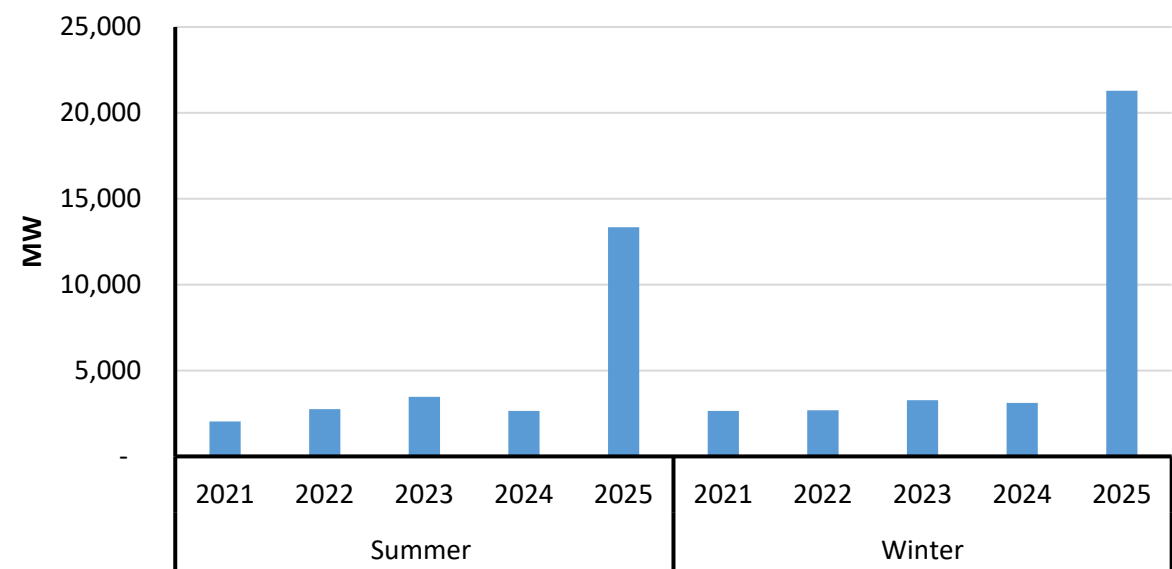


Figure 13: Texas RE-ERCOT Demand-Response Trend in Past Five LTRAs (Year 1)

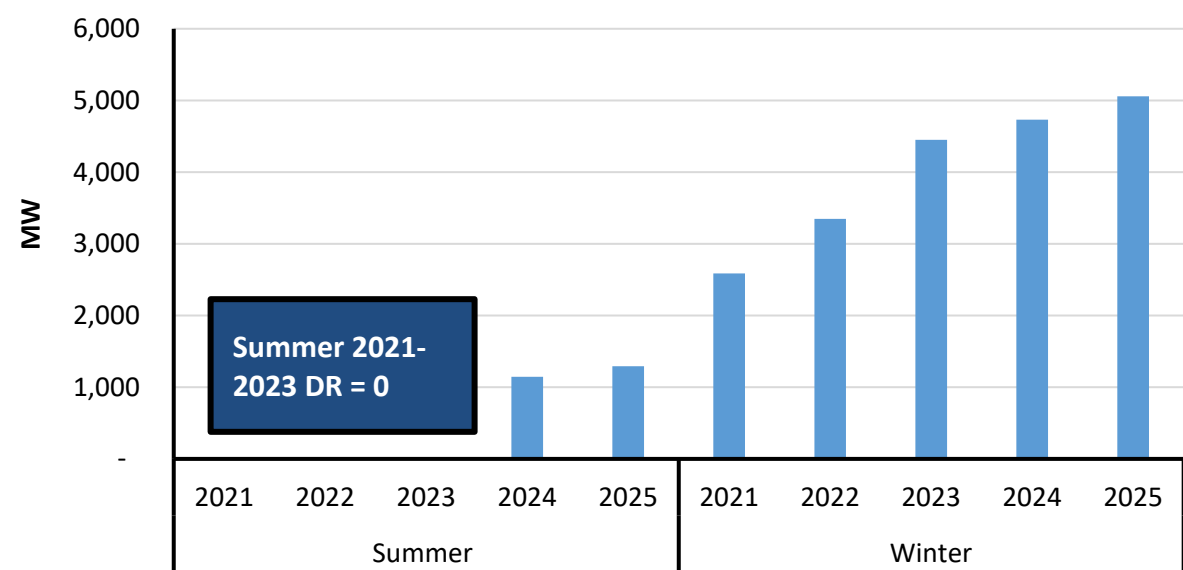


Figure 14: NPCC-Québec Demand-Response Trend in Past Five LTRAs (Year 1)

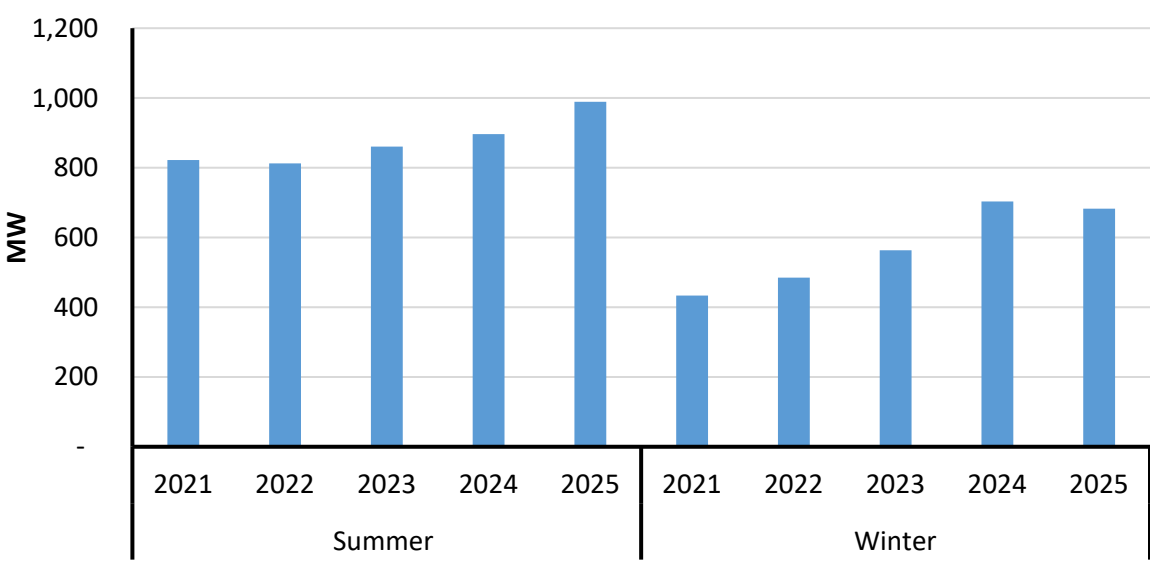


Figure 15: NPCC-New York Demand-Response Trend in Past Five LTRAs (Year 1)

Reliability Implications

Demand and energy growth projections in this assessment period provide both challenges and opportunities for electric grid reliability. Planning for resource and transmission adequacy requires accurate long-term forecasting, but future demand and energy use will be influenced by many factors, including the economy, energy policies, technology development, weather, and consumer preferences. Changing patterns in electricity use, load behavior, and DER performance affect the accuracy of operational load forecasts that are essential to grid operators. Large flexible loads and demand-side management programs hold promise for peak load management capabilities that can reduce the risk of firm load interruption.

Anticipating large commercial and industrial loads, electrification, electric vehicle adoption, and the impacts of energy transition programs on future demand and energy needs will require even more focus for planners and operators. Peak demand forecast changes in the past year noticeably affected resource adequacy for many areas. A confluence of factors (economic, energy policies, technology development, and consumer preferences) has the potential to fuel continued growth.

Resource Mix Changes

On-peak resource capacity increased approximately 6.2 GW across the interconnected North American BPS over the last year. This is down from approximately 8.3 GW of net on-peak capacity additions reported a year ago in the *2024 LTRA*. Net capacity from fossil-fueled generators continued to decline at a rapid pace over the last year with approximately 21 GW leaving the system. Continent-wide, net BPS additions of battery, wind, and solar resources totaled 23 GW over the last year (see [Table 16](#)).

Table 16: Existing BPS Resource On-Peak Capacity			
Resource Type	2024 Capacity (MW)	2025 Capacity (MW)	Difference (MW)
Coal	180,402	166,799	– 13,603
Petroleum	30,987	27,931	– 3,056
Natural Gas	484,148	479,901	– 4,247
Biomass	7,381	7,181	– 200
Solar	66,293	70,723	+ 4,430
Wind	31,370	35,121	+ 3,751
Geothermal	3,881	2,932	– 949
Conventional Hydro	105,792	111,117	+ 5,325
Run-of-River Hydro	2,047	2,017	– 30
Pumped Storage	19,422	19,734	+ 312
Nuclear	105,384	105,389	+ 5
Hybrid	1,322	1,102	– 220
Other	774	830	+ 56
Battery	8,587	23,267	+ 14,680
Total	1,047,790	1,068,514	+ 6,254

Like last year, the anticipated BPS generating capacity (i.e., capacity from existing generation + expected additions – expected generator retirements) fell short of industry projections reported in the LTRA, furthering the concerns that accelerating peak demand growth is continuing to outpace the supply resources.

Figure 16 compares this year's existing and Tier 1 nameplate and on-peak capacity against the actual current capacities derived from data collected for this year's LTRA. Bars that cross the 100% line represent resources with actual additions exceeding projections from 2024, and bars that fall to the left of the 100% line represent resource types with actual additions less than projected in 2024.

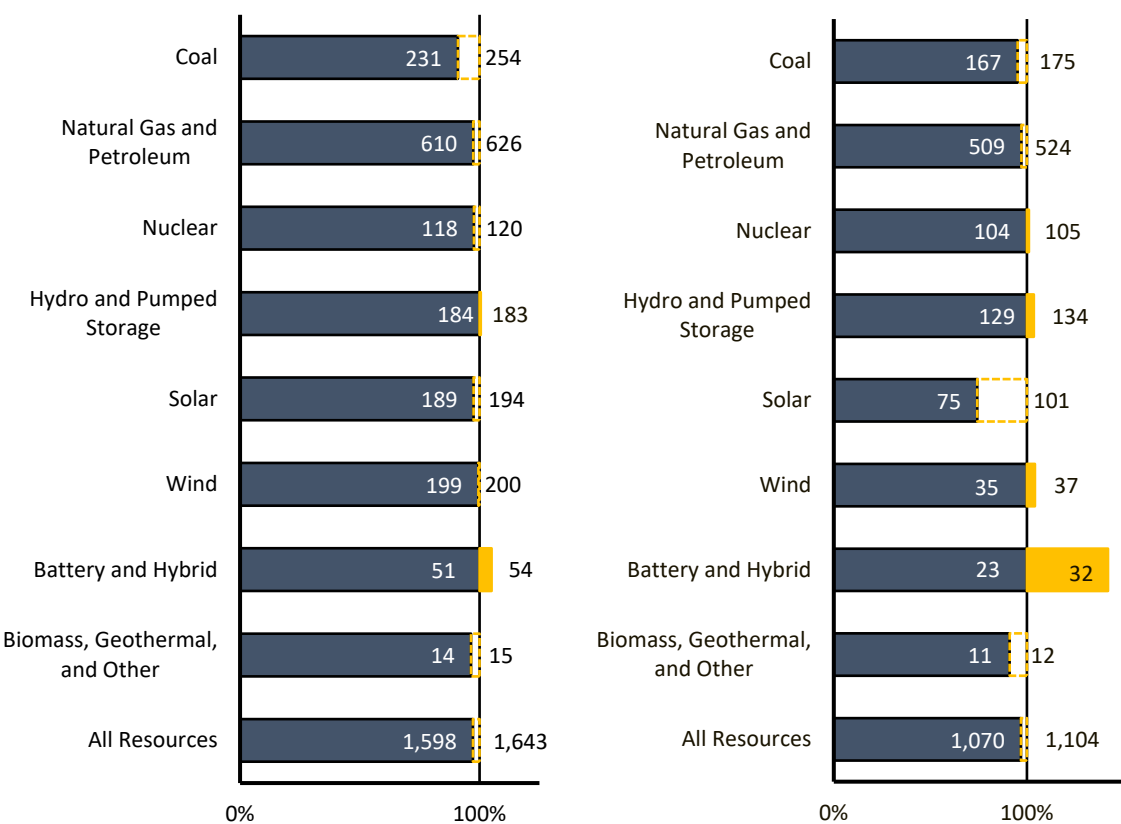


Figure 16: Comparison of North America's 2025 Existing and Tier 1 Nameplate (Left) and On-Peak (Right) Capacities in GW to 2024 LTRA Projections

Continuing the trend from last year, battery energy storage systems were added to the system faster than expected, while coal, natural gas and petroleum, and solar resources were once again over-projected. As coal capacity continued its decline because of plant retirements and age-related derating, its over-projection from last year means that it left the system faster than anticipated in 2025.

Notably, the capacity contribution of VERs, including solar, wind, battery, and some types of hydroelectric generation, to serving load at peak demand differs from the nameplate, or installed capacity. The right plot in **Figure 16** above includes a complementary view to the on-peak projections using nameplate capacity to accommodate different capacity accounting methods. Both 2025 on-peak and nameplate solar was over-projected across the North American BPS last year. These over-

projections continue to support electric industry reports of construction delays and project withdrawals prior to commercial operations that prevented the expected interconnection of new resources.

Planned On-Peak Capacity Additions

New resources are added to the BPS through each area’s interconnection planning process. Entities have expressed concerns that the pace of resource additions has been too slow to meet demand growth and future retirements in the existing generator fleet. [Figure 16](#) above highlights that industry participants are expecting peak demand growth of nearly 250 GW over the next 10 years because of accelerating demand for a variety of electricity users. Planning for such explosive growth and the uncertainty about its magnitude and timing is a complicated challenge for system planners.

[Figure 17](#) illustrates the planned on-peak capacity additions and subtractions across the North American BPS over the next 10 years. Additions are illustrated by the positive portions of the stacked columns and include both Tier 1 and Tier 2 additions. In general, Tier 1 resources are in the final stages for connection, while Tier 2 resources are further from completion (see [Demand Assumptions and Resource Categories](#)). Some projects that are in the earlier stages of the interconnection queue process will be withdrawn before completion due to supply chain issues, planning and siting challenges, and business or economic factors. Deratings and retirements of the existing fleet are stacked in the negative Y direction with diagonal hatching patterns.

To keep up with forecasted demand growth and generator retirements, planned resources with interconnection agreements will need to come in on time, and additional resources in development must mature through the interconnection process quickly (see [Figure 18](#)). The on-peak capacity of approved resource additions found in integrated resource plans (IRP) and ISO/RTO expansion plans through 2028 is able to keep pace with the aggregated peak demand forecasts of all NERC assessment areas. Beyond 2028, new approvals for resource additions are required to maintain robust growth. Furthermore, additional generation is needed to make up for capacity lost to generator retirements. Considering the generator retirements depicted in [Figure 17](#), there are only approximately 60 GW of net additions planned in the most certain Tier 1 category over the next 10 years. Another 190 GW of Tier 2 or other resources (70% of Tier 2’s 10-year total) would need to complete the interconnection planning process and reach commercial operations to meet the expected demand growth, illustrating the pressure on resource and system planning to rapidly add resources. DR programs, EE improvements, and transmission development to enable interregional transfers that take advantage of geographic diversity can also support growing demand.

To respond to this urgent need for new resources, independent system operators and regional transmission organizations have been developing new market structures and products to retain

capacity and expedite interconnection of new generation and storage. Three such programs established by ISO/RTOs are PJM’s [Reliability Resource Initiative](#), MISO’s [ERAS](#) process, and SPP’s [Expedited Resource Adequacy Study](#).

In a shift from a key insight from the 2024 LTRA, solar PV is no longer the sole, predominant generation type planned over the next 10 years. New battery resource projects have grown to match solar projections, and together, solar and battery capacity additions represent two-thirds of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 resources in this year’s 10-year LTRA study period. Natural-gas-fired generator additions represent 15% of the projected capacity additions followed by wind and hybrid at 8% each. While interconnection queues continue to swell, considerable uncertainty surrounds the timing and amount of resource additions. Overall, on-peak resource capacity in Tier 1 and Tier 2 has grown only modestly since the 2024 LTRA by 7 GW (1.7%) as compared to a year-over-year growth of 44 GW last year.

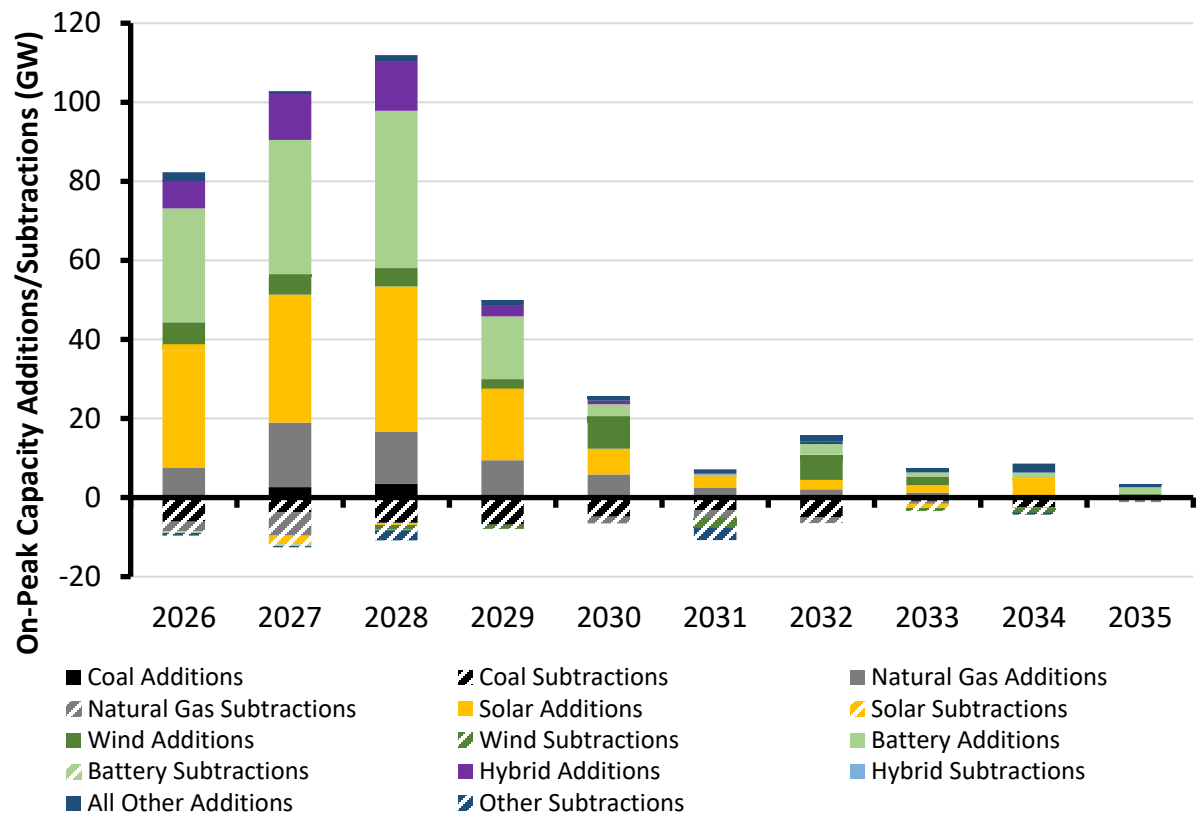


Figure 17: Projected Annual On-Peak Capacity Additions and Subtractions by Resource Type and Net Cumulative Capacity Changes

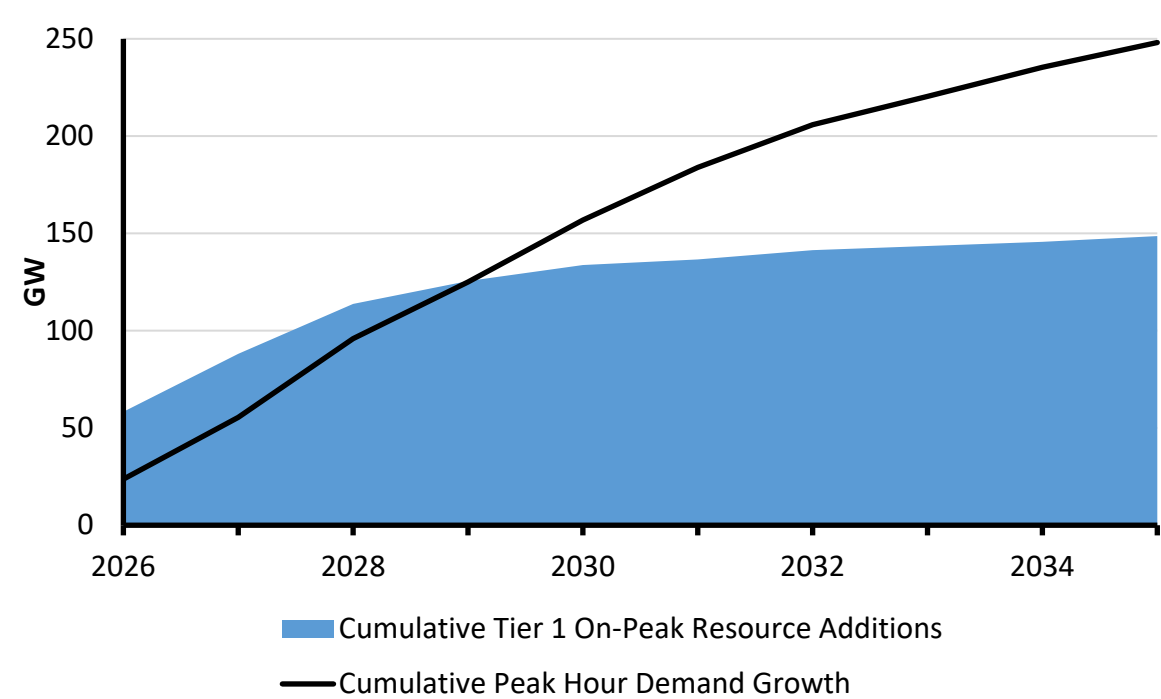


Figure 18: Expected BPS Resource Additions (Tier 1) and Aggregated BPS Peak Demand Growth Through 2035

Increasing On-Peak Share of Variable Resources

Year-over-year increases in the fraction of on-peak capacity provided by VERs—run-of-river hydro, solar, and wind—have continued since the 2024 LTRA with VER on-peak contributions increasing from 9.5% to 10.2%. This observed trend is projected to continue through 2035 with shares of on-peak VER capacity projected to rise to between 15% and 20% depending on the completion and interconnection of Tier 1 and Tier 2 resources. [Figure 19](#) shows existing on-peak capacity by resource type for 2024 and 2025 along with projected on-peak capacity by resource type for 2035 with Tier 1 and Tier 2 additions. Resource types with on-peak shares less than 5% are not labeled with their contribution fraction but are stacked in the graphic.

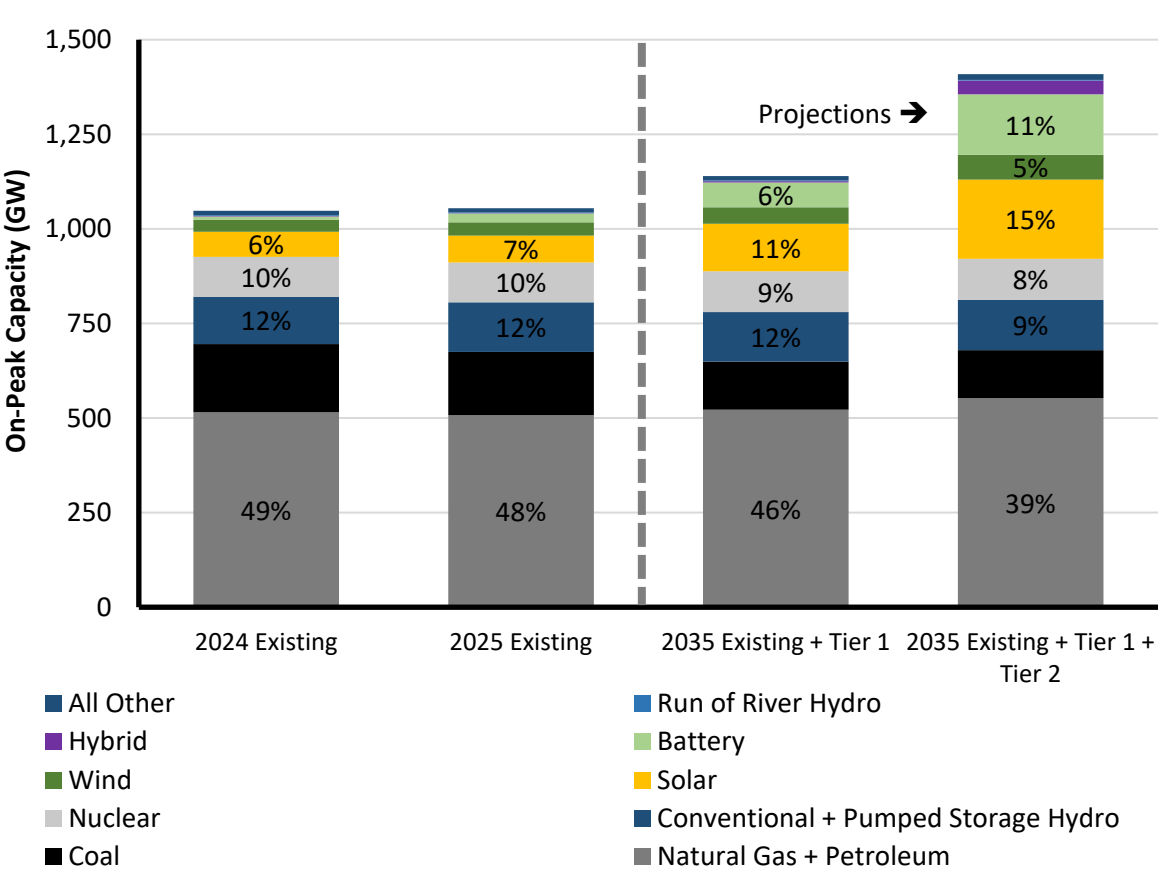


Figure 19: North America On-Peak Capacity Shares by Resource Type

Like last year, a relatively small change in total on-peak capacity was observed, but the continued trend of increasing VER share highlights that important reliability attributes continue to leave the system. Non-variable generation—including coal, petroleum, natural gas, biomass, geothermal, conventional hydro, and nuclear—as well as hybrid or storage systems can ramp up or down in response to demand. Non-variable resources can also provide other ERSs like system inertia, dynamic reactive support, and frequency response for stable grid operation. Many of the variable resources that are being added to the grid to replace non-variable resources cannot provide the same ERSs in their current configuration. This deficiency is amplified in the winter when on-peak contributions from variable resources are diminished by changing weather and environmental conditions.

System Frequency Response Analysis

Despite lower inertia from retiring synchronous generators and greater penetration of inverter-based resources, all four Interconnections expect adequate, diverse frequency response capabilities and a low risk of under-frequency load shedding (UFLS) activation. In preparing the 2025 LTRA, NERC worked with the Regional Entities and system planners to assess the frequency response capability of the projected resource mix through 2027 on an Interconnection basis. The findings are summarized in Table 17.

Table 17: Measures of Frequency Response		
Measure	What it Measures	Summary Assessment Findings
Synchronous Inertial Response (Measure 1)	The minimum inertial response amount (total stored kinetic energy) projected in each Interconnection	Despite the retirement of synchronous generation over the past eight years, there appears to be more than sufficient inertia within all Interconnections. ERCOT’s use of load response to respond to frequency disruptions is effective in supporting low-inertia conditions.
Rate of Change of Frequency (Measure 2)	The calculated rate of frequency decline within the first 0.5 seconds following the largest credible contingency	No negative trends identified. Texas RE-ERCOT studies show that load response is extremely effective in arresting frequency due to its ability to perform very quickly.
Frequency Response Performance (Measure 4)	Simulated dynamic behavior of an Interconnection’s response to the largest credible contingency	Simulations in both the Eastern and Western Interconnection show sufficient frequency response in future planning cases.

The results of analysis for each Interconnection are in Table 18. Non-synchronous resources have increased in all Interconnections since the last LTRA frequency response analysis in 2022. Each interconnection continues to project sufficient frequency response ERSs in the near term and have low likelihood of UFLS activation during a disturbance. These results were determined by dynamic

²⁵ EIPC Frequency Response Report

²⁶ 42.9% is the penetration of utility-scale non-synchronous generation. The Western Interconnection has a significant amount of DERs that are also non-synchronous. When DERs are included, the non-synchronous penetration was 54.9%.

²⁷ ERCOT procures responsive reserve service to protect from involuntary under frequency load shed after loss of two largest generating units at a single plant (2,805 MW). In March 2020, a new subproduct of responsive reserve service was

studies performed for the Eastern, Western, and Québec Interconnections and analysis of operational procedures for the Texas Interconnection.

Table 18: Summary of the Results of NERC Frequency Response Sufficiency Assessment				
Interconnection	Highest Non-Synchronous Penetration at Minimum Inertia Studied	Number of Critical Inertia Conditions Reached?	Lowest Frequency Nadir Observed in Planning Studies	Likelihood of Credible Disturbance Resulting in UFLS Activation
Eastern Interconnection	17.9% ²⁵	0	59.93 Hz	Low
Western Interconnection	42.9% ²⁶	0	59.65 Hz	Low
Texas Interconnection	65.7%	0	N/A	Low ²⁷
Québec Interconnection	37%	0	N/A	Low

Increasing Natural Gas Reliance

In 2024, natural-gas-fired power plants generated approximately 43.4% of all electricity generated in the United States, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, up from 43.2% in 2023. As of August 2025, natural-gas-fired power plants in the United States are on track to generate a slightly smaller share of electricity this year in comparison to last year, but accelerating energy demand through the remainder of the year and projected increases in net energy for load over the next 10 years indicate that natural-gas-fired generators will remain critical resources for BPS reliability in many areas.

Natural-gas-fired generators are especially important during the winter. Winter peak electricity demand in most areas occurs during early morning hours when unavailability of weather-dependent resources leads to a surge in natural-gas-fired generation’s share of the resource mix. Severe winter weather events in 2021 and 2022 provide stark evidence of the critical nature of natural gas as a generator fuel and the importance of secure fuel supplies during times of extreme electricity demand.

introduced, FFR, which is triggered at 59.85 Hz within 0.25 seconds. Up to 450 MW of FFR can be procured as a part of responsive reserve service. This product is still going through implementation stages due to required changes to ERCOT systems.

Overall, 13 out of 23 assessment areas are adding capacity to their fleet of natural-gas-fired power plants over the next 10 years, amounting to slightly more than 12 GW of new natural-gas-fired winter capacity if only the most certain Tier 1 resources come on-line. That number jumps to 41 GW of new natural-gas-fired winter capacity if both Tier 1 and Tier 2 resources come on-line (see [Figure 20](#)). Importantly, the vast majority of natural-gas-fired Tier 1 and Tier 2 additions—11 to 39 GW—are projected to come on-line in the next five years.

The timing and magnitude of natural-gas-fired generator additions remains uncertain in today’s energy system planning environment. Multiple areas are conducting expedited resource assessments and interconnection process reforms with goals of adding more generator capacity to the grid over the next few years to meet rapidly accelerating electricity demands, particularly due to large-load addition. The early project submissions and selections from these programs indicate that actual natural-gas-fired additions may exceed previous industry projections in some areas. For instance, PJM Interconnection’s [Reliability Resource Initiative](#) has led to the selection of approximately 8 GW of natural-gas-fired generator uprates and additions out of the nearly 17 GW of natural-gas-fired projects submitted for consideration. Round one selections for MISO’s [ERAS](#) include approximately 4 GW of natural-gas-fired additions out of the 20 GW submitted to date, and SPP’s *Expedited Resource Adequacy Study* includes approximately 9 GW of natural-gas-fired winter capacity additions in its interconnection queue. Most of these expedited additions that have been selected across all three programs have applied to come on-line before 2030.

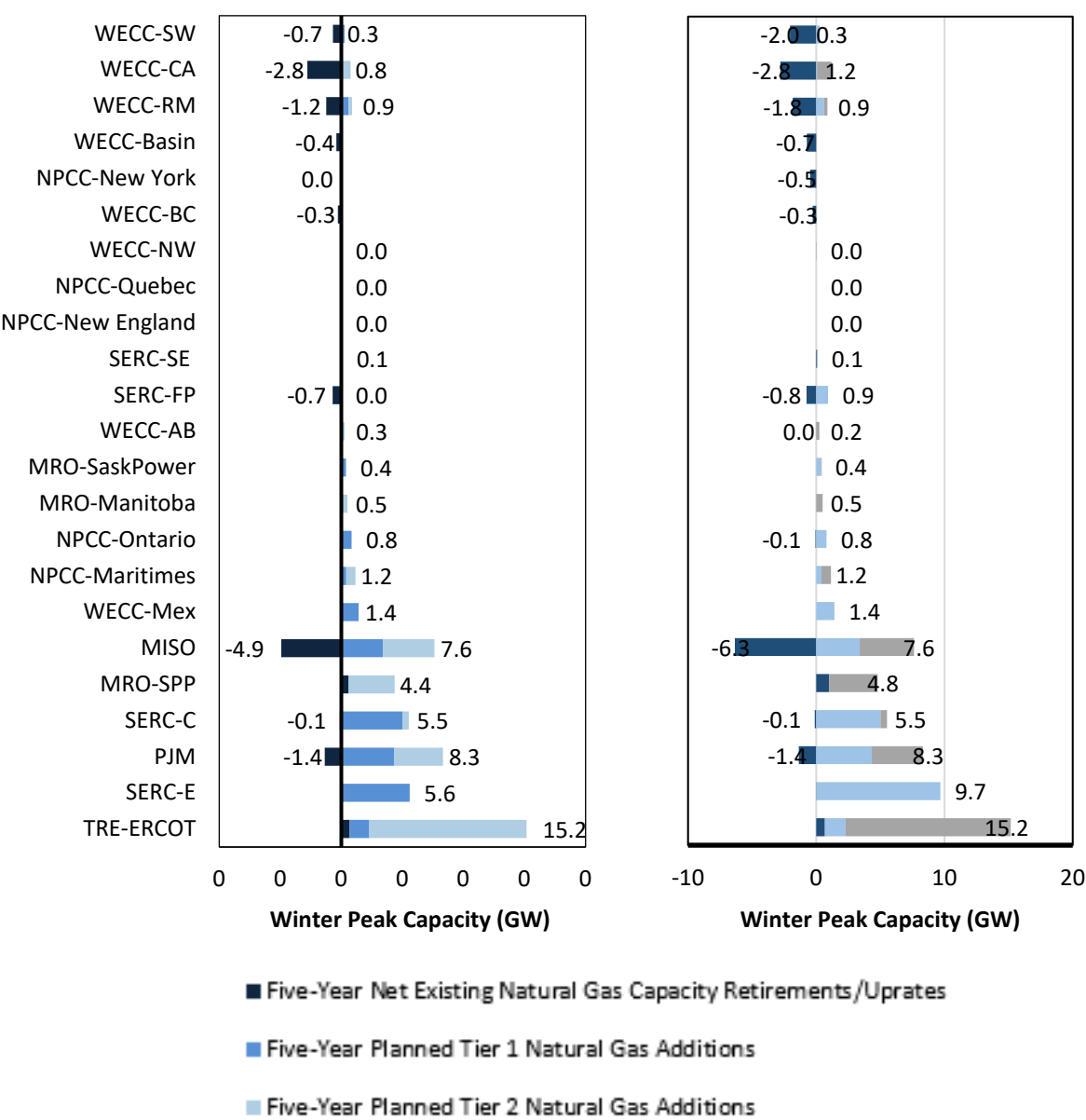


Figure 20: 5-Year (Left) and 10-Year (Right) Projected Natural-Gas-Fired Winter Capacity Additions by NERC Assessment Area

Natural Gas Infrastructure Development

Natural gas system planners have increasingly been coordinating with electric system planners to prepare for large additions to the natural-gas-fired power plant fleet. However, processes, regulations, and financial mechanisms that underpin capital investments and expansion of the natural gas pipeline and production system at times do not align with the variable operations of critical natural-gas-fired generators. For these reasons, among others, a significant percentage of natural-gas-fired power plants continue to rely on interruptible, or non-firm, supply and transportation arrangements. Non-firm natural gas supply and transportation is generally sufficient for electric generators most of the year. However, during extreme cold weather, demand for natural gas for both electricity generation and space heating can both dramatically increase. In these instances, generators that lack firm supply and transport arrangements are at risk of fuel unavailability. When winter weather also impacts gas production facilities, the resulting imbalance in pipeline injections and withdrawals can imperil even firm pipeline customers’ supply as preparatory linepack is rapidly depleted.

There is a possibility that generators in the areas that are adding the most gas resources—MISO, MRO-SPP, PJM, SERC-C, SERC-E, and TRE-ERCOT—could secure additional firm fuel supplies from natural gas system projects planned or proposed over the next decade. Figure 21 shows the amount of incremental natural gas pipeline capacity with in-service dates spanning the next five years. In total, S&P Global Energy projects that roughly 45 BCF/day of incremental natural gas pipeline capacity created by additional compression, expansions, pipeline repurposing, new pipelines, or reversal of flow directions will be built over the next decade. About one-third of this incremental capacity has gained regulatory approval and moved into the more formal stages of project development. Of the 15 BCF/day of regulatory approved gas pipeline capacity additions, only 5 BCF/day is planned to serve natural gas demand in the states outside of the Gulf Coast region.

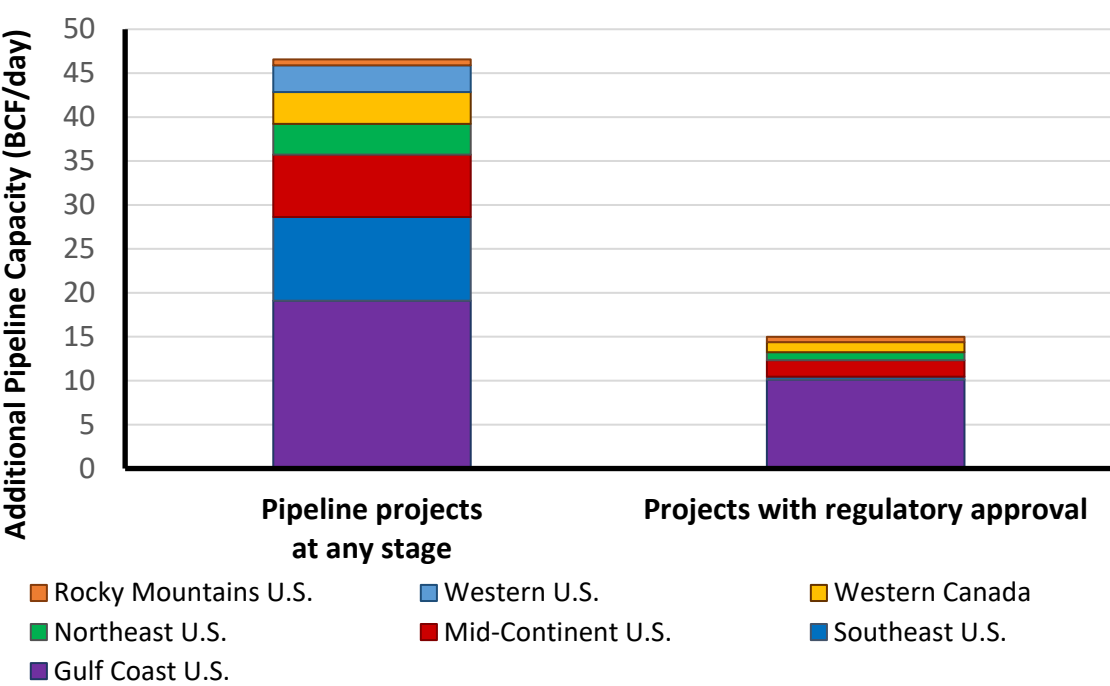


Figure 21: Projected Natural Gas Pipeline Capacity Expansion Projects by Project Stage (Source: S&P Global Energy)

The nearly 40 GW of natural-gas-fired winter capacity additions in the six areas adding the most gas resources could consume as much as 6–11 BCF/day of natural gas during a peak winter day after factoring plant type, efficiency, and whether the generator designated by its grid operator as a critical on-peak resource. While enough incremental pipeline additions to support this anticipated increase in gas demand seem to be moving through the natural gas project development process in those regions (see [Figure 22](#)), generators will need to compete with other pipeline customers for firm supply and delivery during periods of high gas demand. The magnitude of gas pipeline capacity additions suggests that there may be promising opportunities for generators to procure firm gas pipeline and supply contracts, but regulatory approval does not assure construction or commercial operation. In addition, if firm gas contracts cannot be secured for coincident high gas and electricity demand periods, like winter, ongoing critical generator projects might need to consider backup fuel capabilities so that they can assure fuel availability.

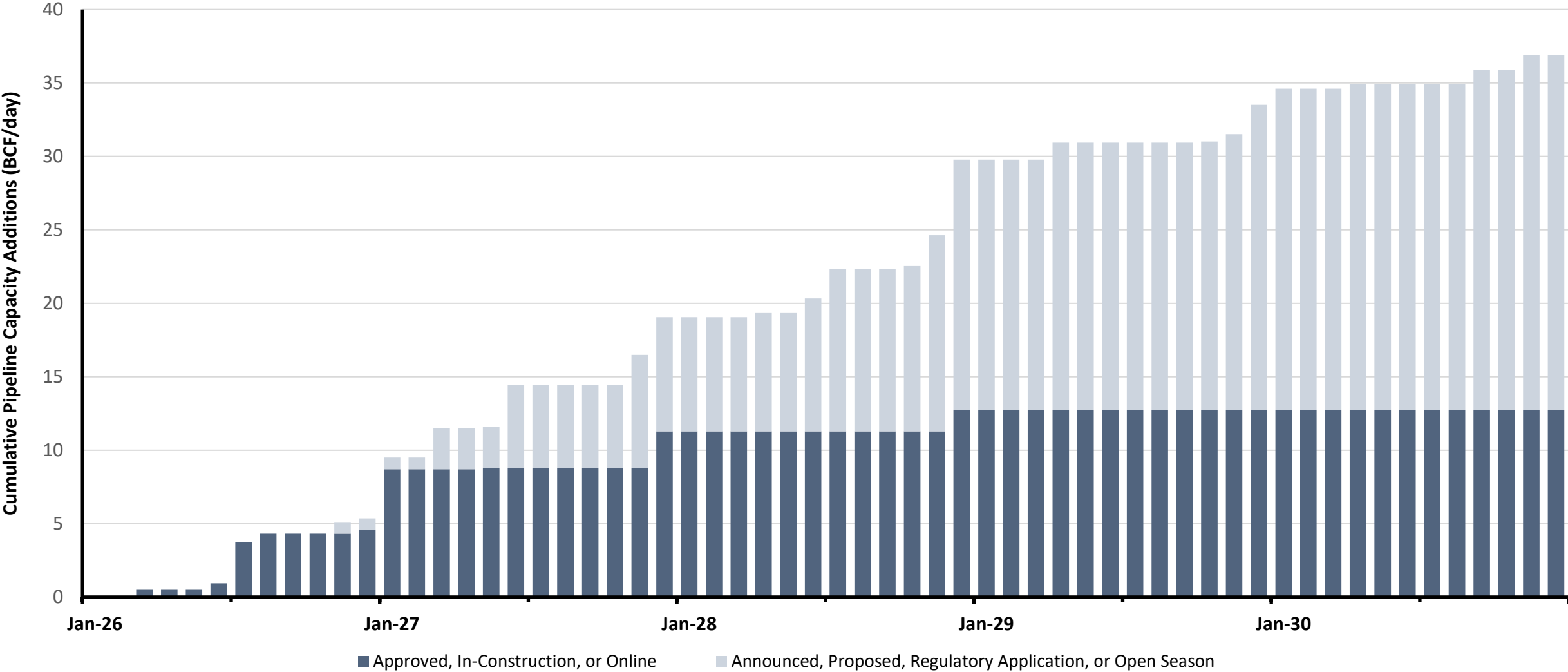


Figure 22: Projected Natural Gas Pipeline Capacity Expansion Projects Ending in MISO, PJM, SERC-C, SERC-E, SPP, and TRE-ERCOT Areas (Source: S&P Global Energy)

Transmission Development and Interregional Transfer Capability

Transmission Projects

This year’s cumulative level of 41,000 miles (66,000 km) of transmission (>100 kV) under construction or in various stages of development for the next 10 years (see [Figure 23](#)) is substantially higher than the 2024 LTRA 10-year projections (28,275 miles or 45,504 km). Transmission in construction has yet to increase substantially; rather, the large increase in transmission projects is seen in planning phases.

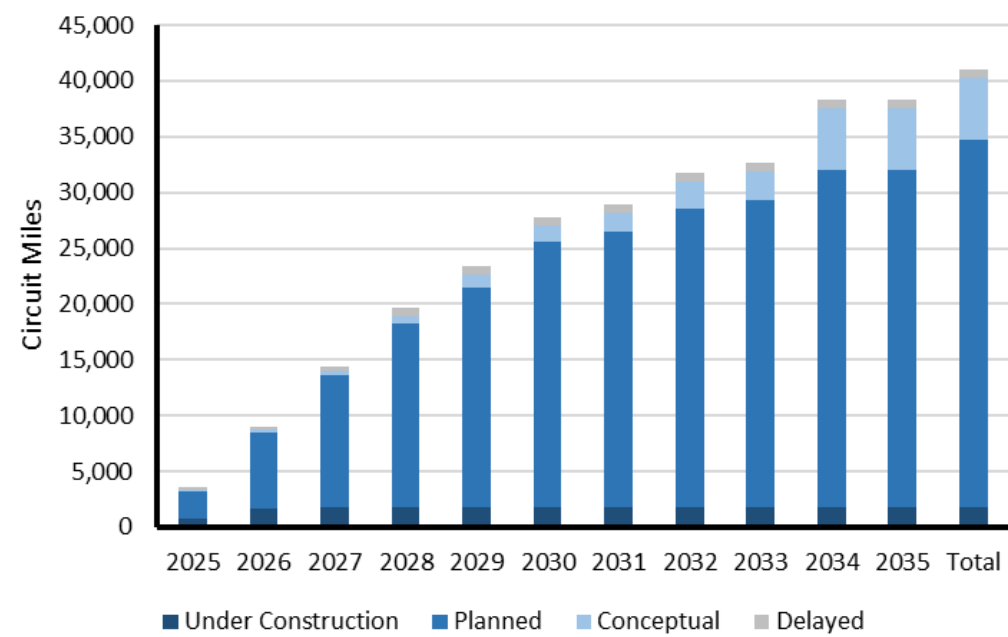


Figure 23: Future Transmission Circuit Miles >100 kV by Project Status²⁸

Transmission flow patterns are changing and becoming more dynamic with resource shifts. New transmission projects are being driven by reliability, which includes efforts to replace aging infrastructure, integrate renewable generation, retire existing power plants, or meet increased demand forecasts. One such example is Hydro-Québec’s plan to add significant new generating capacity by 2035, which necessitates several major EHV transmission projects. Similarly, several PCs have recently approved, or are actively contemplating, expansive EHV overlays on their systems to

²⁸ The column at right is the total transmission projects reported to NERC and includes projects that did not specify an expected in-service date.

address a variety of needs, including ERCOT, SPP, MISO, PJM, British Columbia, and IESO. [Figure 24](#) shows the percentage of future transmission circuit miles by primary driver. Most projects reported this year have been initiated for the purpose of grid reliability, which generally includes transmission projects that are needed to ensure that the BPS operates within established limits and design criteria.

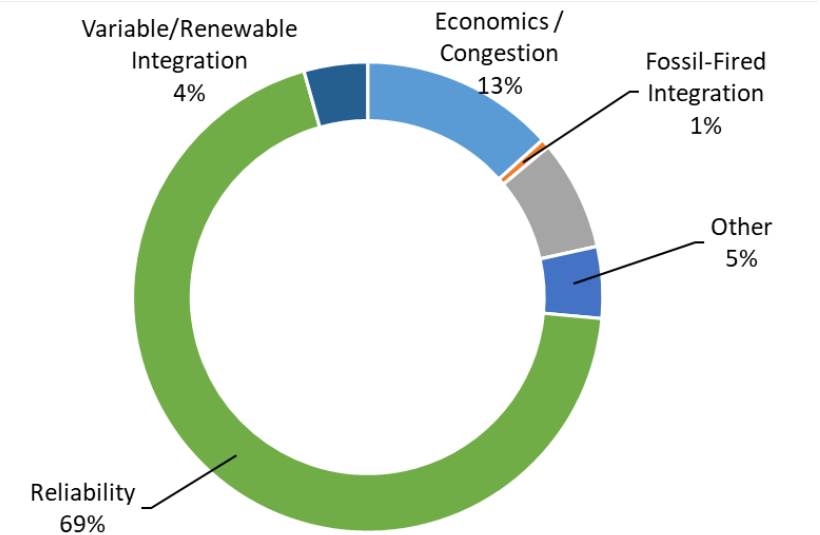


Figure 24: Future Transmission Circuit Miles by Primary Driver

There were 14,150 circuit miles (22,775 km) of reported transmission in development with an operating class greater than 400 kV (about 35% of the total miles in development). Nevertheless, intraregional transmission projects continue to greatly outnumber interregional transmission expansion. These interregional transmission projects can allow entities to take advantage of geographic diversity during extreme weather, such as Winter Storm Elliott,²⁹ including scenarios identified in the ITCS. Only 38 of the 863 transmission projects in development are for tie-lines and tie-line upgrades (down from 70 in last year’s LTRA), which can support transfer capability between neighboring BA areas, including high-capacity dc interconnections, such as the 1,200 MW Appalachies-Maine (NECEC) and the 1,250 MW Hertel-New York (CHPE) projects. NYISO has identified a reliability risk if the CHPE project is not completed in a timely fashion. See the transmission summaries at the end of each assessment area’s pages (in the [Regional Assessments Dashboards](#)) for current transmission development details.

²⁹ [Winter Storm Elliott Report: Inquiry into Bulk-Power System Operations During December 2022 | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#)

Transmission development in some areas is hampered by growing risks in procurement and supply chain delays as well as regulatory obstacles, such as siting and permitting. Other reasons for delays include economic impacts, planning and construction issues, or changing needs. Of nearly 900 projects that were under construction or in planning for the next 10 years, at least 390 projects have been delayed from their originally expected in-service dates.

Interregional Transfer Capability Study (Canadian Analysis)

In the 2024 LTRA, NERC provided a summary of the ITCS, a comprehensive study of existing and future interregional transfer capability undertaken by NERC in response to the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. In addressing this legislation, NERC identified additions to transfer capability³⁰ for U.S. transmission planning regions (TPR) that could support energy adequacy.³¹ NERC filed the completed study report with FERC on November 19, 2024.³² Due to the interconnected nature of the BPS, NERC extended the study beyond the congressional mandate to identify and make recommendations to transfer capabilities from the United States to Canada and among Canadian provinces. The [ITCS Canadian Analysis](#) (Canadian Analysis) was published in April 2025.

The Canadian Analysis was the first-of-its-kind assessment of transfer capability and hourly energy margin analysis in Canada under a common set of assumptions but did not represent a transmission plan or blueprint. Transmission assessments, like the Canadian Analysis, are crucial to understanding potential options to mitigate future risks; however, alternative approaches other than transmission, such as local generation or demand-side solutions, can also mitigate future energy risks. The study results should be considered as an input into subsequent planning discussions that will consider broader objectives and the cost effectiveness of different alternatives to meet long-term needs.

Transfer Capability Analysis

The current transfer capability analysis between each pair of neighboring TPRs focused on 2024 Summer and 2024/25 Winter cases, with results shown in [Figure 25](#) and [Figure 26](#), respectively. These transfer capabilities represent the ability of the entire network to move energy from one TPR to another TPR³³ but are not synonymous with path ratings, which calculate the maximum flow that can be reliably attained over a selected set of transmission facilities.

³⁰ Transfer capability is the measure of the ability of interconnected electric systems to reliably move or transfer electric power from one area to another area by way of all transmission lines (or paths) between those areas under specific system conditions.

³¹ As evidenced during recent operational events including Western Interconnection Heatwave (2020), Winter Storm Uri (2021) and Winter Storm Elliott (2022), more needs to be done to support energy adequacy to be able to continuously meet

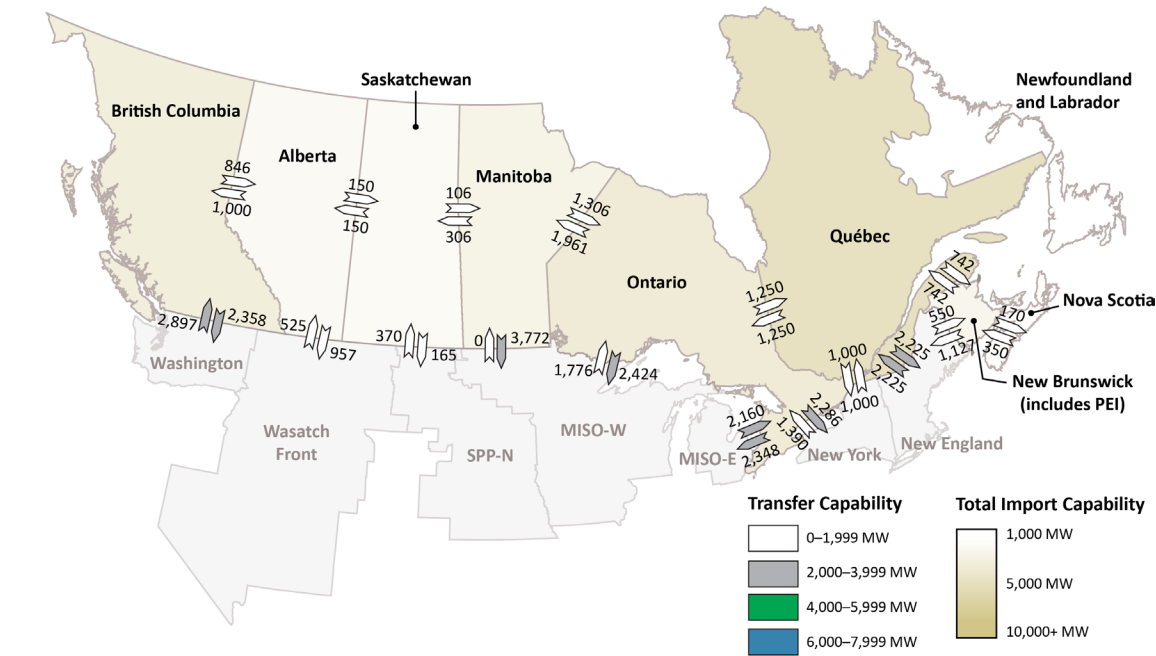


Figure 25: Transfer Capabilities (Summer)

customer demand. This is the reliability risk that the ITCS seeks to identify and mitigate through additions to transfer capability.

³² NERC [filing](#) of the *Interregional Transfer Capability Study*, FERC Docket AD25-4-000.

³³ Transfer capability is not synonymous with path ratings, which calculate the maximum flow that can be reliably attained over a selected set of transmission facilities. Since this study did not follow a path-based calculation method used by many TPRs, results generally do not match individual facility ratings.

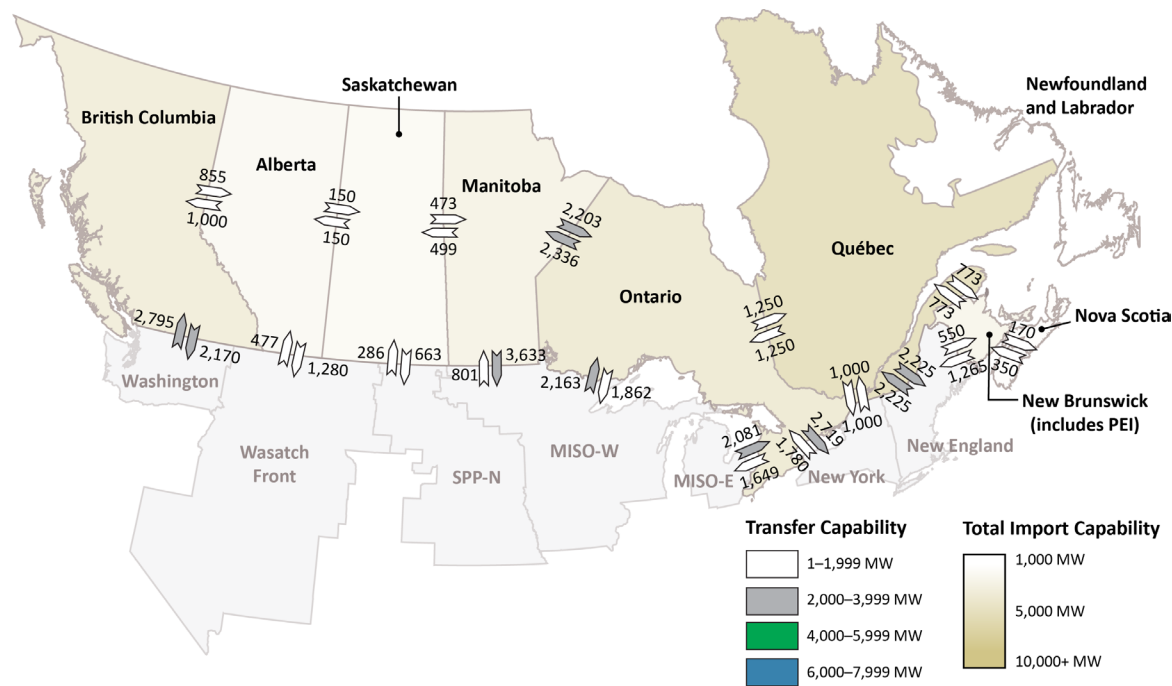


Figure 26: Transfer Capabilities (Winter)

The transfer capability results reflect the conditions studied and are not an exhaustive evaluation of the potential for energy transfers. The results are highly dependent on the assumptions, including load levels and dispatch of resources, which can vary significantly between seasons.

³⁴ This study did not incorporate climate change models.

Key Findings—Transfer Analysis

- Transfer capability varies seasonally and under different system conditions that limit transmission loading; it cannot be represented by a single number.
- Transfer capability is highly dependent on coordinated phase angle regulator settings, particularly in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.
- Prince Edward Island load impacts the transfer capability from New Brunswick to Nova Scotia.
- Transfer capability differs across Canada, with total import capability varying between 5% and 80% of peak load.
- Observed transfer capabilities are generally higher between Canada and the United States but relatively lower between provinces.
- The magnitude of transfer capability is not itself a measure of energy adequacy.
- Interregional transfer capability, as studied in this analysis, is not synonymous with path ratings.

Transfer Capability Additions

The Canadian Analysis also evaluated the future energy adequacy of the BPS if historical extreme weather conditions occurred again.³⁴ Specifically, the study applied 12 past weather years to the 2033 load and resource mix projection reported in the 2023 LTRA using the current transfer capabilities.³⁵ The study then evaluated the impact of additional transfer capability in mitigating the identified resource deficiencies during extreme events, thereby helping to improve energy adequacy. While there are several factors that Transmission Planners consider (including reliability, economics, and policy objectives) given NERC’s role, the Canadian Analysis focused solely on reliability, specifically in terms of energy adequacy and reserve optimization.

³⁵ The transfer capability analysis calculated current transfer capabilities for summer and winter based on 2024/25 projected system conditions using the area interchange method. Identified additions to transfer capability do not account for any changes to the transmission network that are planned after Winter 2024/25.

Key Findings—Energy Margin Analysis (2033)

- Canadian systems, like U.S. systems, were found to be increasingly vulnerable during extreme weather due to anticipated load increases and the changing resource mix. Transmission limitations, and potential for energy inadequacy, were identified in all 12 weather years studied. Enhancing transmission interfaces could reduce the likelihood of energy deficits during extreme conditions.
- Reliability risks are highly dependent on regional weather conditions. The import capability that could be beneficial during extreme conditions varied significantly across the country. An additional 12–14 GW of transfer capability may be an effective vehicle to strengthen energy adequacy under extreme conditions.
- More recent industry forecasts reflected in 2024 LTRA data generally result in considerable improvement, particularly in Ontario and Québec, as resource projections catch up to demand forecasts. Ongoing studies will capture future changes.
- Weather-related outages were not found to be a major contributor to deficiency events, as Canadian systems are generally designed to handle extreme cold conditions. However, high winter peak loads can still challenge the available energy supply.
- Some identified transmission additions could be addressed by projects already in the planning, permitting, or construction phases. Likewise, existing system capability to switch resources or load between provinces, which was not accounted for in this study, may help reduce the identified shortfalls.
- The importance of maintaining sufficient generating resources underpins the study’s assumptions. Higher-than-expected retirements (without replacement capacity) would lead to increased energy deficiencies and potentially more transfer capability additions if surplus energy is available from neighbors.
- A broad set of solutions should be considered, including transmission, local resource, demand-side, and storage solutions. A diverse and flexible approach allows tailored solutions specific to each province’s vulnerabilities, risk tolerance, economics, and policies.

Just as in the U.S. ITCS, the Canadian Analysis found potential for energy deficiency in all 12 weather years evaluated. The results identified the potential for energy deficiency in six provinces, with a maximum resource deficiency of 10 GW in Québec based on 2023 LTRA data. A sensitivity study using more recent forecasts, based on 2024 LTRA data, generally resulted in considerable improvement, particularly in Ontario and Québec, as resource projections catch up to demand forecasts.

The Canadian Analysis used these results to develop a list of additions to transfer capability from neighboring TPRs, including geographic neighbors without existing electrical connections. The analysis identified 14 GW of additional transfer capability that would improve energy adequacy under the studied extreme conditions throughout Canada. In the U.S. analysis reported last year, 35 GW of additional transfer capability was recommended across the U.S. to improve energy adequacy under extreme conditions. [Figure 27](#) shows the existing and potential new interfaces for Canadian TPRs where beneficial additional transfer capability is identified.

Transfer capability additions are based on 2033 resource mix and other study assumptions

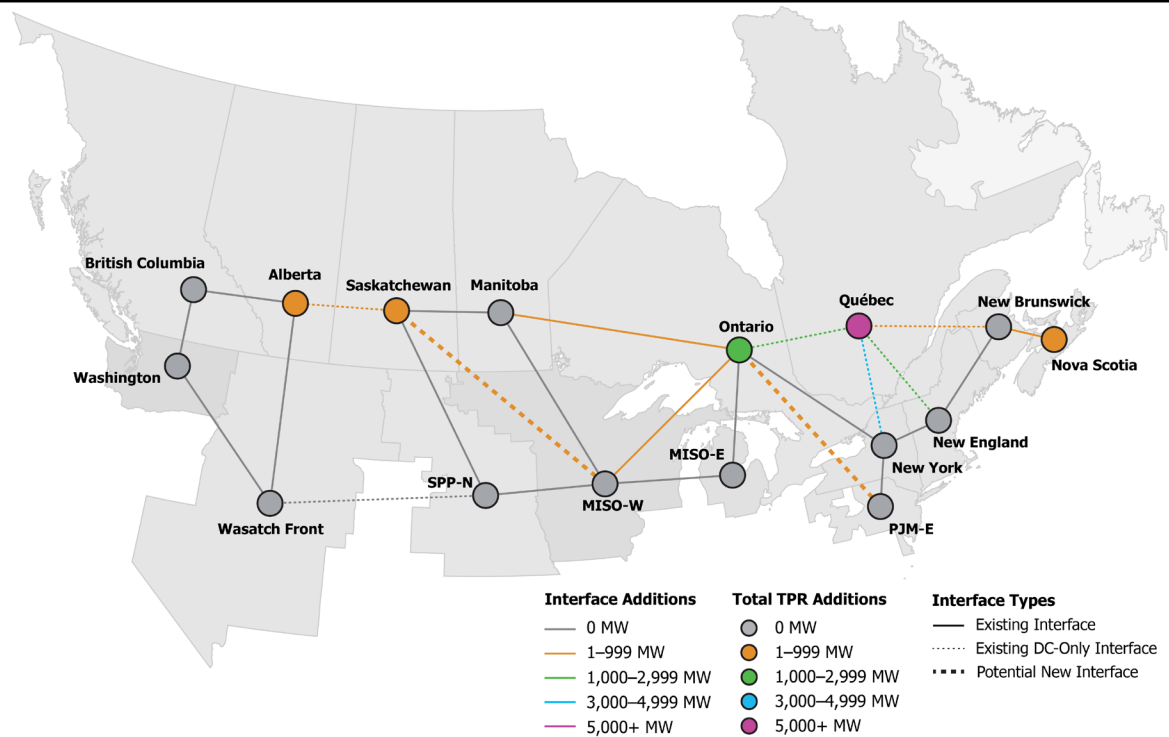
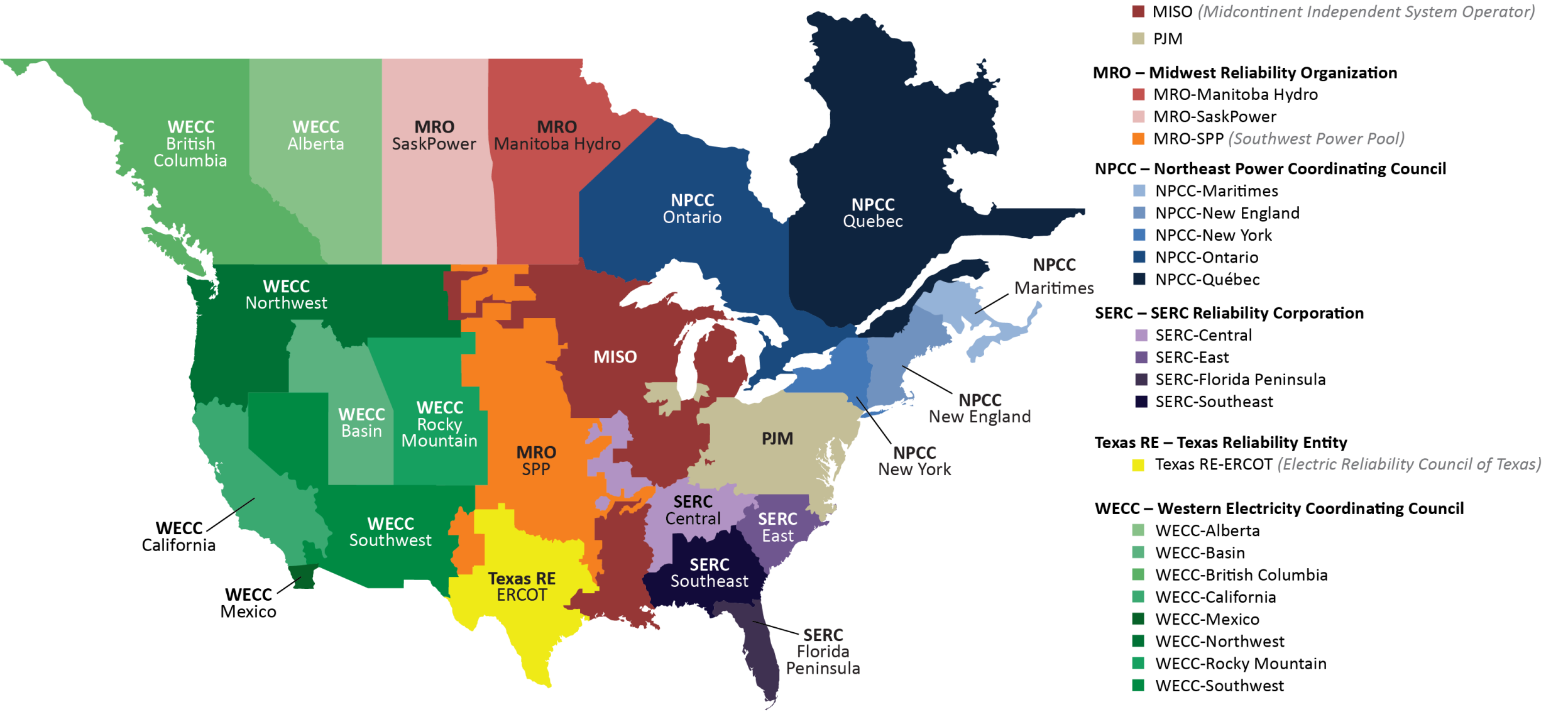


Figure 27: Transfer Capability Additions

Regional Assessments Dashboards

The following regional assessments were developed based on data and narrative information collected by NERC from the Regional Entities on an assessment area basis. The Reliability Assessment Subcommittee, at the direction of NERC’s RSTC, supported the development of this assessment through a comprehensive and transparent peer review process that leveraged the knowledge and experience of system planners, Reliability Assessment Subcommittee members, NERC staff, and other subject matter experts. This peer review process promotes the accuracy and completeness of all data and information.



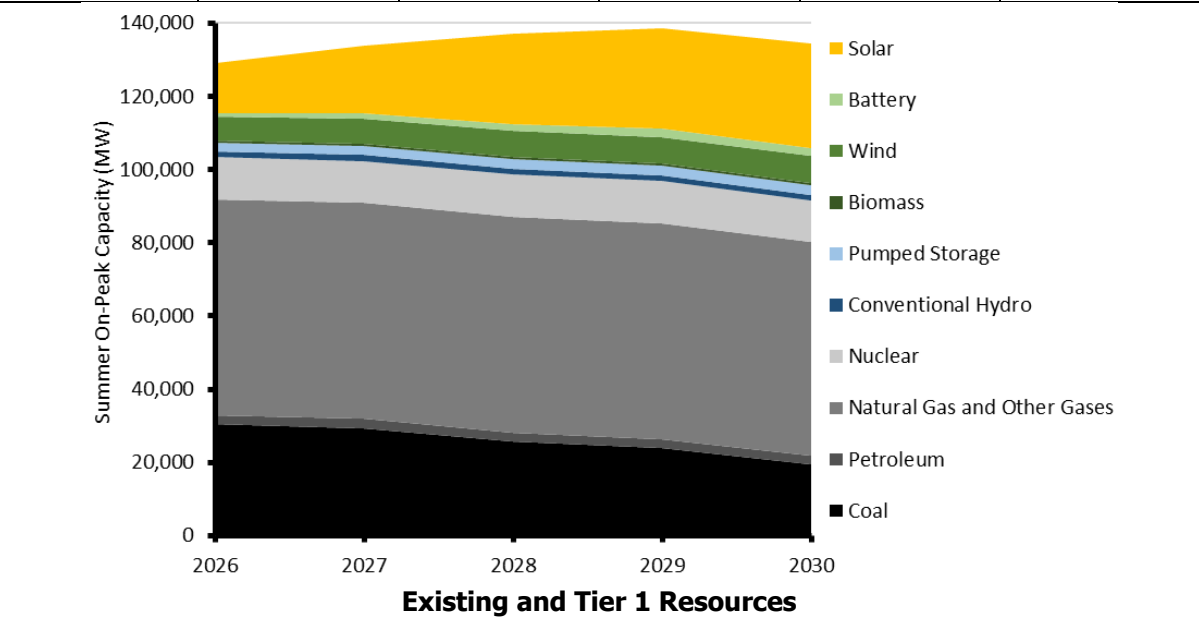
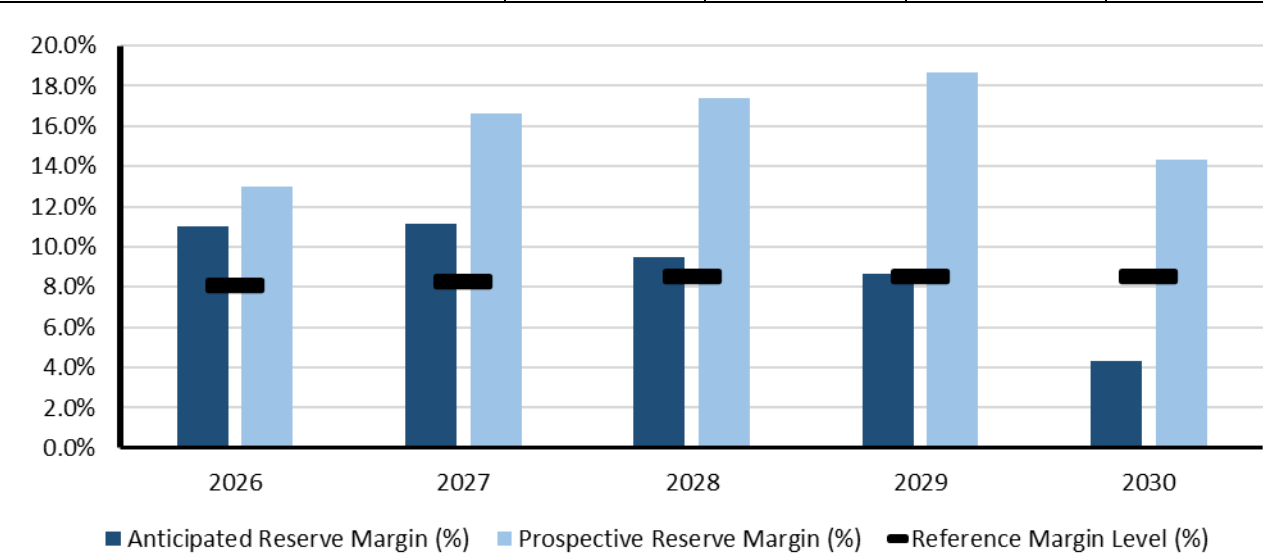


MISO

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. ([MISO](#)) is an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for operating the bulk electric power system and administering wholesale electricity markets across 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. MISO ensures the reliable delivery of electricity to approximately 45 million people by managing regional transmission operations and energy and ancillary services markets and advising on long-term resource planning. The MISO footprint includes 39 local BAs and more than 550 market participants. MISO operates one of the world’s largest organized electricity markets, with its members operating a system that consists of over 79,000 miles of transmission lines and approximately 1,979 generating units. The peak electricity demand on the MISO system currently occurs during the summer season. MISO’s footprint lies across three regional entities (MRO, RF, and SERC), but MRO is responsible for coordinating data and information submitted for NERC’s reliability assessments.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins (Summer)

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	127,071	131,107	135,998	138,286	139,631	140,959	142,003	142,789	143,754	143,754
Demand Response	8,280	8,280	8,280	8,280	8,280	8,280	8,280	8,280	8,280	8,280
Net Internal Demand	118,791	122,827	127,718	130,006	131,351	132,679	133,723	134,509	135,474	135,474
Additions: Tier 1	5,576	13,339	21,350	24,631	26,027	26,320	26,366	26,366	26,366	26,366
Additions: Tier 2	2,403	6,723	10,072	13,056	13,116	13,260	13,364	13,466	13,466	13,466
Additions: Tier 3	1,632	4,459	9,395	14,474	19,823	23,820	27,983	27,858	27,915	28,077
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	2,809	2,661	2,509	2,509	2,419	2,419	2,419	2,419	2,419	2,419
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	126,263	123,205	118,481	116,593	110,996	108,686	106,448	106,568	106,553	106,553
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	11.0%	11.2%	9.5%	8.6%	4.3%	1.8%	-0.7%	-1.2%	-1.9%	-1.9%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	13.0%	16.6%	17.4%	18.7%	14.3%	11.7%	9.3%	8.8%	8.1%	8.1%
Reference Margin Level (%)	8.1%	8.3%	8.5%	8.5%	8.5%	8.6%	8.7%	8.8%	8.9%	8.9%



MISO Highlights

- For Summer 2026, MISO projects a prospective resource surplus ranging from 3.4 to 5.8 GW, but, if historical rates of resource additions continue, a deficit of resources beginning in Summer 2030 may be realized. The recently approved ERAS is expected to result in a considerable amount of new resource additions to the MISO system by 2029, which was not included in this year’s assessment due to the timing of FERC approval. As of December 2025, around 30 GW of new capacity is being studied through the ERAS process.
- MISO forecasts that the coincident total internal demand will peak at 127.1 GW during the 2026 Summer season and will grow to 143.7 GW by 2035. The largest contributor to this demand growth is data center additions.
- MISO’s accredited thermal capacity has decreased by 8.8 GW, primarily driven by reductions in accredited capacity of existing resources, and accredited non-thermal capacity has increased by 5.7 GW since last year, primarily driven by solar additions.
- In July 2025, MISO had more than 54 GW nameplate capacity of generation—predominantly solar and battery—with signed generation interconnection agreements that were projected to come on-line over the next few years. As of December 2025, that figure increased to more than 70 GW of nameplate capacity.
- Currently, MISO has surplus transfer capacity within its subregions, but transfers between subregions have been historically constrained by a transmission limitation between the two subregions. MISO members plan to invest \$30 billion to install nearly 5,000 miles of 345 kV and 1,750 miles of 765 kV transmission lines to address local, regional, and interregional transmission needs.

MISO Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	30,442	29,376	25,620	23,780	19,384
Petroleum	2,551	2,551	2,551	2,551	2,428
Natural Gas	58,748	58,892	58,984	59,099	58,262
Biomass	585	580	516	515	512
Solar	13,586	18,496	24,792	27,499	28,629
Wind	6,576	6,757	7,139	7,258	7,379
Conventional Hydro	1,521	1,523	1,524	1,524	1,524
Pumped Storage	2,608	2,608	2,608	2,608	2,608
Nuclear	11,571	11,571	11,571	11,571	11,571
Other	68	68	68	68	63
Battery	774	1,462	1,950	2,243	2,243
Total MW	129,031	133,883	137,322	138,715	134,604

MISO Assessment

MISO’s guiding principles for its planning process include six key objectives: reliability and resilience; economic efficiency/lowest total electric system cost; support of federal, state, and local energy policy and member goals for their respective resource mixes; appropriate cost allocation for transfer-enabling assets; analysis of an appropriate range of system scenarios and dissemination of results to relevant decisionmakers; and coordinated planning processes among neighbors to eliminate barriers to reliable and efficient operations. See MISO’s [Statement of Guiding Principles](#) for more information.

Planning Reserve Margins

Every year, MISO coordinates with its stakeholders to calculate the minimum amount of capacity above coincident peak demand required such that the LOLE equals one-day-in-10 years, or 0.1 days per year. For the MISO-wide analysis, generating units were modeled as part of their appropriate local resource zone as a subset of a larger MISO system. The MISO system was modeled with no internal transmission limitations between zones. To meet the LOLE reliability criteria, capacity is either added or removed from the MISO system within the model. The minimum amount of capacity above the MISO system coincident peak demand forecast required to meet the LOLE reliability criteria was used to establish seasonal Planning Reserve Margin (PRM) values. This minimum PRM is based on a probabilistic analysis and is expressed for each season as an unforced capacity (UCAP) requirement based on the modeled availability of resources in the MISO system. UCAP represents an adjustment from installed capacity (ICAP) that accounts for a generator’s equivalent forced outage rate demand, a measure of the probability that a generating unit will not be available due to forced outages, which MISO further adjusts to exclude events outside management control.

MISO’s [LOLE Study for PY 2025–2026](#) estimated the minimum seasonal PRM values (in UCAP) as follows:

- Summer 2026: 8.1%
- Fall 2026: 14.9%
- Winter 2026-2027: 19.1%
- Spring 2027: 26.2%

The study that produced these PRM values included a probabilistic risk modeling and power flow transfer analysis to also determine zonal local reliability requirements (LRR), zonal import ability (ZIA), zonal export ability (ZEA), capacity import limits (CIL), and capacity export limits (CEL). A software program called Strategic Energy & Risk Valuation Model (SERVM) was used to calculate LOLE for the applicable planning year.

The results of the LOLE Study for PY2 5-26 serve as inputs to the MISO Planning Resource Auction (PRA). The computed PRMs are used in area adequacy assessments unless an area includes an entity that falls under a state regulatory body’s purview, in which case a state-mandated PRM may be used in MISO’s analysis in place of the computed PRM.

In most of the MISO footprint, LSEs with oversight by the applicable state or local regulators are responsible for resource adequacy. Every year, MISO collaborates with the Organization of MISO States (OMS) to survey its members about their plans to maintain resource adequacy in the coming years. The OMS-MISO survey provides a resource adequacy view for the MISO region over a five-year horizon based on the latest information available at the time of survey. The [2025 OMS-MISO Survey](#) indicated that LSEs are expected to have adequate resources to meet load reserve requirements; however, various projected capacity scenarios and large spot-load additions highlight the increasing uncertainty and evolving risk.

For Summer 2026, MISO projects a prospective surplus ranging from 3.4 to 5.8 GW. Moving beyond the short term, if historical rates of resource additions continue in MISO as reflected in the anticipated resources projection for the NERC LTRA, a deficit of resources beginning in summer 2030 may be realized. This potential shortage is due to accelerated load growth and inadequate build rates for new resources. Interconnection of additional identified resources in Tier 2 and potential resources in Tier 3 could present an opportunity to retain a resource surplus through the entirety of the LTRA study time frame.

In anticipation of resource shortages beginning in Summer 2030, MISO has initiated the following processes and reforms:

1. Implement the interim [ERAS](#) process to facilitate the accelerated rollout of new resources to meet increased demand growth. This process has yielded nearly 30 GW of potential new capacity as of December 2025.
2. Move to a direct loss of load (DLOL) marginal accreditation model for the 2028–2029 planning year, which is intended to better reflect the true value of the next megawatt of resources during critical hours
3. Enhance resource adequacy risk assessment and communication like aligning solar representations between the PRA and LOLE model, properly represent non-firm imports between neighboring regions, and investigate the relationship between solar and battery installations and how their capacity might impact one another.
4. Reduce queue cycle times through automation

- 5. Establish a more robust DR and emergency resource process moving forward to ensure non-market units are being appropriately accredited.
- 6. Enhance allocation of resource adequacy requirements.

Energy Risk

MISO uses a seasonal PRA and conducts seasonal resource assessments to evaluate generation availability, outage rates, and forecasted load. Based on outcomes of these processes, MISO has also initiated a change to its capacity market construct, in part, to ensure energy adequacy by evaluating how classes of resources and each individual resource help serve load during periods of the year that demonstrate the most reliability risk to the MISO system.

Beyond the probabilistic energy risk assessments associated with MISO’s LOLE Study for PY 25–26, MISO has also performed additional assessments for [renewable integration](#) and [regional resource evolution](#) that touch on the topic of energy risk but are not a formal part of MISO’s resource adequacy and resource planning processes.

ProbA Results

The results of the ProbA simulations show normal risk for the MISO system in study year 2027 and more pronounced, elevated risk in study year 2029 wherein MISO assumed approximately 14 GW of potential retirements that are uncertain to occur by 2029. The results offer a point-in-time snapshot of risk based on the data available during the time of this year’s analysis. The regulatory structure within MISO provides utilities and regulators with many tools to ensure alignment of large-load additions, generator retirements, and generator additions. Regulators and utilities in the MISO region are statutorily required to ensure reliability and have the ability to address uncertainties associated with these three variables.

MISO initiatives like ERAS and joint collaborative efforts between MISO, its membership, regulators, and neighboring regions will be critical to ensuring resource adequacy in the coming years.

While overall installed nameplate capacity across the system is expected to increase in the coming years, system risk can be expected as the aging thermal fleet in MISO’s system continues to retire and is replaced with more intermittent, less available generation. Significant demand growth, in part due to large data center loads, has been forecasted by MISO’s LSEs. It is important to note that a substantial number of large-load customers continue to evaluate their options for participation in the markets, including the potential to participate as DR resources during emergency conditions. The construction delays for new resources due to supply chain and other issues, as well as the ongoing evaluation of large-load customers, contribute to continued uncertainty regarding both overall resource availability and the prospective participation of large loads as DR resources in the

markets. This substantiates that MISO, its membership, and regulators must continue to monitor retirements and large-load additions and increase resource additions to ensure future resource adequacy.

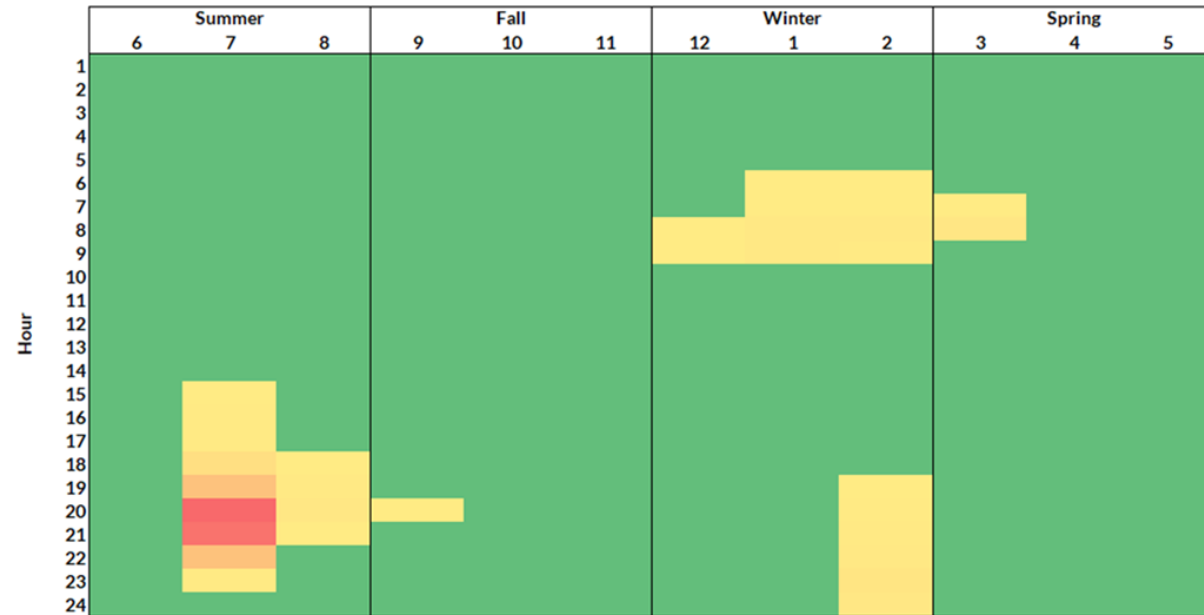
The ProbA simulations for study year 2029 resulted LOLE of 2.4 days in 1 year compared to the target of 0.1 day in 1 year. The primary drivers for the expected risks in 2029 include the following:

- Load growth increases: Peak demand for winter is expected to grow considerably—approximately 9–10 GW in 2029.
- Nameplate capacity changes: To align with MISO’s annual LOLE studies and proactively send the right signals, member-submitted low certainty resources from the most recent OMS-MISO Survey were assumed to be unavailable in study year and amounted to approximately 14 GW of additional unconfirmed retirements by Winter 2029.
- Summer risk shifts to later in the day: An increased reliance on solar generation as the resource mix evolves results in summer risk appearing as solar generation ramps down.
- In Winter 2029, risk is emerging in morning and twilight hours: Shifting winter risk is driven by a combination of increased reliance on solar generation, an increase in member-submitted load forecasts, elevated thermal forced outages induced by extreme cold temperatures, and a larger generation deficit than in prior years.

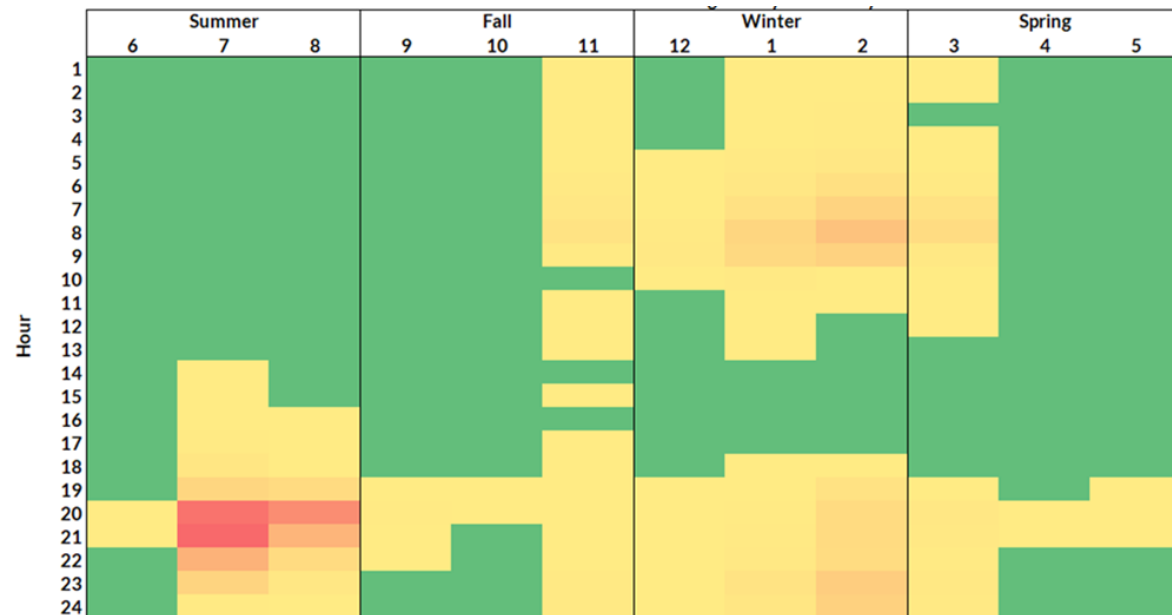
Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029**
EUE (MWh)	0	797	31,654
NEUE (ppm)	0	1.13	42.4
LOLH (hours per Year)	0	0.23	6.61

*Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison
**The 2029 ProbA study assumed approximately 14 GW of potential retirements that are uncertain to occur by 2029. The results offer a point-in-time snapshot of risk based on the data available during the time of this year’s analysis.

The following EUE heat maps show the distribution of unserved energy events from the probA simulations across hours and seasons. Green cells indicate no unserved energy events, while yellow and red cells indicate increasing numbers of simulations with unserved energy.



2027-2028 ProbA Heat Map



2029-2030 ProbA Heat Map

Demand

LSEs within MISO’s footprint report two sets of seasonal peak demand projections, coincident with the entire MISO system and coincident with their applicable local resource zone. LSEs also submit their non-coincident peak demand projections for the next 10 years, monthly for the first two years and seasonally for the remaining eight years. Coincident peak demand forecasts are based on factors including average historical weather conditions, economic conditions, and expected demand changes. For the 2025 LTRA, MISO used its LSE demand submissions to create non-coincident and coincident peak demand projections on a regional basis by summing the annual peak demand forecasts for the individual LSEs in the larger region of study. In MISO’s normal process, the coincident peak demand forecast is used to determine each LSE’s PRM requirement.

MISO forecasts the coincident total internal demand to peak at 127,071 MW during the 2026 Summer season. Since the 2024 LTRA, MISO has increased its 10-year forecast peak demand from 132 GW to 143.7 GW. This rate of increase is expected to continue.

The largest increases in demand in the MISO footprint are related to data centers. These large load additions are projected to result in significant increases in the demand for energy in all hours and would not conform to typical residential or industrial load patterns. In total, MISO projects approximately 6 GW of data center load additions by 2027, accumulating to 14 GW by 2030, and 18 GW by 2035. MISO published [a Long-Term Load Forecast white paper](#) in December 2024. This white paper comes to similar conclusions around the load growth rate based upon member submissions by way of the MOD-031/FERC 714 data pathway.

Demand-Side Management

A combination of peak demand hour performance, forecasting, and baseline scenarios help MISO to determine the amount of DR capacity available during peak demand hours. DR programs continue to play a significant role in providing capacity for MISO. For the 2025/26 planning year, DR is steady around 9 GW in the summer and 8 GW in the winter and is projected to remain constant during the LTRA study horizon. MISO’s latest reforms for demand-side resources focus on accrediting such resources based on their availability and performance during the highest-risk hours (in and near emergency conditions).

Distributed Energy Resources

Behind-the-meter-generation (BTMG) resources contribute about 4.4 GW of capacity across the study horizon, of which approximately 1.3 GW are distributed photovoltaics. MISO’s transition to seasonal auctions highlights the variability of DERs across the four seasons, and it is working with stakeholders to derive adequate methods of aggregating, reporting and allowing DER participation in MISO markets.

Generation

Because of the size of MISO’s interconnection queue, in the 2025 NERC LTRA, generation in the queue is multiplied by a reduction factor based on the study phase and likelihood of that resource coming on-line and the timing of those additions. MISO notes that the recent [2025 OMS-MISO survey](#) used a slightly different resource addition cadence than what is reported for the LTRA that factors in both planned utility/member-specific generation addition rates and historical addition cadences. Specifically, the LTRA’s existing resource capacities come directly from the 2025–2026 MISO Planning Resource Auction (PRA), based on the amount of confirmed seasonal accredited capacity. Tier 1 resources describe the expected integration rate of currently signed generator interconnection agreements (GIA) over a three-year delay ramp to represent the fact that many GIAs experience delays on their path to installation in MISO. Tier 2 resources are based on active replacement projects and Phase 3 GIAs. Tier 3 resources are based on a 15% completion rate of all non-signed GIAs with the three-year delay schedule in line with Tier 1 resources.

As of December 2025, MISO had more than 70 GW nameplate capacity of generation—predominantly solar and battery—with signed generation interconnection agreements that are projected to come on-line over the next few years. Since the 2024 NERC LTRA, MISO has observed an 8.8 GW reduction in thermal accredited capacity, driven primarily by aging existing facilities, unit suspensions, and retirements. However, suspensions and retirements in MISO have recently been followed by replacement facilities that re-utilize the interconnection service with new units. More than 75% of the units pursuing cessation in MISO are also pursuing replacement projects. Non-thermal accreditation has increased by 5.7 GW since the 2024 NERC LTRA report.

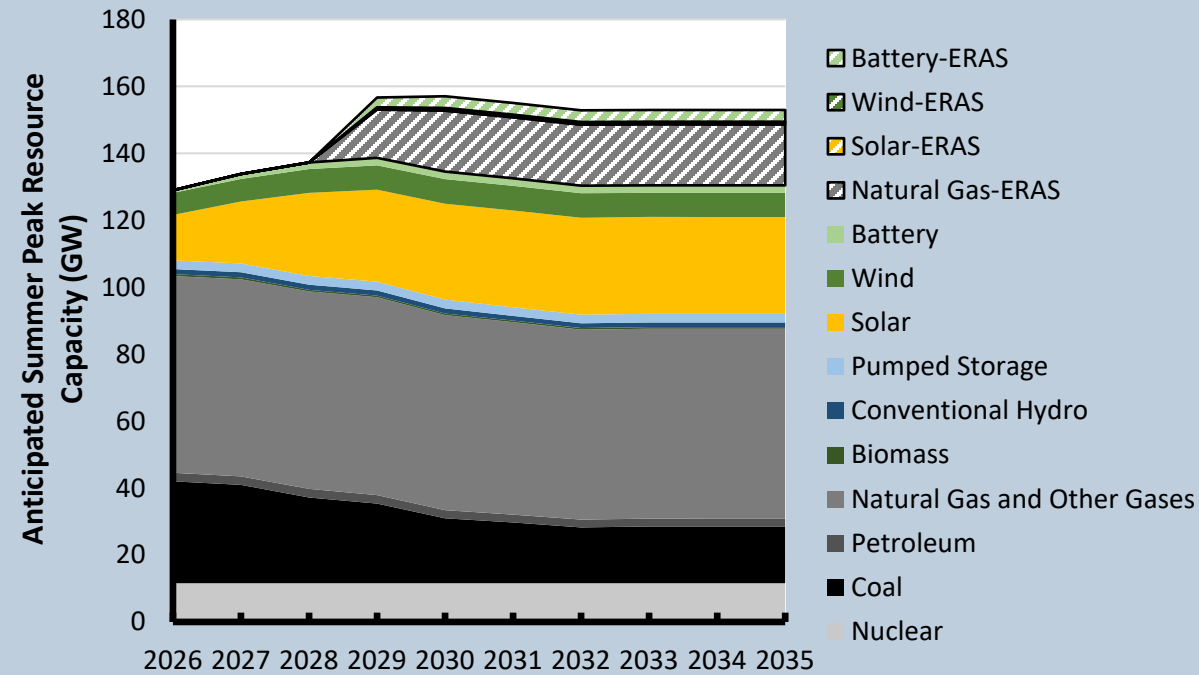
MISO’s accreditation of battery resources is tied to the mandatory 4-hour energy offer window, resulting in most storage resources pursuing the ratio of 1 MW/h for 4 hours. Battery storage resources receive a 95% class-wide accreditation (relative to nameplate capacity) in the MISO PRA and NERC LTRA for their first year in operation in lieu of historical output data. Wind ELCC analyses have been performed for all seasons. Wind capacity is given the following seasonal accreditations: Summer: 20.8%; Fall: 30.7%; Winter: 29.0%; Spring: 25.3%. The effective capacity for existing solar resources is based on historical performance during typical seasonal peak hours. New solar resources get 50% accreditation relative to nameplate capacity in the summer, fall, and spring seasons and 5% in the winter season. Hydro resources accredited capacity is calculated based on historical performance during seasonal peak hours.

Energy Storage

MISO is experiencing increased interest by members for battery energy storage, with more than 500 MW currently on-line, and queue projects identifying more than 100 GW of battery or hybrid fuel type projects. MISO’s anticipated installations include an addition of more than 2.4 GW by Summer 2030

and a prospective battery fleet of nearly 7 GW by 2035. The primary expected usage for batteries is for reliability, providing significant capacity capability with the variable nature of MISO’s growing solar and wind fleet. MISO performs risk modeling with advanced storage representations to ensure that battery capacity is characterized appropriately.

The timing of FERC’s approval of MISO’s ERAS process in July meant that the generator additions that MISO plans as part of that process were not included in the resource adequacy modeling for the 2025 LTRA. ERAS is already expected to result in considerable new resource additions to the MISO system in the near term. The additional summer on-peak capacity from the ERAS program is expected to grow to over 20 GW by Summer 2030. These expedited resource additions are expected to reduce the shortfall risk identified in this year’s ProbA. Furthermore, the timing of the ERAS additions would mitigate an identified winter ARM shortfall if the approximately 8.6 GW of winter on-peak capacity anticipated by 2028–29 reaches operation as projected. The latest ERAS projects, along with current load forecasts and resource projections as of July 2026, will be included in the input data for the 2026 LTRA and ERAS summer capacity additions are summarized by the diagonal hatched stacked areas in plot below.



The Potential Effect of MISO’s ERAS Process on Anticipated Summer Capacity

Energy Transfers

In the PRA, MISO accredits several power purchase agreements known as diversity contracts between Manitoba Hydro and MISO internal generation owners, wherein energy flows from Manitoba to the MISO system in the summer when Manitoba has excess hydro power vice-versa in the winter. Currently, MISO has surplus capacity in both the MISO North/Central and MISO South subregions, but imports and exports between them have been historically constrained by a transmission limitation.

A key input to MISO’s probabilistic risk modeling that determines the system-wide seasonal PRM values is how much non-firm energy support MISO can reasonably expect from neighboring external areas. Every year, MISO performs an analysis of recent year trends in seasonal non-firm energy support to develop a range for each season that the probabilistic model will randomly draw from mid-simulation. Additionally, MISO found this year that there was not a significant difference in the amount of non-firm energy support MISO received from its neighbors during hours and days with tight operating margins when compared to normal operating conditions.

Transmission

MISO, in collaboration with its transmission-owning members and stakeholders, performs annual reliability assessments to identify transmission infrastructure upgrades needed to ensure system reliability. Many factors are considered during MISO’s transmission expansion planning process, including urgency of need, suitability of alternatives to address identified issues, cost effectiveness, performance of alternatives, development time frame, right-of-way or substation impacts, expandability, and operational flexibility. To learn more about MISO’s transmission expansion plan, see information and reports posted on MISO’s [MTEP](#) page.

MISO has 488 transmission projects totaling \$30 billion planned across [MTEP24](#), its [Long Range Transmission Planning \(LRTP\)](#) Tranche 2.1, and the [SPP-MISO Joint Targeted Interconnection Queue \(JTIQ\)](#). In total, these three programs include nearly 5,000 miles of 345 kV and 1,750 miles of 765 kV

transmission lines in their project portfolios. These projects aim to address local, regional, and interregional needs across the area’s large geographic footprint by enabling reliability in response to accelerating load growth. In fact, most of the demand increases reported by LSEs in the MISO footprint can be tracked to transmission projects either in the Expedited Project Review (EPR) or normal MTEP project pathway. Specifically, MISO’s Tranche 2.1 Portfolio seeks to establish a transmission system backbone for the whole MISO system, and the JTIQ portfolio is being undertaken with the potential to unlock approximately 28 GW of generator interconnections, eliminating barriers to new capacity at the SPP-MISO seam.

As of December 1, 2025, MISO identified 63 projects comprising 12.8 GW of additional load through the EPR process.

Reliability Issues

Load growth and additions are increasing. A spike in large, single-site load additions from manufacturing resurgence and incremental load growth from electric vehicles and other electrification trends pose new challenges for the grid. Continued high numbers of MTEP projects submitted through the expedited project review request, which are urgent projects that cannot wait for the next full MTEP cycle to proceed, are evidence of this faster paced load growth and additions.

Maintaining resource capacity margins will require accelerated resource additions to outpace retirements and the forecasted load growth. Recent reforms have helped to reduce the volume of requests and to process them more efficiently. As of December 1st, 2025, MISO has 1,127 Active interconnection queue projects that total 215 GW of nameplate capacity. This is in addition to the 444 projects and 70 GW of signed GIAs.

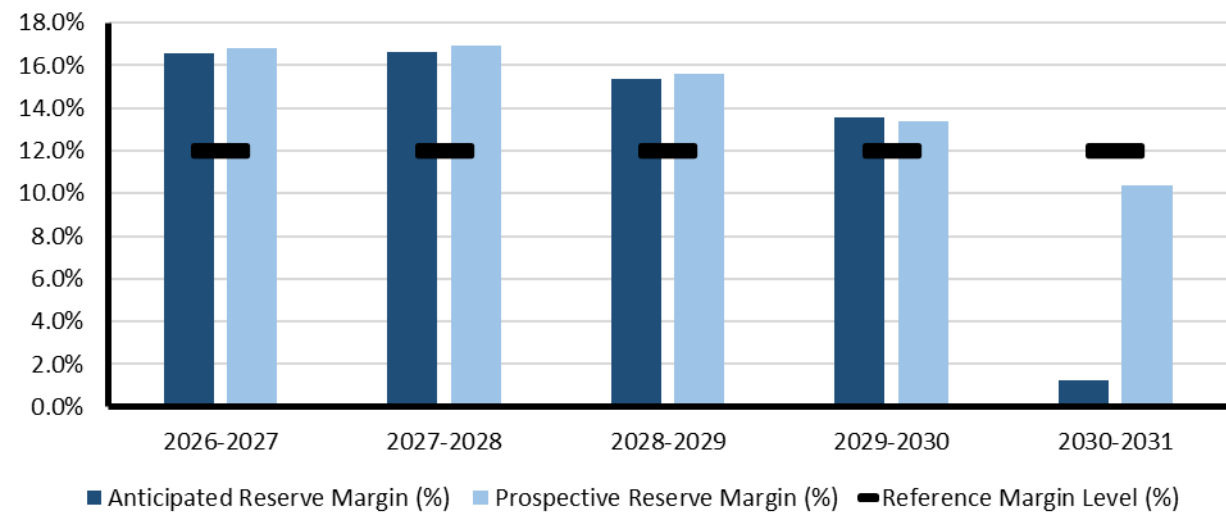


MRO-Manitoba Hydro

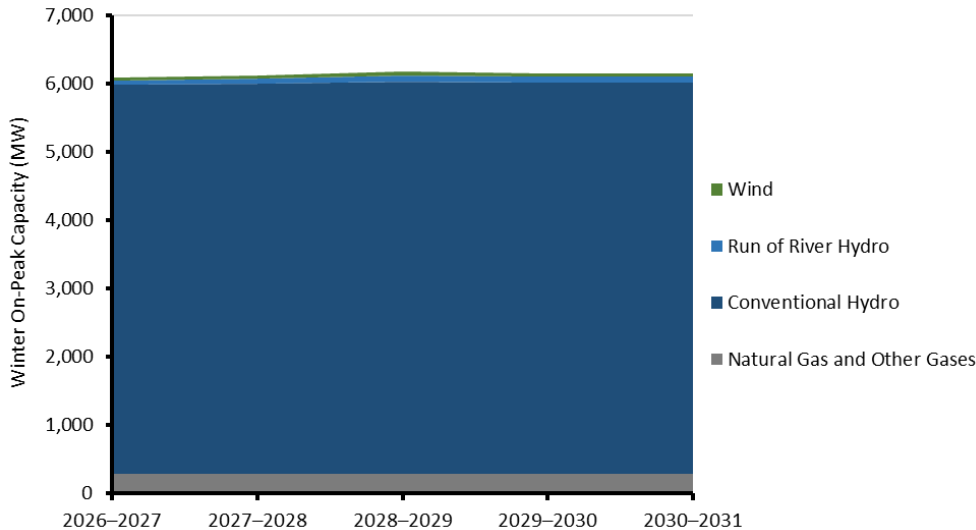
Manitoba Hydro is a provincial Crown corporation and one of the largest integrated electricity and natural gas distribution utilities in Canada. Manitoba Hydro provides electricity to approximately 601,000 electric customers in Manitoba and provides approximately 291,000 customers with natural gas in Southern Manitoba. The service area is the province of Manitoba, which is 251,000 square miles. Manitoba Hydro is a provincial crown corporation and one of the largest integrated electricity and natural gas distribution utilities in Canada. Manitoba Hydro is winter-peaking. Manitoba Hydro is its own PC and BA. Manitoba Hydro is a coordinating member of MISO. MISO is the Reliability Coordinator for Manitoba Hydro.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031	2031–2032	2032–2033	2033–2034	2034–2035	2035–2036
Total Internal Demand	5,002	5,041	5,081	5,137	5,374	5,412	5,447	5,507	5,580	5,655
Demand Response	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Internal Demand	5,002	5,041	5,081	5,137	5,374	5,412	5,447	5,507	5,580	5,655
Additions: Tier 1	36	50	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
Additions: Tier 2	0	0	0	0	500	500	500	500	500	500
Additions: Tier 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	-113	-93	-167	-172	-565	-565	-565	-565	-565	-315
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	5,794	5,831	5,799	5,770	5,377	5,377	5,377	5,377	5,377	5,627
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	16.6%	16.7%	15.4%	13.6%	1.2%	0.5%	-0.1%	-1.2%	-2.5%	0.6%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	16.8%	16.9%	15.6%	13.4%	10.4%	9.6%	8.9%	7.7%	6.3%	9.3%
Reference Margin Level (%)	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

MRO-Manitoba Hydro Highlights

- Manitoba projects a shortfall in anticipated resources starting in the winter of 2030–2031.
- The demand is projected to grow over 13% through the assessment period.
- The Province of Manitoba paused cryptocurrency interconnection requests until April 2026 to prepare a long-term solution to limit reliability impacts to the system.³⁶

MRO-Manitoba Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031
Natural Gas	278	278	278	278	278
Wind	52	52	52	52	52
Conventional Hydro	5,705	5,723	5,758	5,735	5,735
Run of River Hydro	59	71	90	90	90
Total MW	6,094	6,124	6,179	6,155	6,155

³⁶ [Province directs Manitoba Hydro to continue pause on new cryptocurrency connections](#)

MRO-Manitoba Hydro Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

The ARM for the summer season does not fall below the RML of 12% during the 10-year assessment period. The ARM for the winter season falls below the RML of 12% beginning in Winter 2030–2031 due to a combination load growth and reduced resources due to an ending of winter capacity import contracts (“diversity capacity”) in 2030, as well as an assumed reduction of the Curtailable Rate load management program.

Demand

Manitoba Hydro is anticipating load growth of 1.5% (net of demand side management) over the assessment period. In order to limit load growth, Manitoba Hydro has been directed by the Province of Manitoba to suspend processing of cryptocurrency load connections until 2026.

Demand-Side Management

Manitoba Hydro currently does not have any form of directly controllable and dispatchable DR programs. Manitoba Hydro does have an indirectly controllable and dispatchable DR program called the Curtailable Rate Program.

The Curtailable Rate Program provides approximately 160 MW of load reduction through up to 16 load curtailments of 4¼ hours each on five-minutes notice. The program is intended for peak load management. In addition, one product of the Curtailable Rate Program provides 50 MW of contingency reserves, also on five-minutes notice.

The terms and conditions of the Curtailable Rate Program were updated in August 2023 to require an annual curtailment test, increase the number of possible curtailments, extend the notice period for conversion to firm service, and make minor editorial changes.

Manitoba Hydro is in the process of developing a new industrial rate pilot, with the combined goal of reducing winter peak and providing additional rate options for customers that both assist customer profitability and help keep costs low for all Manitobans. The rate pilot is being developed to leverage existing technology and programming with the intent of introducing the program on a pilot basis.

Manitoba Hydro, in collaboration with Efficiency Manitoba, is looking to develop a DR pilot program aimed initially at targeting smart thermostats with the focus on reducing Manitoba’s winter peak. The pilot program is targeting to launch for the winter of 2025.

Energy Risk

As the operator of a predominantly hydro system, weekly at a minimum, Manitoba Hydro performs an all-hours season-ahead energy adequacy analysis as required to manage near-term to seasonal-ahead reservoir energy storage while meeting system demands. Additionally, Manitoba Hydro conducts specific analyses to determine short-term storage and minimum flow requirements that would be required to maintain Manitoba and extra-provincial resource adequacy obligations. As there are modest levels of wind and solar on the Manitoba Hydro system, the resource adequacy risk on the Manitoba Hydro system over the next five years and under normal water conditions is expected to fall at or very near the peak demand hours.

Probabilistic Assessment (ProbA)

Every year, Manitoba Hydro prepares a probabilistic assessment for the Manitoba system, most recently in 2024. The 2024 probabilistic assessment was supportive of a 12% PRM for the Manitoba system being sufficient to provide an LOLE of less than 0.1 days per year under the study assumptions. Results of the 2025 ProbA prepared for the LTRA are as follows.

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	4	3	6
NEUE (ppm)	0.17	0.12	0.23
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.05	0.03	0.06
* Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

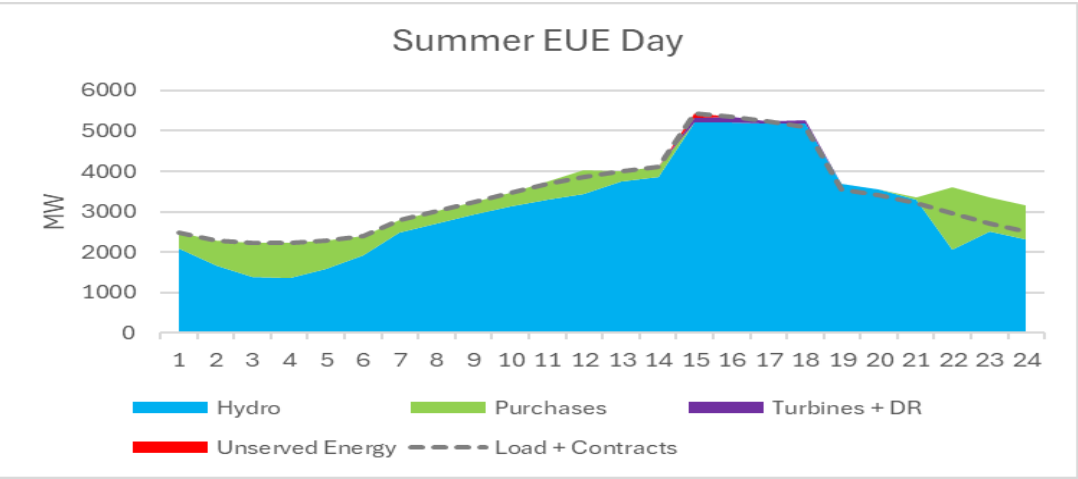
There were no appreciable Manitoba loss-of-load events seen in winter or in the summer for 37 of the 44 weather/ flow years studied. Manitoba loss-of-load events that were seen in summer occurred during the lowest flow years with upwards of 80% of the risk of loss of load occurring in the two worst flow years (1988 and 2003) of the 44 years studied. The Manitoba loss-of-load events that were seen in summer were driven by very low hydro flow conditions combined with both very high summer loads in Manitoba and very high summer loads on the MISO system.

The annual EUE heat map for 2029 is provided below.

2029 EUE Heat Map



A sample summer EUE day with very high loads on the Manitoba and MISO systems during extreme drought is shown in the illustration below. For much of the day, Manitoba is a net importer of power.



Distributed Energy Resources

There is a potential for significant solar DER resources in the latter half of the assessment period, and plans are being developed to study the impacts on the Manitoba Hydro system. The potential for future solar DERs may be dependent on solar PV subsidies and/or incentives.

Generation

Under normal water conditions, over 95% of the generation in Manitoba Hydro’s system is from renewable energy—primarily hydro generation and wind generation. A Tier 1 project to replace eight older and smaller hydro units is in progress for the Pointe du Bois Generating Station. The Pointe du Bois Renewable Energy Project (PREP), approximately 50 MW, replaces the original hydro units that were mothballed or retired based on economics/end of life after about 100 years of operation.

On February 25, 2025, Manitoba Hydro filed with its regulator the preliminary estimate for a 500 MW gas capacity resource entering service in 2030. While not yet approved, this proposed plant was included as Tier 2 capacity resource. Manitoba is not currently experiencing the large additions of wind and solar resources seen in other regions, and hence, emerging reliability issues arising from such large wind and solar resource additions are not anticipated over the next five years. Manitoba Hydro is working on an [Integrated Resource Plan](#) that will support future investment decisions. The Government of Canada is further regulating carbon dioxide emissions from the electric generation sector, finalizing the Clean Electricity Regulations in December 2024. These regulations begin to restrict fossil fuel generation in 2035 and direct Canadian electric generation to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Manitoba Hydro does not anticipate that meeting the Clean Electricity will have a negative impact on system reliability or modify the operation of Manitoba’s electricity system. The Province of Manitoba provided energy policy direction with the publication of the Affordable Energy Plan in September 2024. Energy conservation, wind generation, and dispatchable back-up generation, such as natural gas combustion turbines, form the basis of the plan. Manitoba Hydro’s forthcoming 2025 Integrated Resource Plan will be consistent with the policy direction.

Energy Storage

Additions of battery energy storage system (BESS) resources in the next 10 years are not anticipated at this time. The hydro generation resources, while not storing electricity directly, do store water in a reservoir for conversion to electricity and have been in use for over 100 years. For most hours of the year, the only dispatchable resources on-line are hydro generation resources, which therefore serve most operational, reliability, and economic functions. In the longer term, there may be a role for energy storage resources in Manitoba in areas that may become transmission constrained. Preliminary long-term studies of a modest amount of energy storage resources have not identified

operational challenges and have not required modification to planning assumptions since the 2024 LTRA.

Energy Transfers

The Manitoba Hydro system is winter-peaking and is interconnected to the MISO Zone 1 Local Resource zone (which includes Minnesota and North Dakota), which as a whole is summer-peaking. Significant capacity transfer limitations from MISO into Manitoba may have the potential to cause reliability impacts, but only if the following conditions occur simultaneously: extreme Manitoba winter loads, unusually high forced generation/transmission outages, and a simultaneous emergency in the northern MISO footprint. In the unlikely event of such a situation, Manitoba Hydro would implement plans developed in accordance with emergency operating procedures for capacity and energy emergencies, including calling on emergency energy from Adjacent Balancing Authority Coordination Agreements, if available. Transmission planning studies consider maximum firm winter import and N-1 and N-2 contingencies. The completion of the Manitoba–Minnesota 500 kV transmission line on June 1, 2020, increased import capability from 700 MW to 1,400 MW and firm export capability from 2,100 MW to 2,983 MW. This new 500 kV line also improved the resilience of the network in the event of transmission contingencies. The 500 kV line is equipped with single pole trip and reclose capability, which results in only one phase being out for one second during common single-phase faults.

The expiration of existing winter capacity import contracts (“diversity capacity”) in 2030 is contributing to overall lower firm resources from winter 2030–2031 through the remainder of the assessment period.

Transmission

Manitoba Hydro has identified aging components of its HVdc system as a potential reliability issue, which is unique to the assessment area. The concern is that the oldest HVdc system components could be approaching end-of-life. Studies have been initiated to study/evaluate modernization options and alternatives. The studies and procurement of replacement equipment could take up to 10 years to implement based on the current HVdc market capability. There is currently spare capacity on the HVdc system, and the end-of-life failure of a single pole would not create reliability issues. The further end-of-life failure of a second pole, while believed to be a very low probability, has the potential to create reliability concerns under peak winter loads if mitigation measures are not implemented. Mitigation measures to minimize the likelihood of experiencing this quantity of long-term outages are being actively pursued.

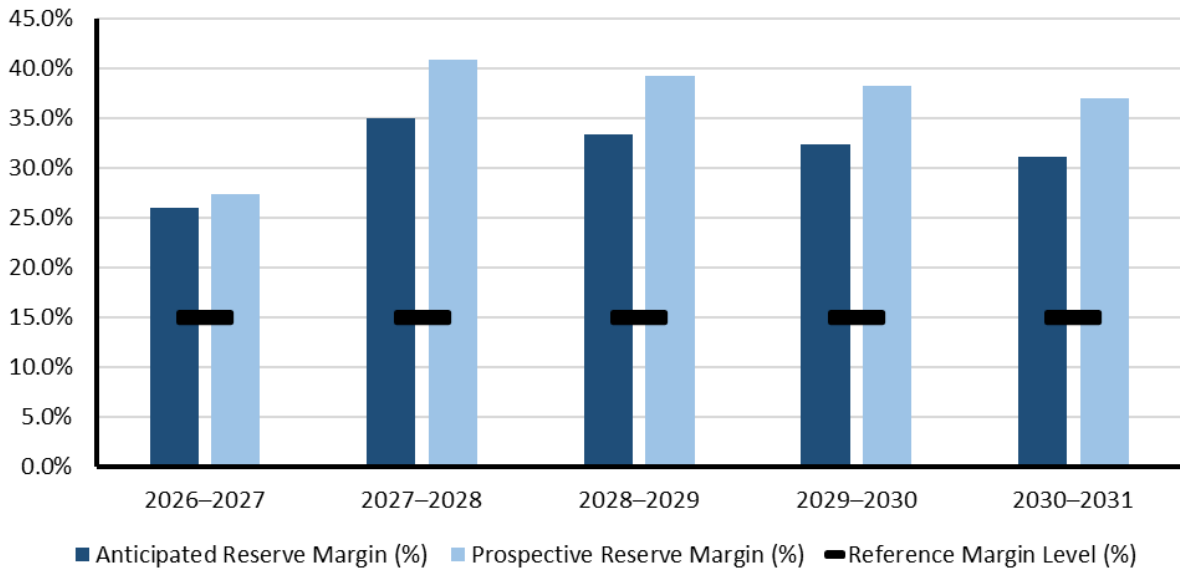


MRO-SaskPower

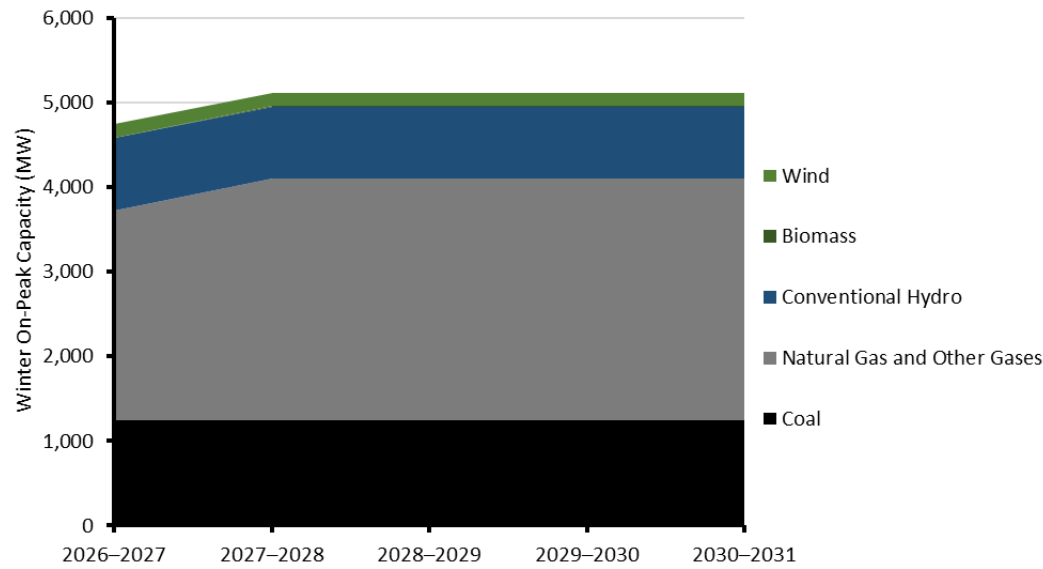
MRO-SaskPower is an assessment area that covers the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. The province has a geographic area of 651,900 square kilometers (251,700 square miles) and a population of just over 1.1 million people. The Saskatchewan Power Corporation (SaskPower) is the PC and Reliability Coordinator for the province of Saskatchewan and is the principal supplier of electricity in the province. SaskPower is a provincial Crown corporation and, under provincial legislation, is responsible for the reliability oversight of the Saskatchewan Bulk Electric System and its interconnections. Overall, SaskPower operates nearly 14,816 circuit-km of transmission lines, 65 high-voltage switching stations, and 191 distribution substations. Peak electricity demand on the SaskPower system currently occurs during the winter season.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031	2031–2032	2032–2033	2033–2034	2034–2035	2035–2036
Total Internal Demand	4,040	4,112	4,148	4,180	4,205	4,230	4,278	4,314	4,347	4,375
Demand Response	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
Net Internal Demand	3,968	4,040	4,076	4,108	4,133	4,158	4,206	4,242	4,275	4,303
Additions: Tier 1	90	460	460	460	460	460	460	460	460	460
Additions: Tier 2	55	241	241	241	241	241	241	241	241	241
Additions: Tier 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	290	315	315	315	315	315	315	315	315	315
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	4,907	4,992	4,976	4,976	4,961	4,962	4,900	4,962	4,976	4,892
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	25.9%	35.0%	33.4%	32.3%	31.2%	30.4%	27.4%	27.8%	27.2%	24.4%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	27.3%	40.9%	39.3%	38.2%	37.0%	35.5%	32.5%	32.8%	32.1%	29.2%
Reference Margin Level (%)	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

MRO-SaskPower Highlights

- Over the next 10 years, MRO-SaskPower’s ARM ranges from approximately 24% to 35% and does not fall below the RML in any year. SaskPower’s recent probabilistic studies concluded that the largest contribution to EUE occurs during peak hours because of planned outages. Rescheduling maintenance can help avoid these issues.
- Saskatchewan’s average annual summer and winter peak demand growth is expected to be approximately 1.0% throughout the assessment period. Large industrial loads are the primary driver for both growth and uncertainty in SaskPower’s forecast.
- SaskPower is projected to increase its wind and solar capacity to 1,550 MW in the next three years. Natural-gas-fired generation is being added to the system to offset VERs with plans to add 525 MW nameplate of new gas-fired generation—460 MW of Tier 1 and 65 MW of Tier 2—over the next 10 years. Life extensions and repowers for coal units are in process as directed by the Saskatchewan government. SaskPower is anticipating 31.8 MW of confirmed retirements, both waste heat and wind. 174 MW of unconfirmed wind retirements may also occur over the next 10 years.
- Driven by load growth, new generation, and reliability, SaskPower is planning to expand its interconnection with SPP and add 500 MW of new transmission service over the next five years, increasing tie-line capacity to 650 MW total. Internal transmission projects totaling 180 km of new 230 kV lines are being added and an additional ~410 circuit km of transmission projects are in planning and conceptual phases over the next 5 to 10 years.
- SaskPower’s primary reliability issues include growing supply chain issues that may potentially affect their significant transmission project plans and an interdependence between Southeast Saskatchewan’s power generators and natural gas production fields. SaskPower has been managing these issues by scheduling long-lead-time components as early as possible in transmission project timelines and by working with Saskatchewan’s gas pipeline utility to coordinate and study gas system responses to losses of production receipts during power outages as incremental demand is added.

MRO-SaskPower Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031
Coal	1,249	1,249	1,249	1,249	1,249
Natural Gas	2,480	2,850	2,850	2,850	2,850
Biomass	3	3	3	3	3
Wind	164	162	162	162	162
Conventional Hydro	856	856	856	856	856
Other	17	17	1	1	1
Total MW	4,769	5,137	5,121	5,121	5,121

MRO-SaskPower Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

Saskatchewan uses two criteria for determining adequate generating capabilities. The first method is to calculate EUE through probabilistic modeling and maintain it within an acceptable level as determined through resource adequacy analysis. The second method employs a deterministic criterion in which the reserve margin for the Saskatchewan system must not fall below the RML.

Saskatchewan uses a RML of 15% and has assessed its PRM for the upcoming 10 years considering summer and winter peak hour loads, available existing and anticipated generation resources, firm capacity transfers, and available DR for each year. During the 10-year assessment period, Saskatchewan’s ARM ranges from approximately 24% to 35% and does not fall below the RML in any year.

Energy Assessment, Including Non-Peak Hour Risk

Saskatchewan performs energy assessments using probabilistic methods to inform the area’s resource adequacy requirements. A detailed representation of the SaskPower system that includes load forecasts, capacity expansion sequences, individual unit characteristics, maintenance, and outages are included in the model. For VERs, SaskPower uses the ELCC methodology to periodically update capacity credits in the model. The model simultaneously considers many types of randomly occurring events, such as forced outages of generating units. Uncertainty in assumptions is addressed through scenario work based on the likelihood of occurrence (e.g. high/low hydro energy forecast, high/low load forecast).

These studies conclude that the majority contribution to the EUE is typically planned outages with unserved energy occurring mainly during peak hours. These short-term reliability issues, when identified, can be mitigated by rescheduling maintenance.

ProbA Results

Saskatchewan does not anticipate resource adequacy issues during its off-peak hours. Currently, its resource mix majorly consists of baseload and fast-ramping generation resources, and it does not have a considerable penetration level of intermittent energy resources.

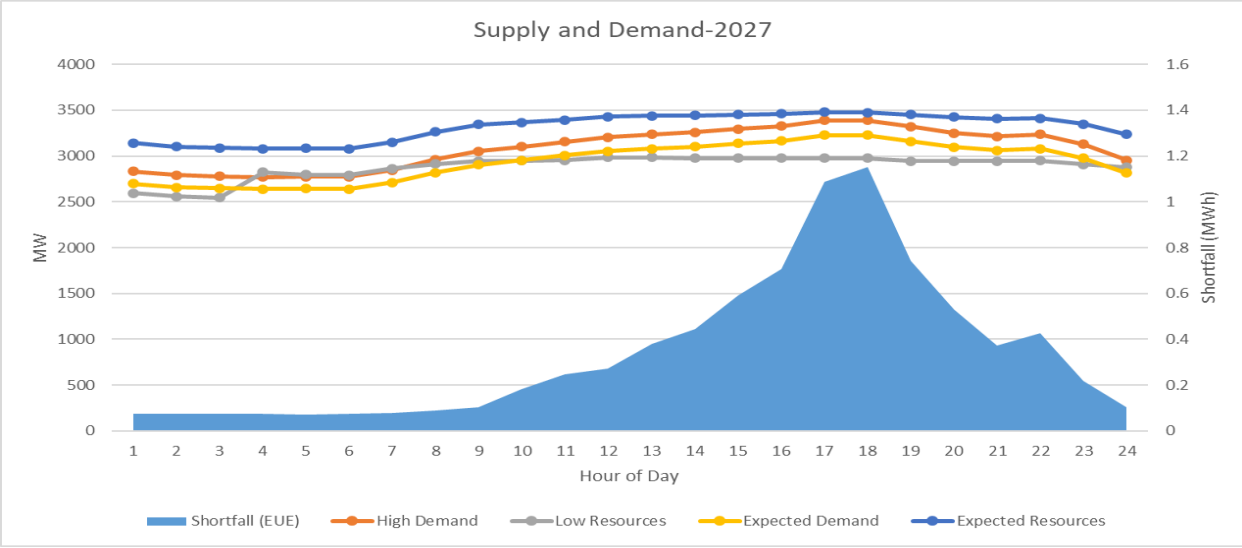
The major contribution to the EUE is planned outages. The contribution to EUE in these months occurs mainly during peak hours. These short-term reliability issues when identified can be mitigated by rescheduling the maintenance.

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	75	145	5
NEUE (ppm)	2.807	5.242	0.190
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.547	1.094	0.046
* Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

The annual EUE heat map for 2027 is provided below.

Hourly EUE Heat Map : 2027																								
EUE	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Jan-27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Feb-27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Mar-27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Apr-27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
May-27	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	1%
Jun-27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Jul-27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Aug-27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Sep-27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Oct-27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Nov-27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Dec-27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Hourly demand and resource projections for the highest EUE day in 2027 are shown in the figure below. Expected resource contributions are observed to cover expected demand on the risk day. However, there is a risk of supply shortfalls if demand is higher than expected and resource availability is lower than expected.



Demand

Saskatchewan experiences its peak season in the winter. Saskatchewan’s system peak load forecast is based on econometric variables, weather normalization, and individual level forecasts for large industrial customers. SaskPower computes a coincident peak by customer category based on a combination of historical data and other factors and aggregates the coincident peaks across classes to compute the system peak.

Large industrial loads continue to be the primary reason for both growth and uncertainty in the forecast. The average annual summer and winter peak demand growth is expected to be approximately 1.0% throughout the assessment period, down slightly from the 2024 LTRA’s projection of 1.35% average annual peak demand growth.

Demand-Side Management

Saskatchewan’s DR consists of contracts with industrial customers for interruptible load based on conditions specified in established DR programs. The first of these programs provides a curtailable load, with up to 72 MW enrolled currently, with a 12-minute event response time. Other programs are in place providing access to additional curtailable load requiring up to two hours’ notification, but those loads are not included in PRM calculations.

Distributed Energy Resources

The current behind-the-meter DER installed capacity in Saskatchewan is approximately 57 MW, which includes approximately 55 MW of solar PV and approximately 2 MW of distributed wind projects. An

additional 25 MW of DER solar PV are expected to be added in the next five years. Additional behind-the-meter DER installations are incorporated into load forecast models used for supply and transmission planning studies.

Small power producers contribute an additional 5 MW installed DER capacity (in front of the meter) in Saskatchewan. There is currently an existing 14 MW and a potential for up to 6.5 MW of DERs being added in the next year based on the currently approved Power Generation Partner program. These projects are included as generation additions, but their capacity is not currently considered in reliability planning.

Generation

Saskatchewan prepares a 10-year supply plan annually that outlines its generation plan to meet the province’s future resource needs. It considers retirements, planned and major overhauls, degradation of unit performance, escalating fuel prices, increasing capital costs, unit operating costs, and regulatory requirements. The installed capacity of non-synchronous/inverter-based generation has recently risen to 845 MW and is expected to increase to approximately 1,550 MW in the near-term planning horizon through the addition of 400 MW of wind and 300 MW of solar in the next three years. SaskPower added 370 MW of natural-gas-fired generation in 2024, which served to offset the increased net demand variations from the 220 MW of VERs added in the same year. This resulted in a slight improvement in ramping performance as compared to the last ramping assessment in 2022. SaskPower plans to add approximately 525 MW of new natural-gas-fired generation over the next 10 years and is also working to extend the life of its operational and recently deactivated coal units as directed by the Saskatchewan government.

Saskatchewan is projecting 31.8 MW (nameplate) of confirmed retirements consisting of 21.2 MW of waste heat recovery generation and 10.6 MW of wind generation. These retirements are driven by the units approaching the ends of their lifespans and terminations of power contracts. An additional 174 MW of unconfirmed wind retirements may also materialize during the 10-year assessment period.

Energy Storage

SaskPower’s first battery storage system, a 20 MW/20 MWh unit, came on-line in 2024. The prevalent use for the planned energy storage is to provide regulating reserve, peak capacity and energy reduction, net demand ramping control, reactive power/ voltage control, primary frequency control, and blackstart.

Energy Transfers

SaskPower has three interfaces with its neighboring areas. The interface with Manitoba is currently the largest of the three interfaces and is the only interface with long-term firm contracts. Capacity

transfers from Manitoba would be limited in the event of a prior outage of tie lines between SaskPower and Manitoba Hydro as well as nearby transmission facilities supporting the interface. This could only impact reliability if it is coincident with the extreme winter or summer peak demand and a prior outage of one or more larger generating units in Saskatchewan. Risk mitigation measures are in place through SaskPower’s emergency operating procedure that will allow measures such as short-term imports from available interfaces, initiating DR, and short-term load shedding.

According to the NERC’s [ITCS Canadian Analysis](#), the total simultaneous transfer capability into the Saskatchewan transmission planning region from all its neighbors, including dc-only interties, is 904 MW in the 2024 Summer and 893 MW in the 2024–2025 Winter. These values translate to approximately 25% of peak summer load and 22% of peak winter load in the analysis years. The interfaces include connections with MRO-SPP, MRO-Manitoba Hydro, and WECC-Alberta.

Transmission

SaskPower's major transmission projects in the first five years of the assessment period are related to the interconnection expansion with SPP and the 500 MW of new transmission service. This includes two new international power lines between Saskatchewan and North Dakota. Within Saskatchewan, a total of approximately 180 km of new 230 kV lines, a new 230 kV transmission station, expansion of several existing transmission stations, installation of two phase-shifting transformer interfaces, and two STATCOMs are being added. The remaining transmission projects (approximately 410 circuit km) will be in the planning or conceptual phases in the 5-to-10-year timeframe. These projects are driven by load growth, new generation additions, and reliability needs. SaskPower has historically experienced transmission limitations for existing generation deliverability in the southwest part of the province during prior outages of major transmission facilities.

Transmission infrastructure is being developed to reinforce the Northern Transmission System. SaskPower’s Northern System is not directly connected to the Southern grid, so significant load growth in the North will also require additional generation to supply the additional loads. SaskPower is looking at different ways to supply the generation to this load, including wheeling power from the South to the North through adjacent areas and temporary generation until a more permanent solution can be implemented. Planning for these projects is being driven, in part, by a projected increase in mining activity and associated development in Saskatchewan’s remote northern region. Reliable power supplies for new loads in the north will require significant transmission development.

Reliability Issues

As SaskPower is planning on constructing a significant number of transmission facilities, growing supply chain issues may affect project schedules because of long lead times for major system

components. SaskPower is identifying and initiating projects earlier that may require longer lead time and is advancing procurement as necessary.

It has been noted that there is an interdependency between Southeast Saskatchewan’s power generation and natural gas production. Saskatchewan’s pipeline utility, SaskEnergy, has completed analysis on how its system will respond to a loss of natural gas receipts during a power outage in this region as potential incremental demand is added. Both SaskPower and SaskEnergy have incorporated the potential challenges identified by that analysis into long-term planning and mitigation efforts.

SaskPower has been recently observing increasing instances of unscheduled flows on its interface with SPP and Manitoba Hydro. SaskPower is coordinating this on a regional basis with Manitoba Hydro, SPP and MISO to monitor and address the impact.

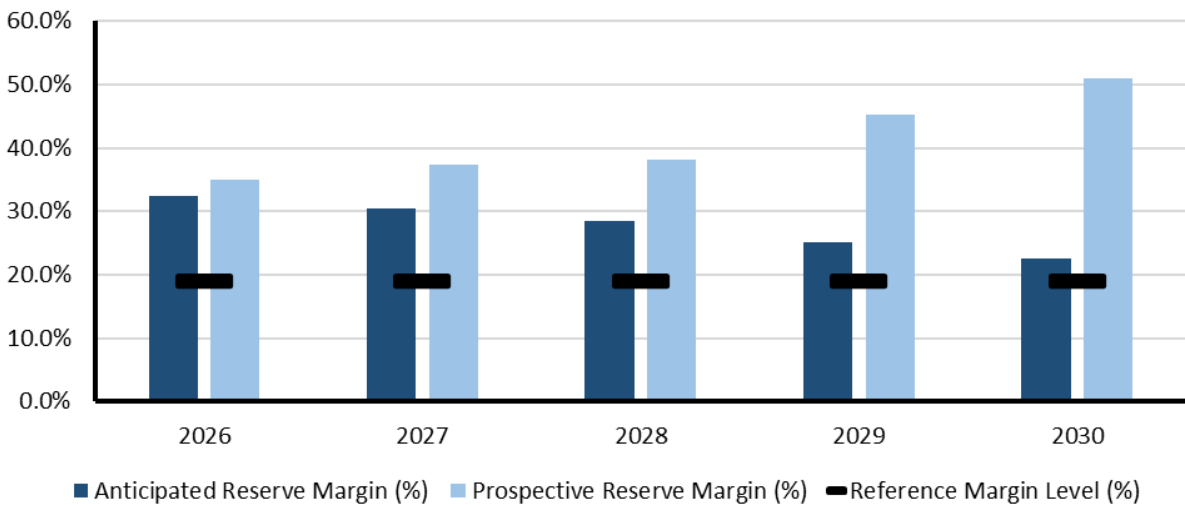


MRO-SPP

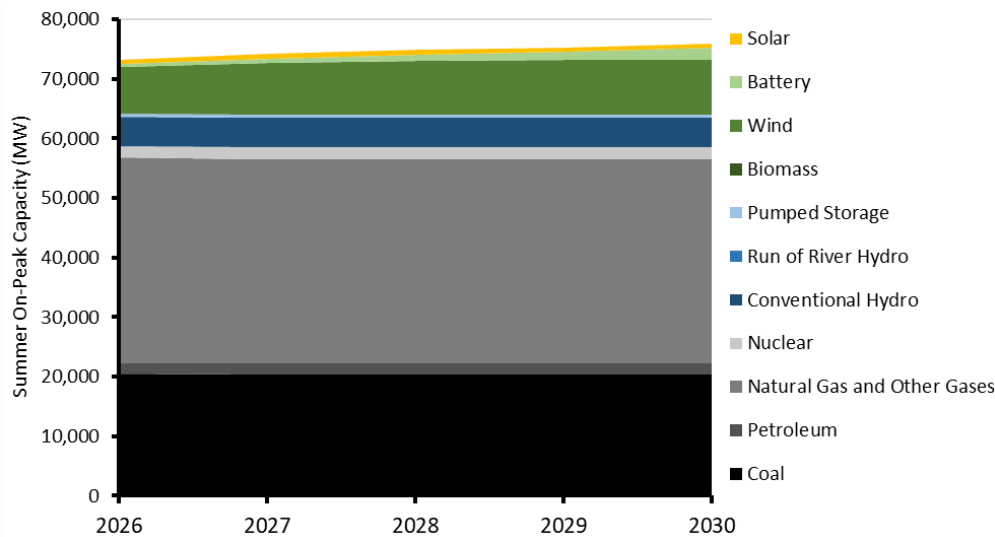
The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) PC footprint covers 546,000 square miles and encompasses all or parts of Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. The SPP long-term assessment is reported based on the PC footprint, which touches parts of the Midwest Reliability Organization Regional Entity and the WECC Regional Entity. The SPP assessment area footprint has approximately 61,000 miles of transmission lines, 756 generating plants, and 4,811 transmission-class substations, and it serves a population of more than 18 million.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	57,479	59,121	60,689	62,766	64,475	66,283	66,982	67,570	68,049	68,622
Demand Response	2,138	2,162	2,332	2,508	2,509	2,511	2,513	2,514	2,718	2,720
Net Internal Demand	55,340	56,959	58,357	60,258	61,966	63,772	64,469	65,056	65,331	65,902
Additions: Tier 1	1,808	3,020	3,685	4,251	4,815	4,866	5,344	5,344	5,344	5,344
Additions: Tier 2	2,436	6,104	8,948	15,659	21,487	23,345	25,664	27,277	27,877	28,627
Additions: Tier 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	-18	-78	-78	-78	-78	-79	-79	-79	-79	-79
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	71,475	71,224	71,232	71,127	71,146	71,115	71,135	71,106	71,105	71,106
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	32.4%	30.3%	28.4%	25.1%	22.6%	19.1%	18.6%	17.5%	17.0%	16.0%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	34.9%	37.3%	38.2%	45.2%	50.9%	48.7%	51.5%	51.8%	51.8%	50.6%
Reference Margin Level (%)	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

MRO-SPP Highlights

- The SPP assessment area peak demand occurs during the summer season; the 2025 net internal demand forecast over the 10-year time frame is projected to peak at 65,902 MW, which is a 16% increase to the all-time summer peak that SPP saw in 2023.
- SPP is seeing a slowing in retirements due to the projected PRM increases along with the separate seasonal PRM and accreditation requirements that are planned to be implemented in 2026.
- The existing-certain and net firm transfers reserve margin for the SPP assessment area is projected to fall below the current summer season PRM requirement in 2029.

MRO-SPP Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	20,473	20,440	20,440	20,428	20,428
Coal*	19,187	19,154	18,086	18,075	18,075
Petroleum	1,824	1,827	1,827	1,827	1,829
Petroleum*	1,824	1,771	1,771	1,771	1,774
Natural Gas	34,525	34,303	34,303	34,265	34,265
Natural Gas*	34,363	33,662	33,550	33,512	33,268
Biomass	35	35	35	35	35
Solar	700	700	700	700	700
Wind	7,831	8,581	9,044	9,134	9,191
Conventional Hydro	4,925	4,993	5,009	5,026	5,030
Pumped Storage	456	456	456	415	460
Nuclear	1,945	1,945	1,945	1,945	1,945
Other	281	281	281	281	281
Battery	379	833	1,027	1,472	1,949
Total MW	73,429	74,450	75,123	75,584	76,168
Total MW*	71,981	72,467	71,960	72,422	72,762
*Capacity with additional generator retirements. Generators that have announced plans to retire but have yet to give formal notice to SPP are removed from the resource projection where marked.					

MRO-SPP Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

The existing-certain and net firm transfers reserve margin for the SPP assessment area is projected to fall below the current summer season PRM requirement in 2029. SPP has approved a non-coincident 16% PRM for the 2026 Summer season and a 36% PRM for the 2026–2027 Winter season. Additionally, a non-coincident 17% PRM for the 2029 Summer season and 38% PRM for the winter season was approved as well. The PRM increases are not reflected in the 2025 LTRA as they are tied to policies that are still before FERC. Based on resources submitted in the ARM calculation, including the impact of retirements, SPP is forecasted to drop below the current 19% RML in 2032 and remain below that RML for the remainder of the 10-year horizon.

Non-Peak Hour Risk, Energy Assurance, Probabilistic-Based Assessments

SPP is performing a yearly energy adequacy assessment and assessment of adequacy of reliability attributes, which will be presented to SPP stakeholders. The results will also be used to perform for all reliability attributes a biennial assessment of the need for new market products, changes to market functionality, and changes to resource adequacy policies or requirements. Results of the biennial reassessment will be provided to impacted SPP stakeholder groups and the Regional State Committee (RSC).

Southwest Power Pool (SPP) performs an LOLE analysis every two years to determine the adequate amount of planning reserves needed to maintain a reliability metric of one day (or less) in ten years. SPP’s 2023 LOLE study supported much of the demand forecast presented in NERC’s 2024 LTRA and demonstrated how the PRM could be impacted materially depending upon how much loss of demand risk was planned for each season (winter or summer). Directed by the RTO’s Resource and Energy Adequacy Leadership Team, SPP completed an out-of-cycle 2024 LOLE analysis published in April 2025 to develop a recommendation for 2029 seasonal PRMs. This study and its results are based on the 2024 member-submitted forecast for the resource mix and demand, using the 2023 LOLE study assumptions. Member-submitted demand forecast increased approximately 5% in summer and 6% in winter for planning year 2029.

ProbA Results

The 2025 ProbA study was performed on assumptions, and the accompanying methodology reflects methods used in SPP’s LOLE studies, which have been thoroughly vetted through the SPP stakeholder process. Study improvements include additional weather years, seasonal forced outage modeling from the previous NERC probabilistic study, and incremental cold weather outages. More information on improvement and methodology can be found in SPP’s LOLE study reports.

There was no observed unserved energy for years two and four of the base-case analysis for the SPP assessment area. This is most likely attributed to an increase of conventional thermal generations more than that of renewable resources and the delayed retirements of other thermal resources to meet the increasing projected demand needs. Since there are no observed load-loss events, additional reporting is not provided.

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	0	0	0
NEUE (ppm)	0.00	0.00	0.00
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.00	0.00	0.00
*Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

Demand

The SPP assessment area is a summer-peaking region and currently relies on the forecast submitted by the load responsible entities in the annual resource adequacy process. The 2025 net internal demand forecast over the 10-year time frame is projected to peak at 65,902 MW, which is a 16% increase to the all-time summer peak that SPP saw in 2023. Although actual demand is very dependent on weather conditions and typically includes the effects of interruptible loads, forecasted net internal demands are based on a 10-to-30-year average of summer weather, or 50/50 weather. Some SPP RTO members base their peak load forecasts on a 50% confidence level, as approved by their respective state commission(s). This means the actual weather on the peak summer day is expected to have a 50% likelihood of being hotter and a 50% likelihood of being cooler than the weather assumed in deriving the load forecast. SPP RTO members make economic assumptions in their individual forecasting methods as well consider the effects of non-controllable or dispatchable programs and resources within their area. One risk that SPP has noted is that the aggregated noncoincident demand forecast submitted by members in recent years, which is based on a 50/50 forecast and is weather normalized, is tracking at a lower demand level than what the BA has seen in recent peak season.

Although SPP’s energy projections for resource adequacy purposes differ from load interconnection process set forth in the SPP OATT, the SPP Assessment Area has received new load requests for data center, pipeline, oil and gas, irrigation and industrial load. While these loads represent above average load growth in areas, some of the load due to oil and gas exploration have decreased. Of current concern is the projected growth in the crypto load area and how much of that will turn into demand growth outside of the DR arena.

Demand-Side Management

SPP RTO members track dispatchable and controllable DR programs, which are used as peak load shaving programs. For resource adequacy purposes, the peak demand can be reduced by the impacts of the programs to determine an appropriate net peak demand for each member. SPP’s tariff requires each Load Responsible Entity (LRE) to qualify and test their programs to prove they can meet and maintain the level of reduction submitted annually in the resource adequacy compliance window. SPP is constructing new policy to more appropriately categorize DR based on the flexibility of the program, which will ultimately be reflected in the accreditation process.

Distributed Energy Resources

The SPP assessment area is forecasting ~70 MWs of DERs in the 5–10-year planning horizon. The impacts and assumptions may differ across the planning processes, for instance in some studies they may be used to reduce the load impacts whereas in other studies they may be modeled as a resource that has a high cost associated with it. SPP does not consider the impacts of BTM resource as a load reduction for purposes on resource adequacy compliance.

Generation

In general, SPP is seeing a slowing in retirements due to the projected PRM increases along with the separate seasonal PRM and accreditation requirements that are planned to be implemented in 2026. There has been minimal retirement reported since the *2024 LTRA*, and a number of resources identified in 2024 as being set to retire are now being converted to new fuel, mostly coal to gas.

The *Expedited Resource Adequacy Study* process, approved by FERC in July 2025, is providing an accelerated pathway to interconnection for generation that supports identified resource adequacy needs. The program is yielding additional natural-gas-fired, solar, and battery resource projects in SPP’s Tier 2 development queue. Nearly 8 GW of natural-gas-fired generator capacity, 2.2 GW nameplate in solar, and 1.8 GW nameplate in batteries have been added to SPP’s Tier 2 queue since

July and are not reflected in this year’s LTRA. SPP anticipates the first interconnection agreements for *Expedited Resource Adequacy Study* projects will be signed in early 2026, which will qualify these resources for Tier 1 in NERC’s reliability assessments and ProbA and count toward ARM.

Energy Storage

There are approximately 57,000 MWs of energy storage and hybrid resources in generator interconnection queues. There are about 50 MWs that are under contract by members across the SPP assessment area and 230 MW of nameplate capacity forecasted for the assessment timeframe. These resources are being modeled as generation in the planning assumptions both near and long term. Due to this limited amount of storage, limited operational impacts have been identified.

Capacity Transfers

Over the assessment time frame, SPP is forecasting, based on submitted member data, to be a net exporter of capacity. In the resource adequacy process, SPP only relies on the imports that have firm transmission service, which is ~2,000 MWs. SPP and ERCOT executed a Coordination Plan, which addresses operational issues for coordination of the dc ties between the Texas Interconnection and Eastern Interconnection, block load transfers (BLT), and switchable generation resources (SWGR). Under the terms of the Coordination Plan, SPP has priority to recall the capacity of any SWGRs that have been committed to satisfying the resource adequacy requirements contained in Attachment AA of the SPP Open Access Transmission Tariff. Annually, SPP and ERCOT update the Coordination Plan based on the latest discussions and business decisions related to resource priority.

Transmission

SPP’s [2024 Integrated Transmission Plan \(ITP\)](#) is the single largest portfolio, in terms of size and value, that SPP has proposed for construction in its 20-year history as a transmission PC. The approved plan includes 89 transmission upgrades needed to address increasing electricity consumption and changes in the region's generating fleet.

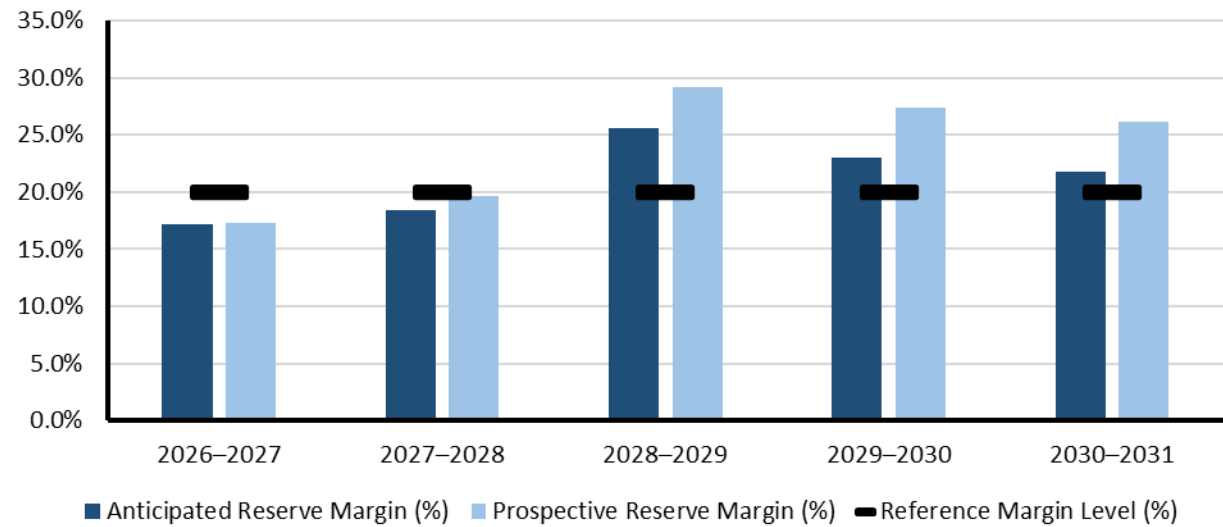


NPCC-Maritimes

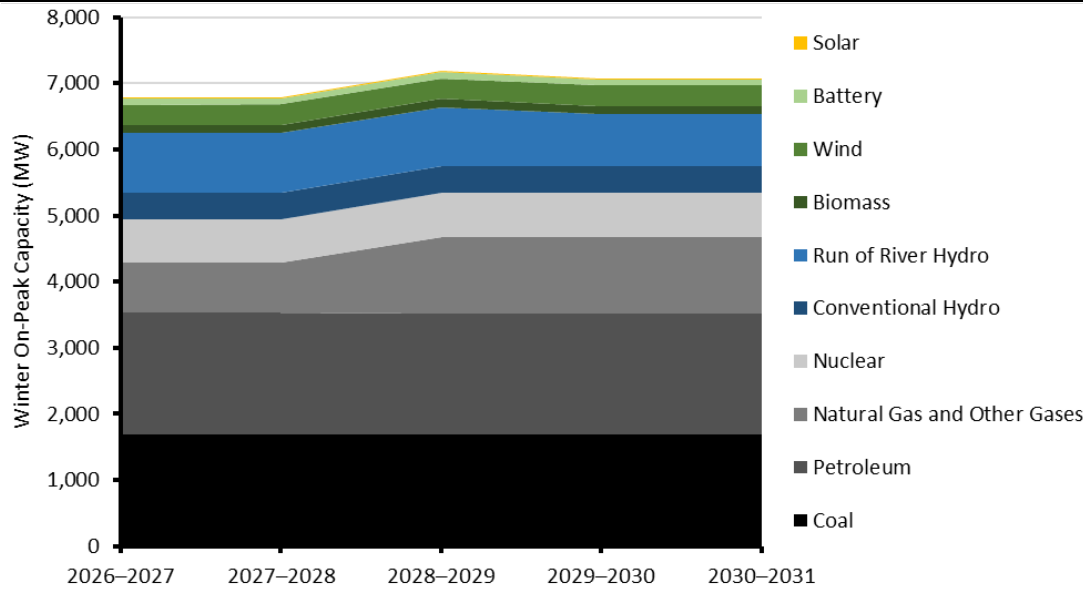
NPCC-Maritimes is an assessment area that covers the Canadian Maritime provinces—New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island—and the northernmost portion of the U.S. State of Maine. The area covers approximately 150,000 square kilometers (58,000 square miles) and has a total population of nearly 1.9 million people. The New Brunswick Power Corporation (NB Power) is the BA for New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and the northern portion of Maine. Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) is the BA for Nova Scotia. NB Power’s system is electrically interconnected with NPCC-Québec and NPCC-New England, and the electric systems in the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have ties with New Brunswick but no direct ties with other assessment areas. Peak electricity demand in NPCC-Maritimes occurs during the winter season.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031	2031–2032	2032–2033	2033–2034	2034–2035	2035–2036
Total Internal Demand	6,107	6,157	6,194	6,231	6,292	6,346	6,380	6,493	6,579	6,669
Demand Response	264	283	290	291	290	291	290	291	290	290
Net Internal Demand	5,843	5,875	5,904	5,940	6,001	6,055	6,089	6,202	6,289	6,380
Additions: Tier 1	173	179	579	579	579	579	579	579	579	579
Additions: Tier 2	6	367	656	1,492	1,492	1,492	1,492	1,492	1,492	1,492
Additions: Tier 3	0	0	23	101	215	227	239	251	260	260
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	-32	75	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	6,673	6,780	6,838	6,727	6,727	6,727	6,621	6,621	6,596	6,707
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	17.2%	18.5%	25.6%	23.0%	21.7%	20.7%	18.2%	16.1%	14.1%	14.2%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	17.3%	19.6%	29.2%	27.4%	26.1%	25.0%	22.6%	20.3%	18.3%	18.3%
Reference Margin Level (%)	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

NPCC-Maritimes Highlights

- Since the 2024 LTRA, the overall resource outlook has diminished slightly with smaller peak capacity contributions from certain wind, hydro, and biomass resources through most of the planning period. Starting in 2026, winter peak demand forecasts for this assessment area have risen slightly from the previous year’s projection through most years of the planning horizon; however, ARMs are currently projected to remain above the RML of 20% until 2032 when the ARM dips to 18.2%.

NPCC-Maritimes Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031
Coal	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696	1,696
Coal*	1,696	1,696	1,410	1,003	691
Petroleum	1,831	1,831	1,820	1,820	1,820
Natural Gas	757	757	1,157	1,157	1,157
Biomass	129	129	129	129	129
Solar	10	10	10	10	10
Wind	300	306	306	306	306
Conventional Hydro	395	395	395	395	395
Run of River Hydro	901	901	901	790	790
Nuclear	663	663	671	671	671
Other	98	98	89	89	89
Battery	99	99	99	99	99
Total MW	6,878	6,884	7,272	7,161	7,161
Total MW*	6,878	6,884	6,986	6,468	6,156
* Capacity with additional generator retirements. Generators that are being considered for retirement but have not been confirmed are removed from the resource projection where marked.					

NPCC-Maritimes Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

The RML that is used for evaluating the New Brunswick (NB), Nova Scotia (NS), Prince Edward Island (PEI), and Northern Maine (NM) sub-areas comprising the Maritimes area is 20% of firm load. The 20% criterion is not a mandated requirement. The ARM over the study period for the Maritimes area ranges between 14% to 26% during the winter period and between 74% to 90% during the summer period.

The ARM level during off-peak season for the Maritimes areas ranges between 74% to 90%. During off-peak hours, the Maritimes area has surplus generation available to meet the area’s energy needs and hence there are no constraints with converting the capacity to energy during these times.

The two BAs within the Maritimes area, as members of the NPCC, jointly prepare annual interim or comprehensive probabilistic assessment reviews that cover three to five-year forward-looking periods for both the area’s transmission system and resource adequacy evaluations. In addition, the Maritimes area also supports NERC’s annual seasonal probabilistic assessments which provides an evaluation of generation resource and transmission system adequacy that will be necessary to meet projected seasonal peak demands and operating reserves.

Energy Risk

During off-peak hours, the Maritimes area has surplus generation available to meet the area’s energy, needs and hence there are no constraints with converting the capacity to energy during these times.

The two Balancing Authorities within the Maritimes Area as members of the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) jointly prepare annual interim or comprehensive probabilistic assessment reviews that cover three- to five-year forward-looking periods for both the area’s transmission system and resource adequacy evaluations. In addition, the Maritimes area also supports NERC’s annual and seasonal ProbAs, which provide an evaluation of generation resource and transmission system adequacy that will be necessary to meet projected seasonal peak demands and operating reserves.

ProbA

For the Maritimes area, the ProbA indicates elevated levels of unserved energy in February 2028 due to load growth projections and the characteristics of the resource mix during that period and with a few hours of risk in the shoulder months of December and January.

Annual metrics and requested enhancements including EUE heat maps, loss of load event analysis, and risk period visualizations for both 2027 and 2029 are included in the ProbA appendix.

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	5	15	7
NEUE (ppm)	0.17	0.52	0.25
LOLH (hours/year)	0.09	0.25	0.10
*Results from the 2024 ProbA simulations			

Resource additions described in the Generation section below contribute to the improved EUE and LOLH metrics for study year 2029.

Demand

There is no regulatory requirement for a single authority to produce a forecast for the whole Maritimes area. The peak area demand occurs in winter and is highly reliant on the forecasts of the two largest sub-areas of NB and NS, which are historically highly coincidental. Demand for the Maritimes area is determined to be the non-coincident sum of the peak loads forecasted by the individual sub-areas. The aggregated growth of both demand and energy for the combined sub-areas see an upward trend over summer and winter seasonal periods of the LTRA assessment period.

The Maritimes area peak loads are expected to increase by 8% during summer and by 10% during winter seasons over the 10-year assessment period. This translates to compound average growth rates of 0.8% in summer and 1% in winter. The Maritimes area annual energy forecasts are expected to increase by a total of 6.6% during the 10-year assessment period for an average growth of 0.7% per year. Demand and energy forecasts have risen since the 2024 LTRA, due in large part to rural-to-metropolitan population migration and the proliferation of heat pump technology in local areas previously heated by fossil fuels, primarily in the PEI region.

Demand-Side Management

Plans to develop up to 100 MW by 2030–2031 of controllable direct load control programs using smart grid technology to selectively interrupt space and/or water heater systems in residential and commercial facilities are underway but no specific annual demand and energy saving targets currently exist. During the 10-year LTRA assessment period in the Maritimes area, annual amounts for summer peak demand reductions associated with EE and conservation programs rise from 21 MW to 147 MW

while the annual amounts for winter peak demand reductions rise from 177 MW to 652 MW.³⁷ The total controllable and dispatchable DR increases from 328 MW to 337 MW in the summer period while increasing from 248 MW to 290 MW in the winter period.

Distributed Energy Resources

The DER installed capacity in NS is approximately 300 MW at present, including distribution-connected wind projects under purchase power agreements, small community wind projects under a feed-in tariff and BTM solar.

LTRA wind capacity for NB, NS, and PEI is de-rated between 18% and 33% using probabilistic methods to calculate equivalent perfect capacities for each sub-area excluding NM, which uses seasonal capacity factors. Behind-the-meter (BTM) solar is assumed to have an ELCC of 0% during the winter period. The Maritimes area has shown embedded BTM solar PV projections of 204 MW in 2025 rising to 1,261 MW by 2035. These projects include distributed small-scale solar (mainly rooftop) projects that fall under the net metering program and serve as a reduction in load mainly in the residential class. The forecasted increase in solar installations in the coming years is a result of initiatives including municipal and provincial incentive programs. There is no capacity contribution from solar generation due to the timing of area’s system peak which occurs either before sunrise or after sunset in the winter period.

Generation

NB plans to extend 28 MW diesel fired generator starting in 2025 and recently upgraded 277 MW of natural-gas-fueled resource completed in 2023. An anticipated replacement PPA contract, a long-term firm energy contract from neighboring jurisdiction, and opportunities to buy in day-ahead and real-time markets will be utilized to maintain the overall resource adequacy.

In New Brunswick, Tier 1 resources include 63 MW (installed capacity) of wind and 400 MW of combustion turbines. Tier 2 resources include 546 MW of wind resources and 72 MW of biomass.

In Nova Scotia, Tier 1 resources include wind projects with a total installed capacity of 635MW phased-in from 2025–2027. These projects include 306 MW as part of the provincial Rate Base Procurement program, a 168 MW wind project, a 12.5 MW wind project, and a 148 MW wind project under the Renewable to Retail tariffs. Tier 1 resources in NS also include a 150 MW battery (2025–2026). Tier 2 resources in NS include 600 MW of combustion turbines (2027–2029); a 150 MW conversion of a coal-fired unit to natural gas (2028); 459 MW conversion of coal-fire units to oil (2030); 250 MW of batteries (2027–2029); 262 MW of wind projects as part of the provincial Green Choice Program

³⁷ Current and projected EE effects based on actual and forecasted customer adoption of various DSM programs with differing levels of impact are incorporated directly into the load forecast for each of the areas but are not separately itemized

(2028–2029); and approximately 100 MW of solar independent power producer (IPP) projects (2026-2029) with an ELCC of 0%. Tier 3 resources in NS include new wind generation with a nameplate capacity of 1400 MW phased in from 2029-2034.

PEI has 30 MW installed capacity of tier 2 wind, 111 MW tier 3 wind, 140 MW of tier 3 Petroleum based generation and 10 MW of tier 3 batteries.

NB de-rates its wind capacity using a calculated year-round equivalent capacity of 22%. NS and PEI de-rate wind capacity to 18% and 17% respectively of nameplate based on year-round calculated equivalent load carrying capabilities for their respective individual sub areas. The peak capacity contribution of grid based solar is estimated at zero since the Maritimes Area peak occurs in the winter either before sunrise or after sunset.

Energy Storage

NS Power includes a 150 MW (4-hour duration) nameplate standalone battery resource as a Tier 1 resource (2025–2026) and a 250 MW (4-hour duration) nameplate capacity standalone battery resource added as a Tier 2 resource (2027–2029). These grid scale projects will support the integration of new renewable generation, provide energy arbitrage and resiliency services, and provide firm capacity and fuel savings.

PEI includes a 10 MW nameplate capacity hybrid energy storage as a Tier 3 resource starting summer of 2028.

NB Power has not included any energy storage resources in the 2025 LTRA submission; however, the value of energy storage options is expected to increase as the technology improves and as NB’s smart grid network develops. NB Power issued a request for expressions of interest (REOI) for new renewable generation sources, including 200 MW wind, 15 MW solar, 5 MW tidal, and 50 MW 4-hour duration battery storage in February 2023. Under this program, NB Power expects uptake in new energy storage projects in the coming years. Internal pilot projects and studies are underway to understand the economics, application, and performance of battery storage resources. Ongoing internal analyses are conducted by NB Power to determine the cost and benefit associated with battery storage options and dispatching these resources to reduce/shift peaks and/or balance intermittent resources such as wind to provide additional flexibility to the system.

in the forecasts. Since controllable space and water heaters will be interrupted via smart meters, the savings attributed to these programs will be directly and immediately measurable.

Capacity Transfers

Probabilistic studies show that Maritimes area is not reliant on inter-area capacity transfers to meet NPCC resource adequacy criteria.

Transmission

NS has multiple new transmission line projects compared to the 2025 LTRA, most being shorter runs to enable the connection of renewable resources, with one major project of 165 miles designed to improve the reliability of the existing tie between NS and NB.

Reliability Issues

The Maritimes area has a diversified mix of capacity resources fueled by oil, coal, hydro, nuclear, natural gas, wind (de-rated), dual fuel oil/gas, tie benefits, and biomass with no one type feeding more than about 32% of the total capacity in the area. The Maritimes area does not anticipate fuel disruptions that pose significant challenges to resource during the assessment period.



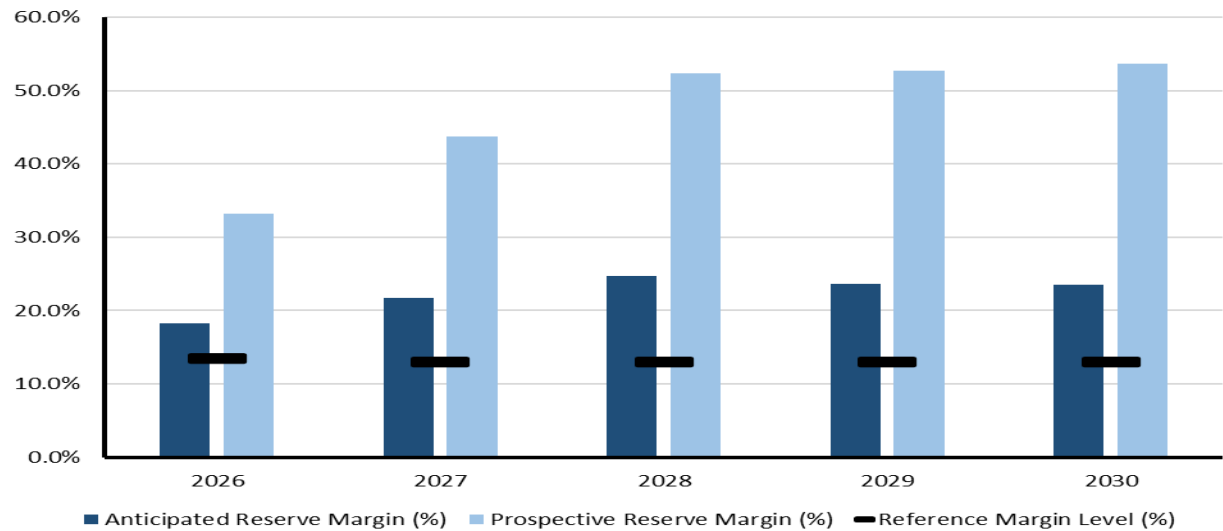
NPCC-New England

NPCC-New England is an assessment area consisting of the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont served by ISO New England Inc. (ISO-NE). ISO-NE is a regional transmission organization responsible for the reliable day-to-day operation of New England’s bulk power generation and transmission system, administration of the area’s wholesale electricity markets, and management of the comprehensive planning of the regional BPS.

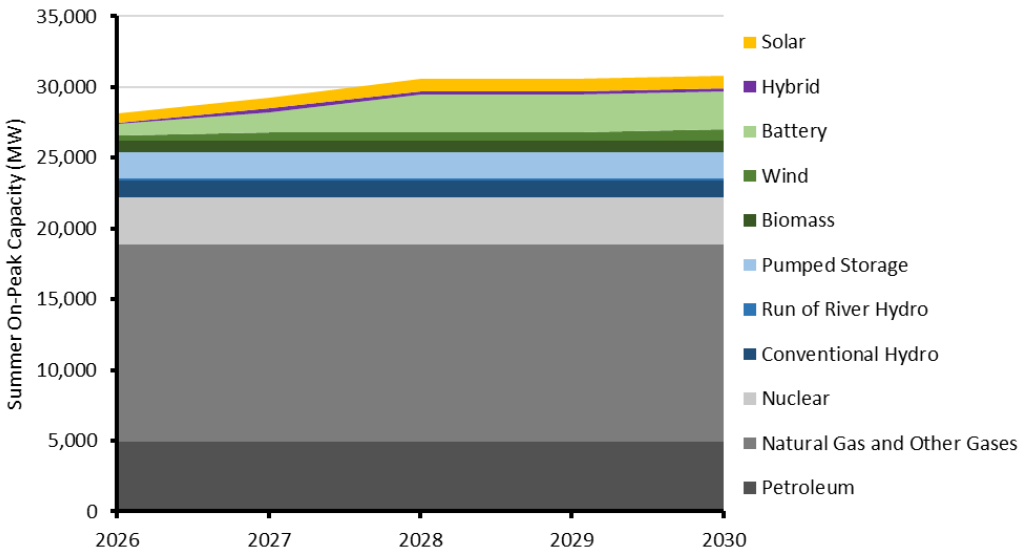
The New England BPS serves approximately 14.5 million customers over 68,000 square miles.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	24,877	24,945	25,124	25,347	25,557	25,821	26,123	26,486	26,897	27,331
Demand Response	623	544	544	544	544	544	544	544	544	544
Net Internal Demand	24,254	24,401	24,580	24,803	25,013	25,277	25,579	25,942	26,353	26,787
Additions: Tier 1	1,081	2,183	3,543	3,551	3,781	3,781	3,913	3,913	4,263	4,263
Additions: Tier 2	1,113	2,871	4,274	4,687	5,037	5,037	5,037	5,387	5,387	5,387
Additions: Tier 3	872	4,129	10,335	11,426	11,830	12,924	12,924	12,924	12,924	12,924
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	567	465	84	84	84	84	84	0	0	0
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	27,607	27,505	27,124	27,124	27,124	27,124	27,124	27,040	27,040	27,040
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	18.3%	21.7%	24.8%	23.7%	23.6%	22.3%	21.3%	19.3%	18.8%	16.9%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	33.2%	43.7%	52.3%	52.7%	53.7%	52.1%	50.8%	49.7%	48.7%	46.3%
Reference Margin Level (%)	13.4%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

NPCC-New England Highlights

- New England is forecast to have sufficient seasonal ARMs needed to meet consumer demand for electric energy for the entire assessment period (2026–2035) and not require any Tier 2 resources.
- Ongoing developments of wind facilities and a new interregional tie with Canada (the [New England Clean Energy Connect](#)) as well as new technologies (such as longer-duration electricity storage) will likely continue the trend toward a cleaner, albeit more complex, power system. ISO-NE is addressing the issues brought on by grid transformation through a number of planning, operational, and market measures.
- The summer ARMs do not fall below the annual RMLs for the entire assessment period. The summer ARMs range from a surplus high of 3,213 MW (26% ARM) in Summer 2028 and then decrease each year to a low of 1,356 MW (18% ARM) in 2035.

NPCC-New England Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW) ³⁸					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Petroleum	4,899	4,899	4,899	4,899	4,899
Natural Gas	13,939	13,939	13,939	13,939	13,939
Biomass	776	776	776	776	776
Solar	645	726	864	872	872
Wind	416	622	622	622	852
Conventional Hydro	1,165	1,165	1,165	1,165	1,165
Run of River Hydro	179	179	179	179	179
Pumped Storage	1,864	1,864	1,864	1,864	1,864
Nuclear	3,351	3,351	3,351	3,351	3,351
Hybrid	96	287	287	287	287
Battery	791	1,416	2,638	2,638	2,638
Total MW	28,121	29,223	30,584	30,591	30,821

- The winter ARMs do not fall below the annual RMLs for the entire assessment period.

³⁸ MW totals reflect existing and Tier 1 generation. Generator retirements in this timeframe would be captured if a resource submits a retirement request through the ISO-NE capacity market.

NPCC-New England Assessment

The summer ARMs do not fall below the annual RMLs for the entire assessment period. The summer ARMs range from a surplus high of 3,213 MW (26% ARM) in Summer 2028 and then decrease each year to a low of 1,356 MW (18% ARM) in 2035.

The winter ARMs do not fall below the annual RMLs for the entire assessment period. The winter ARMs range from a surplus high of 10,651 MW (66% ARM) in winter 2027–28 and then decrease each year to a surplus low of 4,522 MW (30% ARM) in winter 2035–36. The larger surpluses during winter (vs. summer) reflect the fact that New England is currently summer-peaking.

With the continued development of renewable and clean energy resources, the system will continue to emit lower air emissions.

Planning Reserve Margins

ISO-NE’s installed capacity requirement (ICR) is based on the capacity needed to meet NPCC’s resource adequacy reliability criterion. The ICR varies from year to year depending on projected system conditions. The ICR is calculated on an annual basis, in advance of the capacity auctions for each Capacity Commitment Period (CCP). The latest ICR calculations result in an LTRA annual RML of 13% in 2026 and 2027, expressed in terms of the annual 50/50 peak demand forecast. For the years 2028 through 2035, ISO-NE continued to use the last available RML value of 13%.

Energy Risks (Including Non-Peak Hour Risk)

ISO-NE routinely prepares a 21-day energy assessment forecast and report. These forecasts incorporate weather, transmission topology, resource capability and availability, fuel inventories and constraints, and projected imports/exports. If the regional supply/demand balance is projected to be negative, then projected energy deficiencies can trigger energy alerts or energy emergencies that are then disseminated to market participants and federal and state regulators. This early notification of potential electricity shortages should incentivize market participants to procure whatever is necessary (fuel) to follow future ISO dispatch orders. ISO-NE publishes its 21-day energy assessments every 2 weeks during spring, summer, and fall and then increases these publications to weekly (and/or daily if necessary) during the winter.

ISO-NE worked with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) to develop the Probabilistic Energy Adequacy Tool (PEAT) framework. The modeling results for the near-term PEAT assessments show for Summer 2027 that no energy shortfalls were observed in any of the events. One operating reserve shortfall was observed within a long-duration heat wave coincident with low wind scenario. For Winter 2027, a range of energy shortfall risks and associated probabilities were observed:

- The energy shortfall risk appears manageable over a 21-day period.

- These modeling results are consistent with the significant quantities of PV (BTM and utility scale), wind, and energy/electricity storage expected while experiencing minimal load growth.
- Operating risks may be mitigated by incremental imports from large inter-area transmission interconnects.

The modeling results for Summer 2032 also show that no energy shortfalls were observed in any of the hours of the 21-day period and only 1 hour of 30-minute reserve shortfall was observed. Baseline studies of Summer 2032 events indicate an energy shortfall risk similar to that of Summer 2027 events.

The modeling results for Winter 2032 show that the energy adequacy risk profile is dynamic and will be a function of the evolution of both supply and demand profiles. These results also reveal the range of energy shortfall risk under a variety of resource mix and demand assumptions. In terms of magnitude and probability, baseline studies of Winter 2032 events indicate an energy shortfall risk profile akin to that of Winter 2027 event studies.

Probabilistic Assessments (ProbA and Other Studies)

In conjunction with NPCC, ISO-NE conducts annual probabilistic resource adequacy assessments to identify regional capacity resource needs and to comply with NPCC/NERC reliability criterion/requirements. In the transmission assessment domain, revisions to ISO-NE planning processes reflect the changing resource characteristics, probabilistic study assumptions, and changes to national and regional criteria. Coordinated transmission planning activities with neighboring systems will continue in support of the New England states’ policy objectives of providing access to a greater diversity of clean energy resources and to comply with environmental regulations.

New England is a summer-peaking area. For the ProbA years, New England presents negligible risks in 2027 and very low risk in 2029 based on the ProbA results shown below.

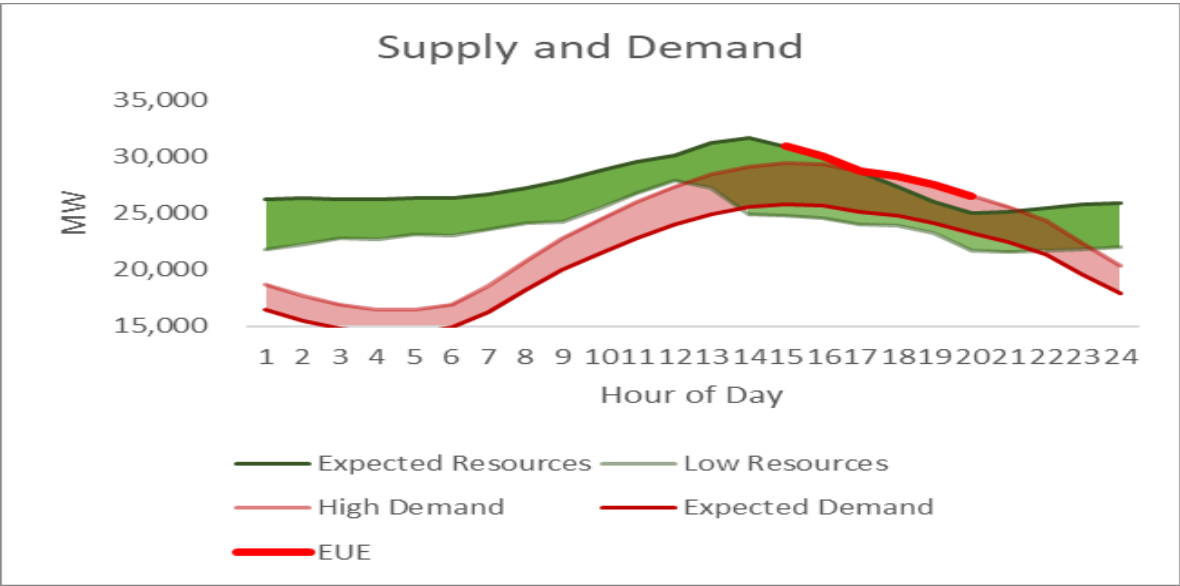
NPCC New England Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	10.7	0.1	1.8
NEUE (ppm)	0.1	0.0	0.0
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.1	0.0	<0.1
* Provides the 2024 ProbA results for Comparison			

EUE Heat Map – 2029

For the 2029 summer season, the highest EUE risks are driven by high demand and low resources availability.

Month	Hour																							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	10%	33%	24%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	19%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
11	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
12	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

The figure below illustrates hourly demand and resource projections for the highest EUE day in 2029.



Demand

For its 2025 forecast, ISO-NE has updated its long-term forecast methodology to include hourly modeling of all load components, incorporation of climate-adjusted weather in forecast simulation, redefinition of gross load to reflect reconstitution for BTM solar PV (BTM PV) only, and an expanded forecast horizon that extends to 2045. This new base load forecast also already implicitly accounts for the load reduction from EE.

Over the 10-year LTRA planning horizon, the forecast net internal summer peak demand increases by 2,094 MW from 24,803 MW in 2025 to 26,897 MW in 2034. The corresponding net internal winter peak demand increases by 5,964 MW from 20,056 MW in 2025–26 to 26,020 in 2034–35. Net energy for load is forecast to grow by 13,403 GWh from 117,262 GWh in 2025 to 130,665 GWh in 2034. These peak growth projections have not changed significantly since the 2024 LTRA. The energy growth projection has decreased as well since the 2024 LTRA.

The higher winter peak growth rate due to anticipated electrification results in convergence with summer peak projections by the end of the 10-year period, such that New England’s transition to a winter-peaking system is currently anticipated by the mid-2030s. It is also expected that the timing of the peaks will likely occur in the morning by that time, with heating electrification in particular inducing a greater tendency for morning peaks due to electrified residential and commercial heating.

Demand-Side Management (DR/DSM)/Distributed Energy Resources (DER)

For Summer 2026, ISO-NE forecasts 623 MW of controllable and dispatchable DR/DSM resources, which is projected to decrease to 544 MW by the summer of 2027. That value is then held constant through the rest of the assessment period.

For summer months, the results of the BTM PV forecast are incorporated into the ISO-NE gross demand forecast as estimated reductions in demand. In the summer of 2026, New England is expected to have 1,759 MW (5,093 MW nameplate) of BTM PV. BTM PV is forecast to grow to 1,942 MW (7,359 MW nameplate) by 2031. The winter capacity contribution for BTM PV resources is currently 7 MW (5,372 MW nameplate) in the winter of 2026–27 and increases to 521 MW (9,360 MW nameplate) in the winter of 2035–36.

In 2024, ISO-NE developed a new [Planning Procedure 12](#) entitled *Data Collection for Distributed Energy Resources* to formalize and standardize data collection for DERs. Under this new planning procedure, distribution providers are responsible for providing installation-level data on DERs connected to their system (these DERs do not include DR, controllable loads, or other load modifiers). Additionally, transmission providers are responsible for providing data to translate feeder IDs into substation names and other useful identifying information. Among the other benefits, this planning procedure will allow for proper accounting of the location, size, and type of DER, which will lead to more accurate operational and planning studies.

Generation

The two largest changes that will impact New England’s generation fleet are the changes to the methodology for capacity accreditation and the development of a seasonal, prompt capacity market. Efforts are underway to change the timing and commitment horizons of capacity auctions to

seasonal/prompt in preparation for the evolving resource mix the [Capacity Auction Reforms Key Project](#).

While ISO-NE does not expect any reliability impacts due to the retirement of any one single unit or station, the past and future retirements of dispatchable, fossil-fueled capacity, with on-site fuel inventories, as well as potential nuclear plant retirements, continue to exacerbate known winter reliability issues related to natural gas availability.

Energy Storage

New England has a total of 2,331 MW/2,110 MW (summer/winter rating) of energy storage capacity. Among the largest energy storage resource(s) in New England are three pumped-storage hydro-electric facilities that can supply a combined 1,864 MW / 1,861 MW (summer/winter rating) of quick-start 10-minute operating reserve capability, and with full reservoirs, can produce over 11,800 MWh of energy.

New England currently has 467 MW/249 MW (summer/winter rating) of electricity storage, including traditional battery storage along with integrated hybrid and co-located hybrid electricity storage.

As of April 1, 2025, there were 16,885 MW (summer ratings) of electricity storage devices (batteries, integrated-hybrid, and co-located-hybrid) that have submitted interconnection requests for installation over the next five years under the combined resource categories of Tier 1 at 2,658 MW, Tier 2 at 3,258 MW, and Tier 3 at 10,969 MW.

No new pumped-storage facilities are planned for the region. Over the next 10 years, those total Tier 1–3 capacities do not increase/decrease from their 5-year projection.

Capacity Transfers (Reliance on Assistance)

New England is interconnected to three BAs: Québec, Maritimes, and New York. ISO-NE considers the tie benefits associated with these BAs within its capacity market methodology to meet the regional resource adequacy criterion while preventing over-reliance on such assistance. Assumed assistance from tie benefits ranges from 2,100 MW in 2026 to 2,115 MW in 2027. Aside from such assistance, ISO-NE’s firm capacity imports are projected to range from a maximum of 567 MW in the summer of 2026 to 84 MW in the summer of 2028. There is one long-term firm import contract of 84 MW that extends from Summer 2028 through Summer 2032.

Within the 2025 LTRA Prospective Resources (and Prospective Reserve Margin in the Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins table), a summer and winter, energy-only contract is identified (i.e., expected imports). These numbers reflect the upcoming commercialization (in late 2025) of the New

England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC), a new 1,200 MW tie line connecting Québec to Lewiston, Maine. An off-take 1,090 MW energy-only contract into Maine/New England has been executed. This import of 1,090 MW reflects the average hourly rate of the total annual energy in the contract.

In addition, there are no firm exports identified over the 10-year LTRA summer or winter assessment periods.

Transmission

Transmission expansion in New England has improved the overall level of reliability and resiliency, reduced air emissions, and lowered wholesale market costs by nearly eliminating congestion. Generator retirements, off-peak system needs, the growth of DERs and VERs that use inverter-based technology and changes to mandatory planning criteria promulgated by NERC and NPCC have driven the need for increasingly complex transmission assessments.

The future reliable and economic performance of the system is expected to continue to improve because of planned transmission upgrades over the next 10 years. Generator retirements, the integration of many DERs and VERs, the use of inverter-based technologies, and issues arising from minimum load assessments and high-voltage conditions are changing the needs for reliability-based transmission upgrades. In addition, transmission improvements will also be needed to support state policies to access remotely located sources of clean energy and serve increased load as transportation and heating are electrified. ISO-NE’s longer-term transmission planning process was developed through coordination with NESCOE to create an additional path toward meeting these future system needs.

Reliability Issues

New England’s power system is transitioning to a system with unprecedented projected demand growth and a growing number of renewables, clean energy resources, VERs, and DERs. ISO-NE has been engaged in the implementation of revised interconnection standards for VERs and DERs that will ensure overall power system reliability and facilitate the economic development of IBRs.

ISO-NE has observed some delays in projected “in-service” dates for transmission system upgrades due to supply chain issues. In these cases, ISO-NE develops special operating plans to work around any issues caused by these commercialization delays.

New England has already experienced constraints on electric energy production due to the availability of natural gas during winter. In winter, the interstate natural gas pipelines serving New England run full with (firm) gas utility contracts serving their residential, commercial, and industrial (RCI) customers. In response, ISO-NE has been a key player at the national level in promoting electric/gas

communications/coordination, sharing of lessons learned, best practices, and more recently, through the performance of more detailed and in-depth deterministic and probabilistic energy assessments.

The just-in-time delivery of a generator’s fuel supply, whether natural gas, wind, or solar, is creating the need for the electric sector to quickly develop ways to retain access to flexible, stored energy/electricity—either through long-term energy/electricity storage solutions that can capture and store renewable power or through the use of flexible, dispatchable resources.

ISO-NE is actively working on numerous major projects as part of its energy transition while ensuring continued reliability. The following is a short list of major projects in which ISO-NE has engaged:

- [Capacity Auction Reforms](#)
- [Operational Impacts of Extreme Weather Events](#)
- [Day-Ahead Ancillary Services Initiative](#)
- [2024 Economic Study](#)
- [Extended-Term Transmission Planning Tariff Changes](#) (aka Longer-Term Transmission Planning (LTTP) Tariff Changes)
- [Longer-Term Transmission Studies](#)
- [Storage As Transmission Only Asset](#)
- [FERC Order No. 1920 Project](#)
- [FERC Order No. 2023 Project](#)
- [FERC Order No. 2222 Project](#)

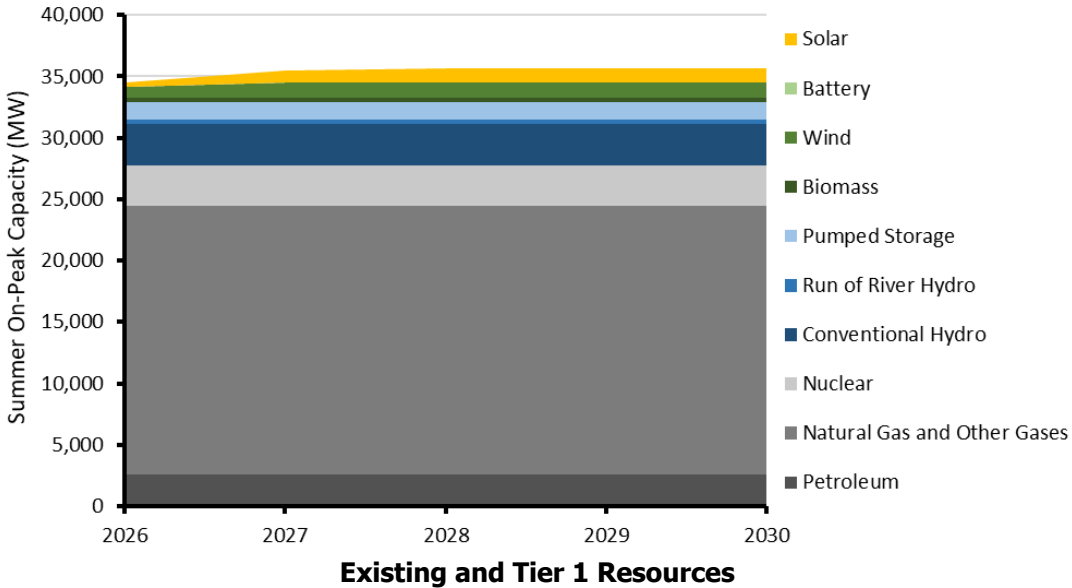
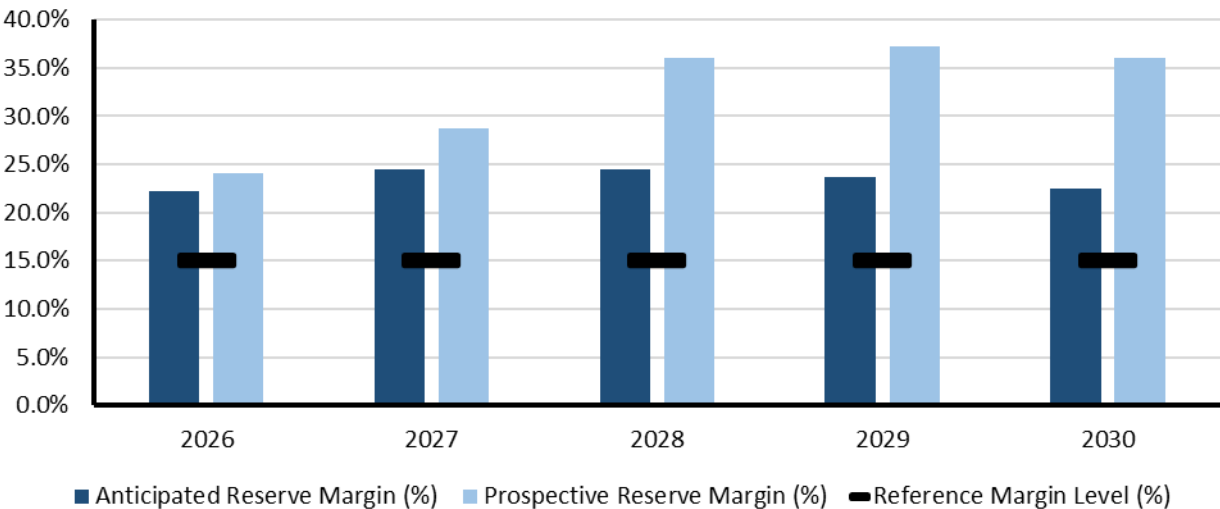


NPCC-New York

NPCC-New York is an assessment area consisting of the New York ISO (NYISO) service territory. NYISO is responsible for operating New York’s BPS, administering wholesale electricity markets, and conducting system planning. NYISO is the only BA within the state of New York. The BPS encompasses over 11,000 miles of transmission lines and 760 power generation units and serves 20.2 million customers. For this LTRA, the established RML is 15%. Wind, grid-connected solar, and run-of-river totals were derated for this calculation. However, New York requires load-serving entities to procure capacity for their loads equal to their peak demand plus an Installed Reserve Margin (IRM). The IRM requirement represents a percentage of capacity above peak load forecast and is approved annually by the New York State Reliability Council (NYSRC). The NYSRC approved the 2025–2026 IRM at 24.4%.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	31,990	32,280	32,410	32,620	32,910	33,190	33,520	33,870	34,170	34,500
Demand Response	989	989	989	989	989	989	989	989	989	989
Net Internal Demand	31,001	31,291	31,421	31,631	31,921	32,201	32,531	32,881	33,181	33,511
Additions: Tier 1	532	1,509	1,660	1,660	1,660	1,660	1,660	1,660	1,660	1,660
Additions: Tier 2	574	1,317	3,642	4,313	4,313	4,313	4,313	4,313	4,313	4,313
Additions: Tier 3	150	1,516	9,280	19,034	25,847	28,035	28,035	28,526	29,009	29,009
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	3,405	3,486	3,486	3,486	3,486	3,486	3,486	3,486	3,486	3,486
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	37,368	37,449	37,450	37,450	37,450	36,995	36,995	36,995	36,995	36,995
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	22.3%	24.5%	24.5%	23.6%	22.5%	20.0%	18.8%	17.6%	16.5%	15.4%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	24.1%	28.7%	36.1%	37.3%	36.0%	33.4%	32.1%	30.7%	29.5%	28.2%
Reference Margin Level (%)	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%



NPCC-New York Highlights

- Generator deactivations are outpacing new supply additions. Electrification programs and new large-load customers associated with economic development initiatives are pushing projected demand higher. Together, these forces are also narrowing reliability margins across New York and increasing the risk of future reliability needs.
- As public policy goals seek to decarbonize the grid, fossil-fired generation will be needed for reliable power system operations until the capabilities it offers can be supplied by other resources. EE and demand-side management (DSM) will continue to play a key role in reducing energy consumption, lowering costs, and mitigating environmental impacts.
- Some of the risks can be mitigated by repowering. Repowering aging power plants can lower emissions, meet rising consumer demand, and provide reliability benefits to the grid that are needed to integrate additional clean energy resources.
- New York is projected to become a winter-peaking electric system by the 2040s, driven primarily by electrification of space heating and transportation. On the coldest days, the availability of natural gas for power generation can be limited, and interruptions to natural gas supply will introduce further challenges for reliable electric grid operations.
- Driven by public policies, new supply, load, and transmission projects are seeking to interconnect to the grid at record levels. NYISO’s interconnection processes continue to evolve to balance developer flexibility with the need to manage the process to more stringent time frames. New processes have been implemented to accelerate the process while protecting grid reliability.
- The competitive wholesale electricity markets administered by NYISO support reliability while minimizing costs to consumers. Competitive wholesale markets are essential to a reliable, affordable, and cleaner grid of the future.
- NYISO’s 2025 Quarter 3 Short-Term Assessment of Reliability (STAR)³⁹ report identified short-term reliability needs in New York City and Long Island due to generation deactivations.

NPCC-New York Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Petroleum	2,597	2,597	2,597	2,597	2,597
Natural Gas	21,858	21,858	21,858	21,858	21,858
Biomass	334	334	334	334	334
Solar	345	931	1,083	1,083	1,083
Wind	850	1,221	1,221	1,221	1,221
Geothermal	0	0	0	0	0
Conventional Hydro	3,324	3,324	3,324	3,324	3,324
Run of River Hydro	418	418	418	418	418
Pumped Storage	1,411	1,411	1,411	1,411	1,411
Nuclear	3,326	3,326	3,326	3,326	3,326
Hybrid	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Battery	32	52	52	52	52
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Total MW	34,495	35,472	35,623	35,623	35,623

³⁹ NYISO’s 2025 Q3 STAR Report: <https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/16004172/2025-Q3-STAR-Report-Final.pdf>; Explanatory Statement: https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/54553125/03_2025Q3STAR_NearTermReliabilityNeedExplanatoryStatement.pdf; and Solutions Solicitation: <https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/15930765/STRP-Q3-2025-Solicitation-Letter-Final.pdf>

NPCC-New York Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

The LTRA anticipated and prospective margins are above 15% for all 10 years. However, the system margins are narrowing throughout the assessment period. Wind, grid-connected solar, and run-of-river totals were derated for the LTRA calculation. Under its reliability planning processes, NYISO uses probabilistic assessments to evaluate its system’s resource adequacy against the LOLE resource adequacy criterion of no greater than 0.1 event-days/year probability of unplanned load loss. NYISO’s *2024 Reliability Needs Assessment*⁴⁰ found reliability margins decrease over time as load increases to the point that New York is nearly at the 0.1 even-days/year criteria by 2034.

NYISO also provides support to the New York State Reliability Council (NYSRC) in conducting an annual IRM study. This study determines the IRM for the upcoming capability year (May 1 through April 30). The IRM is used to quantify the capacity required to meet the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) and NYSRC’s resource adequacy criterion of “one day in 10 years.” The current IRM for the 2025–2026 capability year is 24.4% of the forecasted NYCA peak load. All values in the IRM calculation are based upon full installed capacity values of resources. The IRM has varied historically from 15% to 24.4%. Additionally, NYISO performs an annual study to identify the Locational Minimum Installed Capacity Requirements (LCRs) for the upcoming capability year.

Energy Assessment, Including Non-Peak Hour Risk

New York State’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) decarbonization mandates to decarbonize span all major industries and are the main drivers of change to the electric system NYISO staff in system operations, planning, and markets will continue to assess the system changes to prepare for the grid’s transformation.

With high penetration of renewable intermittent resources, the system will need dispatchable emission-free resources (DEFR) and long-duration resources to balance intermittent supply with demand. These types of resources must be significant in capacity and have attributes such as the ability to come on-line quickly, stay on-line for as long as needed, maintain the system’s balance and stability, and adapt to meet rapid, steep ramping needs. Additionally, although new transmission is being built, more investment is necessary to support the delivery of future offshore wind energy and to connect new resources upstate to downstate load centers where demand is greatest.

NYISO performs long-range assessments (10-year and beyond planning horizon), and certain energy aspects are accounted for in the hourly modeling and simulations performed under the resource

adequacy studies through NYISO’s reliability planning processes along with the production cost simulations performed under its System and Resource Outlook.

NYISO performs and supports energy assessments a fuel and energy security study, a study assessing potential impacts related to climate change, and weekly analysis of fuel and energy security based on load profiles and fuel inventories reported through NYISO’s Generator and Fuel Emissions Reporting (GFER) data portal. These assessments are based on data and information provided by resources on an annual, weekly, and as-needed basis considering system operating conditions. These assessments have the capability to analyze the impact of changes in stored fuel inventory, resource outages, fuel supply disruptions, transmission constraints, and other relevant conditions that may adversely impact fuel and energy security. Additionally, the New York City and Long Island areas have a loss of gas supply dual-fuel requirement, and certain combined-cycle gas units participate in a “Minimum Oil Burn” program. While oil accounts for a relatively small percentage of the total energy production in New York, it is often called during critical periods, such as when severe cold weather limits access to natural gas.

Probabilistic Assessments (NERC ProbA and Other Studies)

NYISO performs probabilistic assessments using GE’s Multi-Area Reliability Simulation (MARS) as part of its reliability planning processes, as well as supporting the calculation of the annual IRM, LCRs, and capacity accreditation. The new capacity accreditation market rules align compensation for capacity suppliers with an individual resource’s expected reliability benefit to consumers and uses the probabilistic models from the LCR process to define capacity accreditation factors (CAF) for various capacity accreditation resource classes. The CAFs will reflect the marginal reliability contribution of the ICAP suppliers within each capacity accreditation resource class toward meeting NYSRC resource adequacy requirements for the upcoming capability year, starting with the capability year that began in May 2024.

Additionally, every year, each Regional Entity (e.g., NPCC) provides results into NERC’s ProbA process under the LTRA. The results from the ProbA performed in 2025 by the NPCC Regional Entity are shown below.

ProbA Results

New York is a summer-peaking area with negligible risks as shown in the low values in the following table of annual metrics.

⁴⁰ <https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/2248793/2024-RNA-Report.pdf>

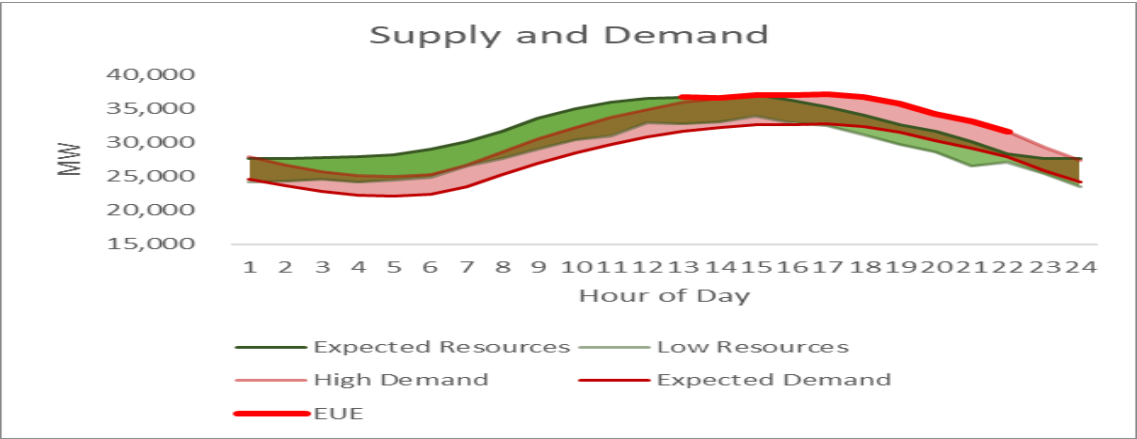
NPCC New York Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	1.909	0.466	12.478
NEUE (ppm)	0.012	0.003	0.078
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.011	0.002	0.035
* Provides the 2024 ProbA results for Comparison			

EUE Heat Maps – 2029

Negligible risk presented for Summer 2029, with occurrences clustered in July and August around hours 16 to 18.

Month	Hour																							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	7%	24%	25%	7%	3%	0%	0%
8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	8%	16%	6%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
11	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
12	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Hourly demand and resource projections for the highest EUE day in 2029 are shown in the figure below.



Although expected resource contribution is great enough to meet expected demand, there is risk due to the variability in the higher net demand levels from LFU compounded with a greater risk added due to the variability in resource contribution. The higher net demand LFU levels could be 10–13% higher than expected, which could strain the system as modeled in the ProbA.

Demand

NYISO employs a multi-stage process to develop load forecasts for each of the 11 zones within the New York Control Area (NYCA). The impacts of net electricity consumption of energy storage resources due to charging and discharging are added to the energy forecasts, while the peak-reducing impacts of BTM energy storage resources are deducted from the peak forecasts.

Currently, the NYCA summer peak typically occurs in late afternoon. The NYCA summer peak is projected to shift into the evening as additional BTM solar is added to the system and as electric vehicle charging impacts increase during the evening hours. Because the hour of the summer peak shifts into the evening over the course of the forecast horizon, BTM solar generation becomes less coincident with the NYCA peak hour, and BTM solar coincident peak reductions are forecasted to decrease in later years. The forecast of solar PV-related reductions to the winter peak is zero because the system typically peaks after sunset.

Trended weather conditions from the Climate Impact Study Phase I report are included in NYISO’s end-use models and are reflected in the baseline, scenario, and percentile forecasts. NYISO develops 90th and 99th percentile forecasts to account for the impacts of extreme weather on seasonal peak demand and calculates 10th percentile forecasts to represent milder seasonal peak conditions.

The 10-year annual average energy (+1.7%) and summer peak demand (+1.0%) growth rates are similar to last year’s forecast. Throughout the 30-year forecast period, baseline energy and seasonal peak demand increase significantly due to New York State electrification and decarbonization policies, principally the CLCPA. The baseline forecast includes significant electrification via conversion to electric heating and electric non-weather sensitive appliances, along with significant growth in EV adoption. In the early forecast years, large-load projects add significant growth to the annual energy and peak demand forecasts. To account for forecast uncertainty during winter due to electrification and large loads, NYISO implemented a winter dynamic load forecast uncertainty in the resource adequacy models for its 2024 RNA.

Demand-Side Management

NYISO has been working on developing market concepts to encourage the participation of flexible load, which participation will become increasingly important as the levels of weather-dependent intermittent resources on New York’s grid increase in response to the state’s climate and clean energy

policies. New York utilities are piloting several load management programs (e.g., smart electric vehicle charging, home-thermostat use, and integration of BTM storage for local peak demand modulation). As part of NYISO’s annual long-term forecasting process, the impacts of these programs are discussed and significant impacts on demand are included in the load forecast.

For the 2025 LTRA, the DR participation for the summer capability period has increased slightly from 1,294 MW to 1,487 MW. These values are nameplate and are derated for reserve margin calculations. For example, the 1,487 MW is derated to 989 MW. There are currently 433 MW of DR participating in ancillary services programs (not included in reserve margin calculations) and providing either 10-minute spinning reserves or 30-minute non-synchronous reserves.

Distributed Energy Resources

In 2024, NYISO implemented a plan to integrate DERs, including DR resources, into its markets. The DER Participation Model project aims to enhance participation of DERs in the competitive wholesale markets. These measures closely align the bidding and performance measurements for DERs with the rules for generators. The measures establish a state-of-the-art model that is largely consistent with the market design envisioned by FERC in its Order 2222. This project, which began in 2017, provides a single-participation model for DER DR resources to provide energy, ancillary services, and installed capacity through an aggregation. The market rules for the DER and aggregation participation model were accepted by FERC in January 2020. NYISO filed additional proposed tariff revisions with FERC in June 2023 to clarify and enhance these market rules. NYISO deployed its DER participation model in 2024.

Generation

Significant new resource development will be required to achieve New York’s energy targets under the CLCPA. According to the [2023–2042 System and Resource Outlook](#) the total installed generation capacity to meet policy objectives within New York is projected to range between 111 GW and 124 GW by 2040. At least 95 GW of this capacity will consist of new generation projects and/or modifications to existing plants. Even with these additions, New York still may not be sufficient to maintain the reliable electricity supply and meet policy requirements within the next 20 years.

Currently, NYISO’s interconnection process⁴¹ contains a significant number of proposed projects in various stages of development with only a fraction in more advanced stages included in the reliability planning models. However, the grid will evolve to achieve the policy mandates, and those changes will affect the nature and amount of resources.

⁴¹ <https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/1407078/NYISO-Interconnection-Queue.xlsx>

Coordination of project additions and retirements is essential to maintaining reliability and achieving policy. The New York system relies on fossil-fuel, synchronous generation. ERSs usually provided to the system by synchronous fossil generation will remain necessary. As New York’s public policies seek to decarbonize the grid, fossil-fuel, synchronous generation will be needed for reliable power system operations until the capabilities it offers can be supplied by other resources. New technology is being developed to allow for a reliable transition to a clean grid. Grid-forming inverter capabilities, as well as DEFRs, will likely be part of this transformation.

On June 23, 2025,⁴² New York’s governor directed the New York Power Authority to develop and construct a zero-emission advanced nuclear power plant in upstate New York to support a reliable and affordable electric grid while providing the necessary zero-emission electricity to achieve a clean energy economy.

Energy Storage

Storage resources can help to fill in voids created by reduced output from renewable resources. However, sustained periods of reduced renewable generation can rapidly deplete storage capabilities. NYISO has implemented its Co-Located Storage Resources model to allow wind or solar resources that are interconnected with an energy storage resource the ability to participate in the markets while respecting a shared interconnection limitation. NYISO is preparing the implementation of a model for hybrid storage resources to allow multiple technologies at the same point of interconnection to participate in the market as a single resource. Additionally, the resource adequacy simulation tools (such as GE’s MARS) used in system planning by NYISO and for setting the IRMs were enhanced to include energy-limited resource models that allow for charging and discharging and also include temporal constraints (e.g., hours/days or hours/month).

Capacity Transfers

The models used for NYISO’s reliability planning studies include firm capacity transactions (purchases and sales) with its neighboring systems as a base-case assumption. Proposed projects that are in a more advanced stage are included. One such project is the 1,250 MW HVdc line from Québec to New York City, which is reflected in the LTRA summer total transfers starting in 2026. Additionally, the probabilistic model that NYISO uses to assess the adequacy of resources in the reliability planning processes employs several methods aimed at preventing overreliance on the external systems support. For example, NYISO limits emergency assistance from neighboring systems by modeling a total limit of 3,500 MW, modeling five simultaneous peak days, modeling the long-term purchases and sales with neighboring control areas, and not modeling emergency operating procedure steps for the neighboring systems.

⁴² <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-directs-new-york-power-authority-develop-zero-emission-advanced-nuclear-energy>

New York is fortunate to have strong interconnections with neighboring regions and has enjoyed reliability and economic benefits from such connections. As the energy policies in neighboring regions evolve, New York’s imports and exports of energy could vary significantly due to the resulting changes in neighboring systems. The availability of energy for interchange is predicted to shift fundamentally as policy achievement progresses. As New York’s and other regions’ grids evolve, continuous monitoring and collaboration with our neighboring systems will be required.

Transmission

Significant new transmission is being built across New York, but more investment is necessary to support, among other things, the delivery of offshore wind energy to connect new resources upstate to downstate load centers where demand is greatest.

Key transmission projects under development and accounted for in the reliability models include the following:

- The Northern New York Priority Transmission Project upgrading the transmission corridors from the renewable generation pocket in the north country to central New York
- The 1,250 MW Champlain-Hudson Power Express HVdc line from Hydro-Québec to New York City, and
- The transmission project selected to address the Long Island Offshore Wind Expert Public Policy Transmission Need and that adds three new ac tie lines and a 345 kV backbone across western/central Long Island with an in-service date in 2030
- Con Edison’s proposed Brooklyn Clean Energy Hub project, including a new 345 kV load-serving substation with the goal of addressing local electric reliability needs in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens as well as the goal of serving as a point of interconnection for new clean-energy resources

Additionally, there are significant transmission projects either recently selected or under study that have not yet met the criteria to be in the reliability model. For instance, the PSC recently identified a new public policy transmission planning need for NYISO to solicit proposed solutions and that is intended to support the integration of 4.7 GW of wind resources in New York City.

Furthermore, in 2020, the PSC ordered the New York utilities to undertake planning assessments and make investment proposals to facilitate the cost-effective development of renewable and emission-free resources while maintaining the reliability of New York’s electric grid. The Coordinated Grid Planning Process (CGPP) was approved by the PSC in August 2023. The process is designed to assess the state’s electric grid using a 20-year planning horizon. The CGPP is intended to identify electric grid expansions that can aid in unlocking renewable generation capacity and provide energy headroom for the purpose of meeting New York’s clean energy goals while providing value to customers. Moreover, the CGPP is designed to identify opportunities for expansion of the bulk transmission system to advance the mandates of CLCPA. This provides another opportunity to inform the PSC’s consideration of whether to establish a public policy transmission need for NYISO to solicit and evaluate proposed solutions.

Reliability Issues

NYISO’s *2024 Reliability Needs Assessment*⁴³ (RNA) and subsequent analysis⁴⁴ identified very tight transmission security margins in New York City (Zone J) by 2034. The narrowing of the reliability margin continues to be a major concern. Most recently, NYISO’s 2025 Quarter 3 STAR report⁴⁵ identified short-term reliability needs in New York City and Long Island due to generation deactivations.

The transition to a cleaner grid in New York is leading to an electric system that is increasingly dynamic, decentralized, and reliant on weather-dependent renewable generation and may lead to increasing reliability issues on the New York system. Reliability margins are shrinking. Generators needed for ERSs are planning to retire. Delays in the construction of new supply and transmission, higher-than-expected demand, and extreme weather could threaten reliability and resilience in the future. The system is projected to become winter-peaking in the next decade due to electrification and decarbonization policies. Large loads are being proposed to interconnect to the system. New York’s current reliance on neighboring systems is expected to continue through the next 10 years. A successful transition of the electric system requires replacing the reliability attributes of existing fossil-fueled generation with clean resources with similar capabilities. Such resources must be significant in capacity and have attributes such as the ability to come on-line quickly, stay on-line for as long as needed, maintain the system’s balance and stability, and adapt to meet rapid, steep ramping needs. New transmission is being built, but more investment is necessary to support the delivery of offshore wind energy to connect new resources located in upstate to downstate load centers where demand is greatest.

⁴³ <https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/2248793/2024-RNA-Report.pdf>
⁴⁴ https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/51270164/CRP_KeyTopics_TPAS_050625.pdf
⁴⁵ NYISO’s 2025 Q3 STAR Report: <https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/16004172/2025-Q3-STAR-Report-Final.pdf> and Explanatory Statement:

[https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/54553125/03_2025Q3STAR_NearTermReliabilityNeedExplanatoryStatement.p](https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/54553125/03_2025Q3STAR_NearTermReliabilityNeedExplanatoryStatement.pdf)
df; Solutions Solicitation: <https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/15930765/STRP-Q3-2025-Solicitation-Letter-Final.pdf>

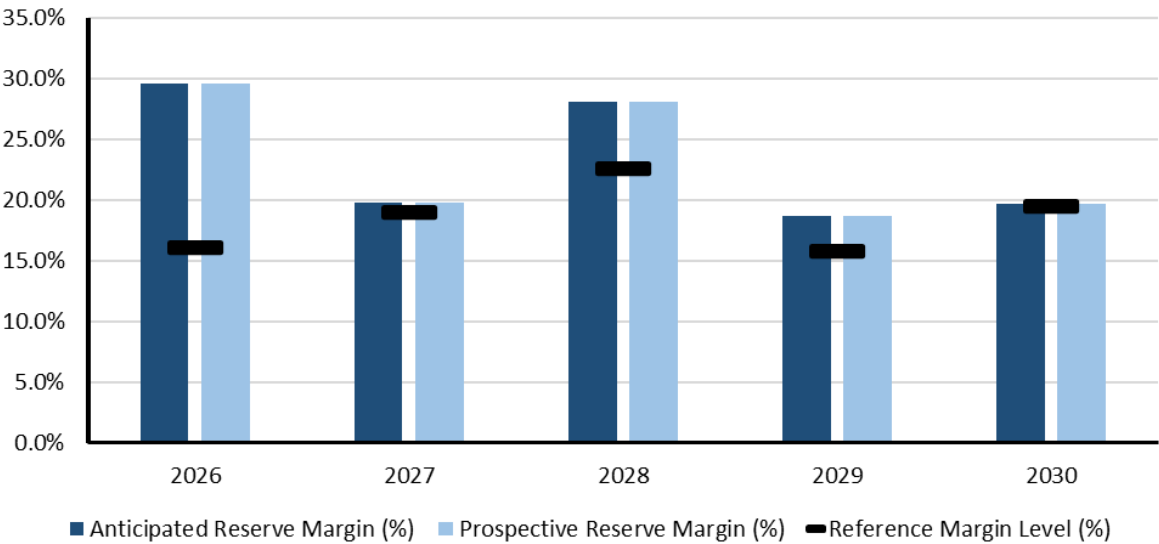


NPCC-Ontario

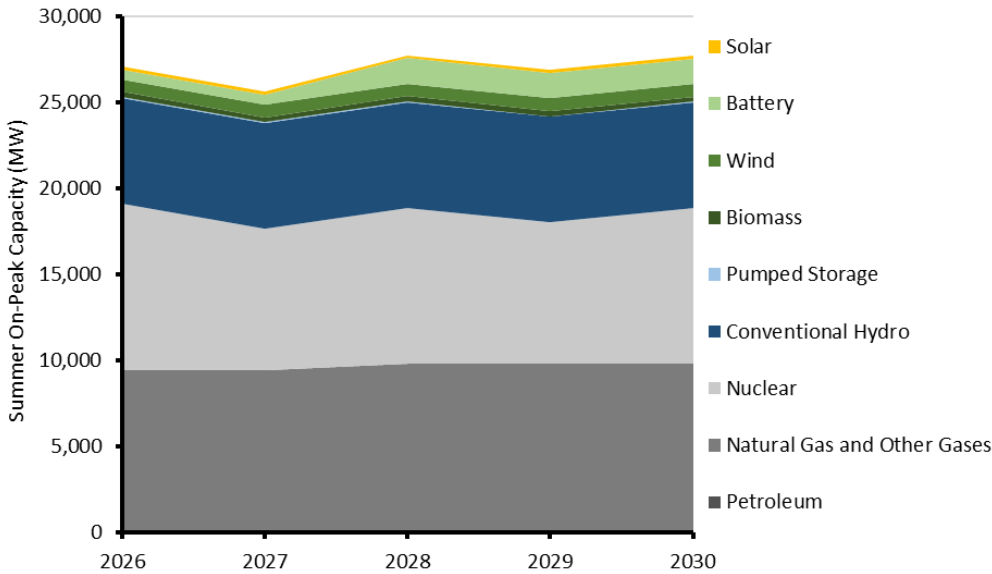
NPCC-Ontario is an assessment area that covers the Canadian province of Ontario. The province of Ontario covers more than 1 million square kilometers (415,000 square miles) and has a population of over 16 million people. The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is the balancing authority for the province of Ontario. NPCC-Ontario is electrically interconnected with NPCC-Québec, MRO-Manitoba, MISO, and NPCC-New York. Peak electricity demand in NPCC-Ontario occurs during the summer season.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	23,403	24,023	24,514	25,587	26,443	26,927	27,747	28,621	29,202	29,974
Demand Response	2,046	1,998	2,090	2,092	2,093	2,095	2,096	2,098	2,099	2,101
Net Internal Demand	21,357	22,025	22,424	23,495	24,350	24,832	25,651	26,523	27,103	27,873
Additions: Tier 1	853	853	2,156	2,156	2,156	2,964	3,507	4,051	4,579	5,387
Additions: Tier 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Additions: Tier 3	0	0	0	0	600	600	600	1,233	1,324	1,324
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	602	772	1,002	1,002	1,432	1,002	302	302	302	302
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	26,833	25,541	26,577	25,737	26,999	25,623	25,767	25,767	26,611	26,611
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	29.6%	19.8%	28.1%	18.7%	19.7%	15.1%	14.1%	12.4%	15.1%	14.8%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	29.6%	19.8%	28.1%	18.7%	19.7%	15.1%	14.1%	12.4%	15.1%	14.8%
Reference Margin Level (%)	16.1%	19.0%	22.6%	15.8%	19.5%	13.9%	14.7%	9.6%	14.3%	13.2%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

NPCC-Ontario Highlights

- Ontario’s ARMs remain above the RML for the first five years of the 2025 LTRA outlook. Only one year within the 10-year horizon shows a minor shortfall, which is mitigated through a combination of capacity swap agreements with Hydro-Québec and the expected contribution of Tier 3 resources, including those from the Long-Term 2 (LT2) procurement expected to be on-line in 2030.
- Ontario’s 2025 Annual Planning Outlook (APO) identified a growing energy gap beginning in 2029, with a more pronounced shortfall expected by 2035. This is primarily driven by expiring contracts, increasing demand from electrification, and the emergence of large industrial loads. Different to last year’s LTRA, the IESO assumes generation resources are expected to be re-contracted (through the IESO’s reacquisition mechanisms) after those contracts expire. This has improved the resource outlook for the IESO when compared to last year while aligning the methodology to forecast supply with the methodology used by other NERC assessment areas.
- For demand, Ontario projects compound annual growth rates of 2.37% for summer peak and 2.93% for winter peak over the 2026–2035 period. As a result, total internal demand is projected to grow by 31% over the next 10 years to nearly 30 GW by 2035.
- Ontario’s generation landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by the integration of IBRs, expansion of energy storage, nuclear refurbishments, and new nuclear projects. Ontario’s planning assumptions now reflect a more realistic view of generator retirements, assuming continued operation unless explicitly declared otherwise. This aligns with two recently completed procurements to re-contract existing resources.
- Ontario is undergoing a significant expansion in energy storage capacity. As of April 2025, the Oneida battery storage facility (250 MW/1,000 MWh) entered commercial operation, marking a major milestone. By May 2028, Ontario expects over 2,700 MW (installed capacity) of BESS to come on-line, with discharge durations of four hours.
- Ontario is attentively monitoring reliability risks due to large industrial and commercial load additions, including data centers, EV production facilities, hydrogen electrolyzers, and electrified heating systems. These loads introduce uncertainty in peak and hourly demand forecasting and challenge transmission development. Additional reliability risks include nuclear refurbishment delays, aging infrastructure, supply chain constraints, and policy uncertainty. The IESO incorporates these risks into long-term planning by maintaining additional reserves and using probabilistic assessments.

NPCC-Ontario Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Petroleum	3	3	3	3	3
Natural Gas	9,385	9,385	9,790	9,790	9,790
Biomass	299	304	310	310	310
Solar	150	150	150	150	150
Wind	724	725	728	732	732
Conventional Hydro	6,163	6,163	6,163	6,163	6,163
Pumped Storage	38	38	38	38	38
Nuclear	9,724	8,256	9,059	8,214	9,047
Battery	597	597	1,489	1,489	1,489
Total MW	27,084	25,622	27,731	26,891	27,723

NPCC-Ontario Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

Ontario’s ARMs remain above the RML for the first five years of the 2025 LTRA outlook. Only one year within the 10-year horizon shows a minor shortfall, which is mitigated through a combination of capacity swap agreements with Hydro-Québec and the expected contribution of Tier 3 resources, including those from the Long-Term 2 (LT2) procurement expected to be on-line in 2030. No Tier 2 resources have been identified for this year’s publication.

The [IESO calculates](#) Ontario’s reserve margin annually using the GE MARS model and applies a more stringent reserve criterion than the NPCC standard of 0.1 days/year LOLE, incorporating additional reserves to manage risks associated with nuclear refurbishments and new nuclear builds. For example, over the LTRA outlook, the 2025 [Annual Planning Outlook \(APO\) includes reserves](#) of nearly 800 MW in some summers and nearly 1,100 MW in some winters to account for uncertainties in nuclear project timelines. If these additional reserves were excluded, Ontario would meet or exceed the RML in all years of the assessment. MARS inputs include resource availability, outages, refurbishment schedules, interface limits, and demand uncertainty. The model uses probabilistic simulations and Monte Carlo analysis for wind and solar and historical data for hydro and thermal units. The assessment evaluates system adequacy across all hours, not just peak periods.

For the 2025 LTRA, the IESO applied NERC’s definitions for Tier 1 and Tier 3 resources. The IESO’s Resource Adequacy Framework (RAF) enables reacquisition of existing resources nearing contract expiry. It’s important to distinguish between off-contract resources and those that have reached end of life or retired. Many existing Ontario resources remain operational and can be upgraded or re-contracted, with the RAF providing competitive mechanisms to secure capacity from these resources. The 2025 LTRA assesses reliability independent of contractual status, unlike the [2025 APO](#), which aims to determine the resource adequacy needs in order to inform future reacquisitions of existing and new resources. As a result, the 2025 LTRA outlook will differ from the 2025 APO, especially regarding off-contract resources that are likely to continue to be operational.

The [RAF](#) remains unchanged since the 2024 LTRA and continues to guide the reacquisition of existing resources and the procurement of new capacity. The RAF supports a flexible, multi-pronged approach to resource adequacy, including capacity auctions, medium- and long-term procurements, and targeted programs for re-contracting or upgrading existing facilities and securing new resources.

Non-Peak Hour Risk, Energy Assurance, Probabilistic-Based Assessments

Ontario conducts annual energy adequacy assessments using Energy Exemplar’s Plexos software, which models the province’s nodal transmission network and simulates dispatch under expected

system conditions. These deterministic assessments evaluate energy sufficiency over a 20-plus-year horizon and are supplemented by sensitivity analyses to identify periods of heightened risk.

The 2025 APO identified a growing energy gap beginning in 2029, with a more pronounced shortfall expected by 2035. This is primarily driven by expiring contracts, increasing demand from electrification, and the emergence of large industrial loads. It should be reinforced that the APO presents an energy adequacy assessment used to inform future procurements, whereas the LTRA’s purpose is to inform reliability of the system, where contractual end dates are not incorporated into the assessment

Shorter-term energy assessments are conducted quarterly through the [Reliability Outlook \(RO\)](#), which evaluates energy adequacy over an 18-month horizon. These [assessments](#) use probabilistic demand forecasts and outage data to identify seasonal and weekly risks. While the RO time frame is too short to secure new resources, the IESO uses operational tools such as [capacity auctions](#), coordination with market participants on outage scheduling, and DR programs to mitigate risks.

Ontario’s energy adequacy assessments do not assume economic imports or exports, reflecting a self-sufficiency planning approach. However, in practice, intertie capacity and capacity-sharing agreements (e.g., with Hydro-Québec) provide additional flexibility during periods of stress.

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	0.043	0.001	0.066
NEUE (ppm)	0.000	0.000	0.000
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.000	0.000	0.000
*Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

Demand

Ontario’s demand forecast is shaped by a combination of econometric modeling for the near-term and sectoral/end-use modeling for the long term. The 2025 APO projects compound annual growth rates of 2.37% for summer peak and 2.93% for winter peak over the 2026–2035 period. Growth projections in the 2024 LTRA were 2.34% for summer and 2.75% for winter. Marginal increases in demand growth since the 2024 LTRA are attributed to data center growth and EV production. Incremental 2025 APO forecasted growth is driven by the following:

- Electrification of buildings, transportation, and industry
- Expansion of electric vehicle (EV) production and supply chains

- Rapid development of commercial data centers
- Population growth and household formation

Offsetting factors include increased EE, DSM programs, and a plateau in agricultural greenhouse expansion.

The 2025 APO forecasted Ontario to become a dual-peaking jurisdiction by 2030, with winter and summer peaks converging due to increased electrification of heating. The IESO’s demand forecast incorporates updated assumptions on immigration, economic growth, and sector-specific developments, including hydrogen production, steel decarbonization, and data center expansion. Additional large loads in planning but not yet included in the forecast are assessed based on their development stage, funding, and likelihood of materialization.

Ontario anticipates significant changes in load behavior, including increased demand from building electrification, EV charging (shifting peaks), data centers, hydrogen electrolyzers, and large industrial loads. These trends introduce variability and new reliability challenges. The IESO conducts [System Impact Assessments \(SIA\)](#) for large loads, evaluating impacts such as voltage flicker and transient stability. Enhancements to the assessment process are underway. Additionally, annual regulation needs assessments project up to 110 MW of incremental regulation by 2035 to manage fluctuating loads, with procurement strategies in place to meet these needs.

Demand-Side Management

The IESO has implemented a capacity qualification process that applies performance-based derates to DR resources, ensuring more reliable capacity contributions. Since the 2024 LTRA, the [Peak Perks program](#) has expanded to small businesses, helping the program deliver more than 152 MW of summer peak demand reduction in 2024, growing to over 200 MW in 2025. A new DR program targeting HVAC loads in the commercial and institutional sector is in development. These programs, as well as the [Industrial Conservation Initiative \(ICI\)](#), also contribute to peak demand reduction. A new electric demand side management (eDSM) framework spanning the next 12 years commenced with a \$1.8 billion budget for years 2025–2027 targeting 4.6 TWh of energy savings and 900 MW of peak demand savings.

Distributed Energy Resources

Ontario’s DER landscape includes both contracted embedded generation and uncontracted BTM resources. In 2024, contracted DERs totaled over 3,400 MW, with about 60% from solar, 20% from wind, and 15% from hydro and biomass. Uncontracted DERs contributed an estimated 2.7 TWh of energy.

DERs are integrated into planning through the [Enabling Resources Program \(ERP\)](#), which is developing participation models for standalone DERs, hybrid resources, and aggregations. The IESO is also advancing coordination protocols through the Transmission-Distribution Coordination Working Group (TDWG), which has proposed tools for real-time coordination and visibility. The group wrapped up work during Summer 2025 and has posted final reports on their findings.

DERs are considered in transmission planning as non-wires alternatives and are increasingly included in regional planning processes. The IESO’s [DER Potential Study](#) and Local Generation Program aim to further integrate DERs into Ontario’s RAF.

Generation

Ontario’s generation landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by the integration of IBRs, expansion of energy storage, nuclear refurbishments, and new nuclear projects. To maintain system reliability, the IESO continues to monitor key operational parameters such as primary frequency response and system inertia, both of which are currently sufficient but require reassessment as the resource mix evolves. Ramping needs can be provided by over 11,100 MW of natural gas generation with 600 MW able to be online and ramp within 20 minutes. Supply to the majority of Ontario’s gas fleet is robust and supported by significant firm supply and transportation contracts. The IESO does not expect any material gas supply or delivery issues under extreme winter conditions. The day-ahead market, established through the IESO’s [Market Renewal’s](#) Program, allows for firm gas supply to be scheduled.

Deliverability testing is a core component of Ontario’s long-term procurement process, ensuring that new resources can connect without causing congestion or reliability issues. For the IESO’s second long-term procurement, testing will be expanded to include inverter-based resource screening for sub-synchronous control interactions.

Ontario has updated its Market Rules to align with IEEE 2800 and now requires synchrophasor data from generators and transmitters to improve situational awareness and IBR performance. The IESO is also conducting system-wide electromagnetic transient (EMT) studies and validating models for battery storage projects to proactively address sub-synchronous control interaction risks.

For Ontario’s adequacy assessments, capacity contribution values for thermal resources are calculated using historical performance and probabilistic modeling. Wind and solar contributions are based on seasonal capacity factors, while hydroelectric values are derived from historical output. Energy storage contributions are based on a four-hour discharge duration.

Ontario’s planning assumptions now reflect a more realistic view of generator retirements, assuming continued operation unless explicitly declared otherwise. This aligns with two recently completed medium-term procurements, which re-contracted existing resources for five-year terms. In addition to medium-term procurements, the IESO also maintains mechanisms such as Reliability Must Run agreements and capacity auctions to mitigate retirement risks. The IESO is currently conducting assessments for operating reserve and frequency response for the next 10 years, intended to be included in the 2026 APO.

Overall, Ontario’s generation planning is increasingly focused on flexibility, resilience, and integration of emerging technologies, with a strong emphasis on ensuring deliverability, maintaining operability, and adapting to evolving reliability challenges.

Energy Storage

Ontario is undergoing a significant expansion in energy storage capacity. As of April 2025, the Oneida battery storage facility (250 MW/1,000 MWh) entered commercial operation, marking a major milestone. By May 2028, Ontario expects over 2,700 MW of new BESS to come on-line, with discharge durations of four hours. These resources were secured through the Expedited Long-Term 1 (E-LT1) and LT1 procurements.

New storage projects may also participate in the second long-term procurement and long-lead time procurement, which aim to support system reliability during periods of high demand and low renewable output, particularly in the 2029–2035 time frame.

Energy storage resources are currently modeled as generators and loads at the same location, which presents operational challenges. The IESO is working to enhance its market tools and participation models through the ERP, which includes co-located and hybrid resource integration. Storage resources are also being incorporated into resource adequacy assessments using GE MARS software, which optimizes dispatch and accounts for energy reservoir size.

While operational experience with transmission-connected storage is still limited, the IESO is actively monitoring performance and refining planning assumptions. The integration of nearly 3 GW of new storage capacity over the next four years is expected to significantly improve Ontario’s ability to manage variability and meet ramping needs.

Capacity Transfers

Ontario maintains robust intertie connections with neighboring jurisdictions, including Québec, New York, Michigan, Manitoba, and Minnesota. These interconnections play a critical role in supporting reliability, particularly during peak demand periods and resource shortfalls.

Two key capacity swap agreements with Hydro-Québec provide Ontario with firm summer capacity. The [2016 agreement](#) allows for a 500 MW swap, while the [2024 agreement](#) enables a 600 MW per year exchange over a seven-year period. These agreements are designed to be flexible, allowing Ontario to bank capacity and use it in future summers as needed.

Ontario’s planning assessments assume self-sufficiency for the purpose of reserve margin calculations. However, in practice, these intertie agreements provide a valuable reliability backstop. The IESO coordinates closely with Hydro-Québec to align assumptions and ensure deliverability across the interties.

The refurbishment of Pickering NGS as well as new small modular reactors (SMR) scheduled to come on-line in the 2030s necessitated the review of flows across the province to maintain reliable operations. As a result, several new transmission projects have been proposed.

The IESO also participates in regional and interregional transmission planning processes, including NPCC area Transmission reviews and NERC planning assessments. These reviews ensure that Ontario’s transmission system can support capacity transfers and maintain reliability under a range of scenarios.

Firm capacity transfers have appeared to increase in this LTRA publication compared to 2024 due to a review of NERCs definitions, allowing modeled and coordinated capacity to be treated as firm. This process aligns with the IESO’s internal studies.

Transmission

Ontario is undertaking a significant expansion of its transmission system to support growing demand, resource integration, and system reliability. Key projects include the Waasigan Transmission Line, Etobicoke Greenway, and Flow East Towards Toronto (FETT) upgrade, which will collectively enhance capacity and resilience across the province. Additional reinforcements in London, Windsor-Essex, and northeastern Ontario address regional growth and industrial development. Voltage support devices, such as shunt reactors and STATCOMs, are being deployed to manage high voltages and support new transmission lines.

Transmission planning studies have identified constrained areas, particularly in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Essa (Barrie area), and eastern Ontario. These constraints are being addressed through the South and Central Ontario Bulk Plan and corridor studies to secure future transmission routes.

The IESO is also planning a new 500 kV double-circuit transmission line from Bowmanville to Toronto to support the connection of SMRs at Darlington NGS. This line is expected to be in service by the early 2030s.

To streamline transmission development and integrate Tier 2 resource deliverability insights, the IESO is designing a [Transmitter Selection Framework \(TSF\)](#) and enhancing its evaluation of non-wires alternatives (NWA). These initiatives aim to accelerate project delivery and improve coordination among stakeholders.

Reliability Issues

Ontario is attentively monitoring reliability risks due to large industrial and commercial load additions, including data centers, EV production facilities, hydrogen electrolyzers, and electrified heating systems. These loads introduce uncertainty in peak and hourly demand forecasting and challenge transmission development. The IESO is actively monitoring these trends and has published technical papers to better understand their implications. SIAs are conducted for large loads to evaluate impacts on voltage, stability, and power quality, with future enhancements planned to address sub-synchronous oscillation and ramp rate concerns.

Interdependencies with critical infrastructure sectors—such as natural gas, telecommunications, and transportation—are also being assessed. Ontario’s gas supply is considered robust, with most generators located near the Dawn storage hub and supported by firm contracts. Dual-fuel capabilities of some generators and coordination protocols with gas pipeline operators further mitigate risks during extreme weather. The IESO’s Market Renewal Program enhances gas-electric coordination through improved day-ahead scheduling.

Additional reliability risks include nuclear refurbishment delays, aging infrastructure, supply chain constraints, and policy uncertainty. The IESO incorporates these risks into long-term planning by maintaining additional reserves and using probabilistic assessments. Emerging technologies like battery storage and SMRs also present integration challenges. To address these, Ontario’s planning processes prioritize flexibility, resilience, and proactive mitigation strategies, including outage planning that accounts for extreme weather scenarios.

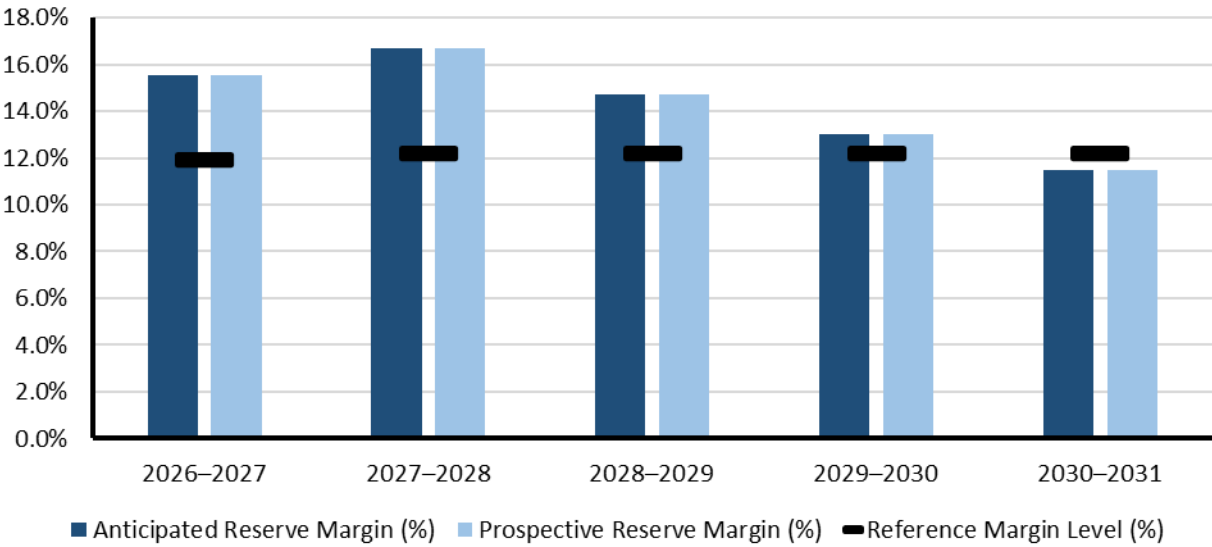


NPCC-Québec

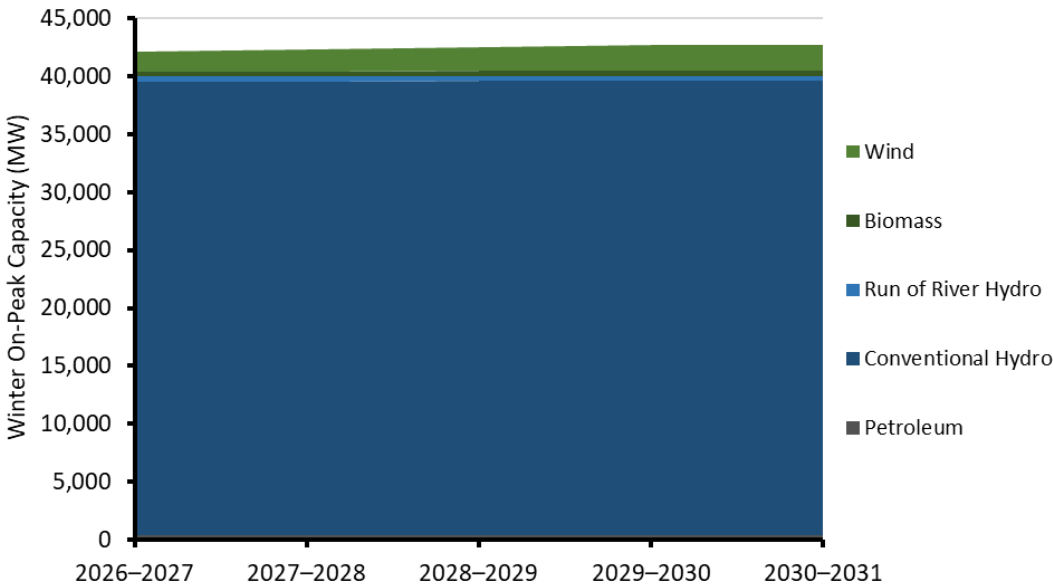
NPCC-Québec is an assessment area that covers the Canadian province of Québec. The province of Québec covers over 1.5 million square kilometers (nearly 600,000 square miles) and has a population of nearly 9 million people. Hydro-Québec is the BA for the province of Québec. The Québec BPS is one of the four electric Interconnections in North America. It is a predominantly hydroelectric-generation-based system that is electrically interconnected with NPCC-Ontario, NPCC-New York, NPCC-New England, and NPCC-Maritimes. Peak electricity demand in NPCC-Québec occurs during the winter season.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031	2031–2032	2032–2033	2033–2034	2034–2035	2035–2036
Total Internal Demand	41,405	41,901	42,833	43,635	44,392	45,116	46,053	47,148	48,164	49,613
Demand Response	5,058	5,224	5,367	5,445	5,533	5,587	5,618	5,606	5,562	5,562
Net Internal Demand	36,347	36,677	37,465	38,191	38,859	39,529	40,435	41,542	42,602	44,051
Additions: Tier 1	412	566	710	891	891	891	891	891	891	891
Additions: Tier 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Additions: Tier 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	-145	455	455	455	600	0	0	0	0	0
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	41,591	42,231	42,269	42,272	42,421	41,825	41,830	41,834	41,838	41,842
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	15.6%	16.7%	14.7%	13.0%	11.5%	8.1%	5.7%	2.9%	0.3%	-3.0%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	15.6%	16.7%	14.7%	13.0%	11.5%	8.1%	5.7%	2.9%	0.3%	-3.0%
Reference Margin Level (%)	11.9%	12.2%	12.2%	12.2%	12.2%	12.2%	12.2%	12.2%	12.2%	12.2%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

NPCC-Québec Highlights

- ARMs remain above the RML for the first four years of the assessment period.
- Over 4,000 MW of new wind installed capacity is expected to be in service by 2030, with additional wind projects in development.
- Hydro-Québec’s Action Plan 2035 and a memorandum of understanding with Newfoundland and Labrador outline major new capacity additions, including hydro upgrades, new large hydro power plants, wind and solar development, and potential battery storage and gas-fired generation. These projects are not included in Tier 1–3 categories in the present assessment due to their early development stage or ongoing stakeholder consultations but are expected to be incorporated gradually into future assessments.
- Major transmission projects, including the Appalachés–Maine (NECEC) and Hertel–New York (CHPE) interconnections, are expected to be in service by the end of 2025 and May 2026, respectively.

NPCC-Québec Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031
Petroleum	429	429	429	429	429
Biomass	405	405	405	405	405
Wind ⁴⁶	1,778	1,931	2,076	2,257	2,257
Conventional Hydro	39,091	39,129	39,167	39,170	39,175
Run of River Hydro	445	447	447	447	447
Total MW	42,148	42,342	42,524	42,708	42,712

⁴⁶ Expected at-peak capacity.

NPCC-Québec Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

ARMs remain above the RML for the first five winters of the assessment period (2025–26 to 2029–30), supported by existing and anticipated capacity and firm imports. Margins fall below the RML starting in 2030–31 due to sustained demand growth from electrification. Several large-scale projects are under development but are not included in the reserve margin calculation due to their early-stage status. The RML is based on the 2024 NPCC Interim Review of Resource Adequacy and accounts for weather and economic uncertainty, generator outages, and DR constraints.

The assumptions used for this assessment, including demand forecast and resources, are consistent with the Hydro-Québec 2024 Supply Plan update, which was filed with the Régie de l’énergie on November 1, 2024, and the 2024 Québec Interim Review of Resource Adequacy filed with the NPCC in December 2024.

Over 90% of Québec’s installed capacity comes from large hydroelectric reservoirs, enabling flexible and reliable energy delivery. The system is designed to withstand multi-year droughts, with planning criteria requiring sufficient reserves to cover inflow deficits of 64 TWh over two years and 98 TWh over four years. No off-peak or seasonal energy risks have been identified.

Non-Peak Hour Risk, Energy Assurance, Probabilistic-Based Assessments

Québec is a winter-peaking area. There were no significant LOLH or EUE estimated for Winter 2027–2028. For Winter 2029–2030, the EUE is 62.99 MWh with an expected LOLE of 0.106 hours per year.⁴⁷

ProbA Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027-2028	2029-2030
EUE (MWh)	8.205	0.01	62.99
NEUE (ppm)	0.040	0.000	0.29
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.014	0.000	0.11
*Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

Demand

Québec’s demand forecast is driven by electrification of transportation, industrial decarbonization, and electric heating. New sectors such as hydrogen production, battery manufacturing, and data

centers are also contributing to demand growth. Forecasts are developed using sector-level modeling and include high and low scenarios to reflect uncertainty.

Demand-Side Management

Hydro-Québec operates a broad portfolio of DR programs, including interruptible load contracts for industrial and commercial customers, and smart heating and dynamic pricing for residential users. These programs are expected to provide 5,600 MW of peak reduction by 2034–2035. Reported capacities reflect actual observed reductions during events. EE and conservation programs are integrated into demand forecasts.

Distributed Energy Resources

BTM solar PV is expected to reach 705 MW by 2035. However, due to Québec’s winter-peaking profile, the on-peak contribution of DERs remains below 5 MW. No operational impacts are expected, and no DER aggregators are currently active in the area.

Generation

4,000 MW of wind installed capacity is under development or construction, including the Apuiat project (204 MW), three 400 MW phases of Des Neiges, and two procurement rounds totaling 2,700 MW. Hydro-Québec is also pursuing:

- Up to 2,000 MW from hydro unit upgrades;
- 5,000 MW of wind installed capacity through new community partnerships;
- 3,440 MW from Churchill Falls upgrades and the Gull Island project;
- 3,000 MW of solar installed capacity by 2035, including 300 MW of front-of-the-meter PV by 2029;
- Potential battery storage and natural gas generation.

Except for the 4,000 MW of wind capacity in construction, these projects are not included in the Tier 1–3 categories due to their early development stage or ongoing stakeholder consultations.

Energy Storage

No energy storage resources are currently planned for commissioning during the assessment period.

⁴⁷ 2025 Probabilistic Assessment results cover the period from March of the first year to February of the second year.

Capacity Transfers

Québec maintains firm seasonal capacity exchange agreements with Ontario (600 MW imports in winter, exports in summer). Québec has several firm capacity export agreements during the summer season.

Transmission

Hydro-Québec plans to add 5,000 km of new transmission lines and several major substations by 2035 to support regional development and renewable integration. Key projects include the following:

- NECEC (1,200 MW to Maine) – expected in service by December 2025
- CHPE (1,250 MW to New York) – expected in service by May 2026
- Three new 735 or 315 kV corridors in Québec
- Jean-Jacques-Archambault substation – planned for 2029

No long-term transmission constraints have been identified.

Reliability Issues

Large industrial loads are screened and approved by the Québec government and Hydro-Québec based on available supply. A moratorium is in place for new blockchain clients. The system’s winter peak is primarily driven by residential heating, and industrial additions are not expected to significantly affect peak uncertainty. To mitigate the impact of rising demand, Hydro-Québec is expanding its DSM programs and studying multiple new generation projects. In addition, Québec’s large hydro reservoirs provide strong protection against the impacts of drought. The system is planned to meet a regulatory energy reliability criterion requiring sufficient reserves to withstand inflow deficits of 64 TWh over two years and 98 TWh over four years.

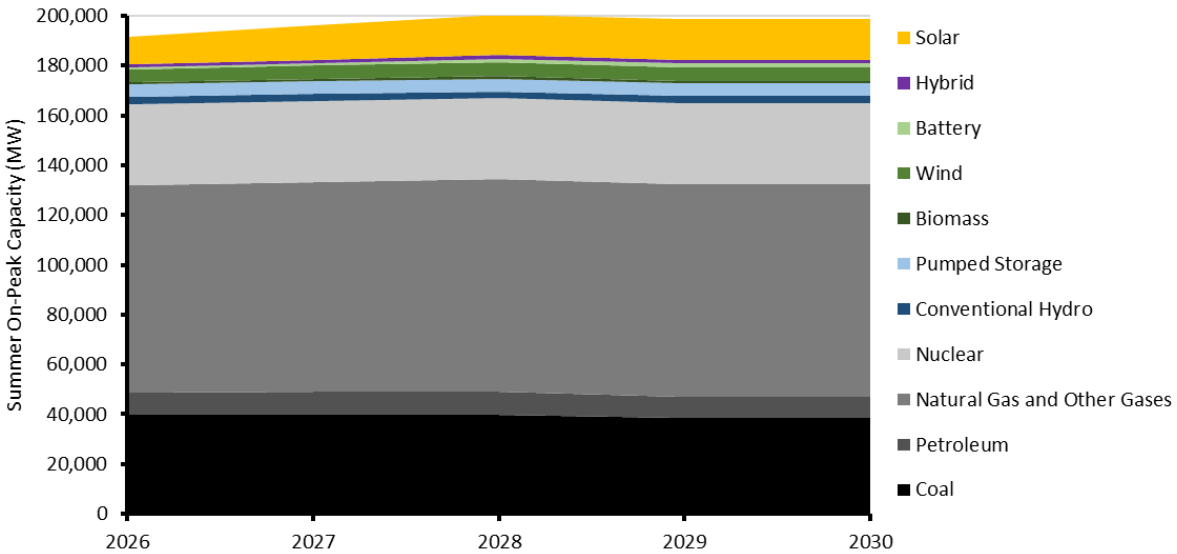
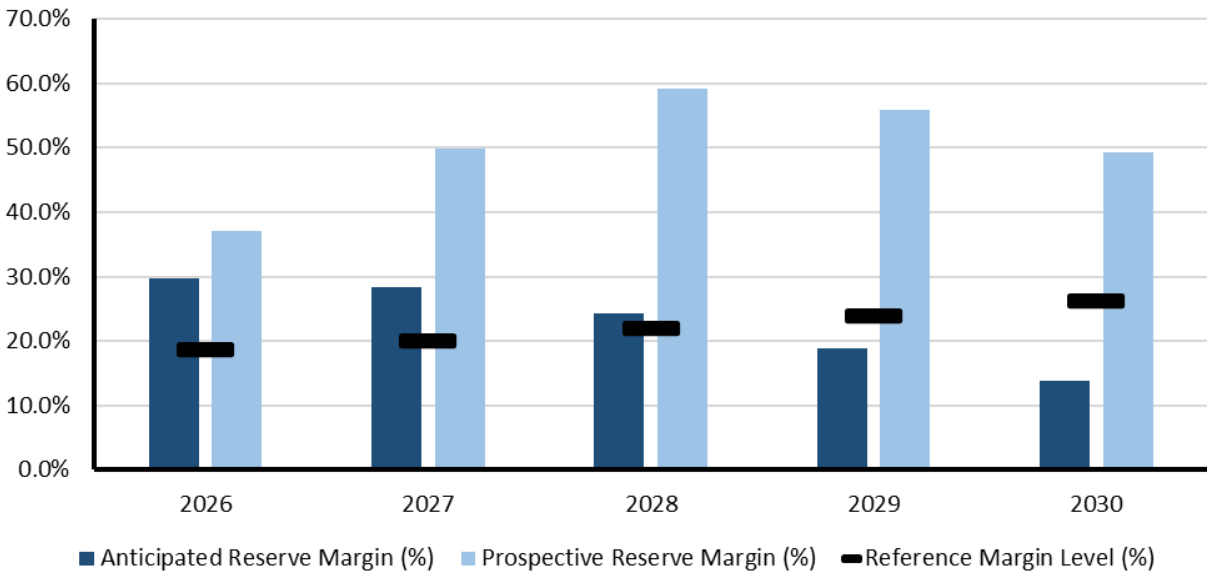


PJM

PJM Interconnection is a regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. PJM’s footprint covers approximately 369,054 square miles and has an approximate population of 67 million people. PJM is the area’s BA, Transmission and Resource Planner, Interchange Authority, Transmission Operator, Transmission Service Provider, and Reliability Coordinator. PJM is electrically interconnected with MISO, NPCC-New York, SERC-Central, and SERC-East. Peak electricity demand in PJM occurs during the summer season.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	158,937	164,186	169,981	176,094	183,883	192,647	200,507	204,197	207,253	209,923
Demand Response	8,184	8,439	8,703	9,002	9,398	9,845	10,250	10,409	10,533	10,629
Net Internal Demand	150,753	155,747	161,278	167,092	174,485	182,802	190,257	193,788	196,720	199,294
Additions: Tier 1	5,861	10,177	14,521	14,709	14,709	14,709	14,709	14,709	14,709	14,709
Additions: Tier 2	12,410	38,519	65,315	71,119	75,116	75,290	77,655	77,655	77,655	77,655
Additions: Tier 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	3,840	3,818	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	189,693	189,644	186,005	184,030	184,030	184,030	184,030	184,030	184,030	184,030
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	29.7%	28.3%	24.3%	18.9%	13.9%	8.7%	4.5%	2.6%	1.0%	-0.3%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	37.0%	49.9%	59.1%	55.9%	49.3%	42.6%	27.7%	25.4%	23.5%	20.0%
Reference Margin Level (%)	18.6%	20.1%	21.9%	23.9%	26.3%	28.9%	30.8%	33.0%	35.1%	35.1%



PJM Highlights

- Load forecasts have increased year over year due to data center and economic growth as well as increased electrification in the PJM footprint.
- Available generation capacity has decreased due to retirements and delays in new additions to the fleet.
- Based on the load increase and generation decrease, PJM is projecting potential reserve margin shortages during peak operating periods. As a result, there is an increased risk that emergency procedures may be required to meet load and reserve requirements.
- PJM will be heavily reliant on good generation performance from both fossil and inverter-based generation to avoid/minimize the need for emergency procedures.

PJM Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	39,866	39,866	39,866	38,288	38,288
Coal*	39,866	37,738	27,448	28,002	26,464
Petroleum	8,952	9,163	9,163	8,766	8,766
Natural Gas	83,210	84,150	85,385	85,385	85,385
Natural Gas*	82,589	83,443	84,678	84,678	84,678
Biomass	857	907	907	907	907
Solar	11,282	13,616	16,141	16,328	16,328
Wind	5,251	5,496	5,622	5,622	5,622
Conventional Hydro	2,807	2,829	2,829	2,829	2,829
Pumped Storage	5,068	5,068	5,068	5,068	5,068
Nuclear	32,508	32,508	32,508	32,508	32,508
Hybrid	1,187	1,504	1,504	1,504	1,504
Battery	703	895	1,531	1,531	1,531
Total MW	191,712	196,002	200,524	198,737	198,737
Total MW*	191,091	193,166	187,399	187,743	186,205
*Capacity with additional generator retirements. Generators that are forecasted to retire by PJM are removed from the resource projection where marked.					

PJM Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

The PJM ARM falls below the Installed Reserve Requirement (RML) in 2029 when the ARM dips just below 19% as the RML reaches 24%.

- Accelerated retirements, driven by unit age and environmental public policy, of generators that provide necessary attributes needed to maintain reliability are outpacing new, mainly IBR additions. PJM received over 30 deactivation notifications totaling over 2 GW in 2024.
- Approximately 40% of new interconnection requests to the PJM grid are solar resources.

PJM faces an extreme and rapid tightening of supply and demand for capacity resources in the near term and needs additional resources to rapidly address its near-term reliability challenges.

PJM is in a transition year as the determination is based on the Reserve Requirement Study (RRS) and Effective Load Carrying Capability (ELCC) Study via PJM Manual 20A Resource Adequacy Analysis.⁴⁸

Non-Peak Hour Risk, Energy Assurance, Probabilistic-Based Assessments

Based on the load increase and generation decrease, PJM is projecting a potential reserve margin shortages during peak operating periods. As a result, there is an increased risk that emergency procedures may be required to meet load and reserve requirements.

PJM will be heavily reliant on good generation performance from both fossil and inverter-based generation to avoid or minimize the need for such emergency procedures. The greatest risk is still during the summer peak period.

Probabilistic Assessments (NERC ProbA and Other Studies)

LOLH and EUE values for 2027 are 0.61 hours/year and 3,251 MWh/year, respectively, which are values consistent with PJM having a 2027 LOLE slightly worse than the 1 day in 10-year target. For 2029, the metrics significantly increase (LOLH = 9.97 hours/year and EUE = 67,581 MWh/year) due to significant forecasted peak load increases (i.e., more than 12,000 MW in summer and more than 14,000 MW in winter, driven by large load additions in the PJM footprint) and the changing resource portfolio mix (i.e., the retirement of thermal resources and the addition of wind, solar and storage, that do not provide an expected commensurate resource adequacy value when compared to the retired thermal resources).

⁴⁸ <https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/documents/manuals/m20a.pdf>

In both studied years, large shares of the annual EUE and LOLH are concentrated in the winter months (especially January). In such winter days, the loss-of-load events identified by the model are driven by low temperatures, which result in high loads and the potential for high correlated outages from gas resources as well as poor performance from solar resources. These winter events tend to occur during both morning and evening peaks.

The smaller shares of EUE and LOLH observed in the summer period for 2027 and 2029 are driven by events in the evening (hours ending 19 and 20), during days with high temperature, high loads, and declining performance of BTM and front-of-the-meter solar resources, low performance of wind resources, and to a lesser extent by slightly worse performance of thermal resources.

The ProbA results differ from the LTRA results in that the ProbA models the following:

- Fewer additions: Resources that are identified as Tier 1 in the LTRA may not reach the in-service status on their targeted in-service date.
- More retirements: The current number of announced retirements does not reflect all the environmental policies that states in the PJM footprint are targeting for future years.

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	538	3,251	67,580
NEUE (ppm)	0.00	3.50	65.50
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.11	0.61	9.97
* Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

Demand

The demand for electricity is growing at the fastest pace in years, primarily from the proliferation of data centers, electrification of buildings and vehicles, and manufacturing.

PJM expects its summer peak to climb by 55,779 MW to 209,923 MW in 2035, while winter peaks are expected to grow by 62,048 MW to reach 198,175 MW by winter 2034–35.

Sector models are a key part of the load forecast process, providing insights into why load trends are happening. Sector models also incorporate the independent assumptions on economic trends and

end-use adoption and efficiency. The PJM load forecast process considers three sectors: residential, commercial, and industrial. Each sector has its own set of models and inputs.

The load forecast is constructed using 24 hourly models for each zone. In each model, load is the dependent variable. In the history, we start with metered load and then re-constitute with load management addbacks, load drops associated with peak shaving programs, load related to load adjustments (where applicable), and distributed solar generation estimates.

PJM’s projected load indicators in many instances have doubled from the 2024 LTRA projections. For example, net energy for load growth for PJM is projected to average 4.8%, up from 2.3% in last year’s projections, per year over the next 10-year period and 2.9% over the next 20 years. Total PJM energy is forecasted to be 1,328,045 GWh in 2035, a 10-year increase of 495,264 GWh, and reaches 1,482,068 GWh in 2045, a 20-year increase of 649,287 GWh. Annualized 10-year growth rates for individual zones range from 0.2% to 8.4% with a median of 1.6%.

Demand-Side Management

As in past years, DR resources can participate in all PJM markets—capacity, energy, and ancillary services. DR is forecast to grow during the summer peak season from 8,184 MW in 2026 to 10,629 MW in 2035. PJM’s probabilistic resource adequacy modeling accounts for observed DR availability variations by season and hour.

Distributed Energy Resources

PJM expects 4,810 MW of solar DERs at the time of summer peak demand in 2030 and 5,165 MW in 2035. The effects of solar DERs are included in the load forecast for PJM. No effect of solar DERs is incorporated in the winter load forecast since winter expected peak occurs after sundown.

PJM also expects 3,652 MW of contributions from plug-in EVs to load at the time of summer peak demand in 2030 and 8,250 MW in 2035, with additional contributions from distributed battery storage ranging from 300–900 MW over the same five-year period.

The net effect of DERs is included in the load forecast as the models utilize recent historical data, which implicitly include DERs.

Generation

PJM added 560 MW of new on-peak generation capacity since the 2024 LTRA. The new projects include one wind project at 24.5 MW and 19 solar projects totaling 535.5 MW. An additional 70 MW in capacity was connecting in late 2025.

Substituting thermal resources (coal, natural gas, and oil) with renewable generation (wind, solar, storage, and hybrid resources) may get significantly more challenging as the energy transition progresses and flexible thermal resources are still needed to maintain resource adequacy at one-in 10 LOLE.

Maintaining an adequate level of generation resources with the right operational and physical characteristics is essential for PJM’s ability to serve consumer demand through the energy transition. The composition and performance characteristics of the resource mix will ultimately determine PJM’s ability to maintain reliability. Today, thermal resources supply ERSs. Until a different technology can provide a reliable substitute at scale, an adequate supply of thermal resources will be needed to maintain grid stability.

Increasing levels of intermittent resources create significant variability and uncertainty to be managed by flexible resources. If the gas fleet of today remains as is, or decreases due to regulatory pressures, but additional storage resources do not get built at pace, immense pressure will be placed on natural gas to supply the ramping needs for the system. Changes to market mechanisms will be evaluated to ensure that adequate resources are incentivized to help PJM manage increasing system uncertainty and volatility.

For example, in 2025, FERC approved a PJM-proposed expansion of Surplus Interconnection Service to augment the operating efficiency and availability of existing resources, and the Reliability Resource Initiative, which attracted 11,000 MW of nameplate capacity in proposed, shovel-ready generation projects. PJM projects that the initiatives will boost Tier 1 resources by an additional 8.3 GW in summer periods and 3.4 GW in winter periods from the original 2025 LTRA data submittal.

Such initiatives also impacted Tier 2 resources from 2026 to 2031, netting an additional 8.2 GW in summer capacity from the original 2025 LTRA data submittal and 4.1 GW in winter capacity. These net increases factor resources that transitioned from Tier 2 to Tier 1, the Reliability Resource Initiative, and any recently withdrawn projects.

However, many of these projects continue to be slowed or stopped by factors that extend beyond PJM and affect multiple regions across the continent, including local opposition, state/local permitting delays, supply chain challenges, and financing.

PJM uses some differing capacity assumptions between the LTRA and ProbA. The LTRA counts more resource additions, mainly new solar and gas combined-cycle units, which may not actually become operational. In contrast, the ProbA is more conservative, excluding some Tier 1 resources that might not reach the in-service date as planned. Additionally, the LTRA only accounts for officially announced

retirements, while the ProbA also factors in potential retirements caused by state environmental policies, particularly affecting coal resources projected to retire by 2029.

As of June 2025, all generation capacity resources, with the exception of VERs, that are committed in PJM’s Reliability Pricing Model or committed in a PJM Fixed Resource Requirement Plan shall be subject to operational testing initiated by PJM up to two times in each of the summer and winter seasons during the relevant delivery year. (Seasons are defined as: summer (May–October) and winter (November–April). Generation operational tests will be unannounced tests. The tests are being conducted to verify that generating resources can reliably operate when needed.

Energy Storage

Energy storage development continues in PJM. As solar generation increases in PJM, growth of storage is expected to follow since storage devices are frequently co-located with solar projects. Efficient grid operations in an era of rapid renewable energy resource growth will require greater system flexibility. Energy storage can offer grid operators another tool to maintain stable power supply under varying wind and solar power output driven by weather conditions or unit outages. Storage can also improve grid efficiency by increasing utilization of existing transmission lines. PJM continues to work with members, Department of Energy DOE national laboratories, and other industry entities to advance the use of energy storage and, in particular, enable its participation in PJM markets.

There is approximately 162 GWs of solar, wind, battery and hybrid in the PJM interconnection queue requesting capacity injection rights. Hybrid resources make up approximately 20 GWs and standalone storage makes up approximately 40 GWs.

To address the limited-duration issue, some developers are pairing storage with variable, renewable generation, such as solar or wind, to create opportunistic revenue streams. The pairing is either co-located (in which the storage facility and the generator facility are sited on the same parcel of land, but each has its own connection to the grid) or is hybrid (in which the storage facility and generator share a common connection to the grid).

Currently new storage is dispatched similar to other generators in economic order. No more specific operation has been considered due to the small penetration. Many older batteries are used for regulation.

Capacity Transfers

PJM does not rely on significant transfers to meet resource adequacy requirements. Maximum transfer (total transmission interchange capability) into PJM would amount to less than 2% of PJM’s internal generation capability. At no time within this assessment period does the ARM get anywhere near 2%. PJM reliability would not be negatively affected if its transfers were dropped to zero.

Transmission

Beginning in 2023, PJM began to identify trends encompassing large load increases in specific areas, driven primarily by the construction of new data centers, and these were incorporated in PJM’s 2024 RTEP cycle analyses for five-year (2029) and eight-year (2032) study year models. The large load increases are driving heavier, increased regional transfers and the consequent need for significant system reinforcement. PJM’s load forecasting process incorporates methods by which it solicits and applies large load adjustments by transmission zone. Electrification itself is the process of converting conventional end-use load that uses fossil fuels (e.g., gas stoves and oil-burning furnaces) to use electricity instead, as well as the increased use of EVs. This is having a significant impact on the magnitude of the load forecast and load shape. Notably, additional electric heating will narrow the gap between summer and winter peaks.

Most transmission additions are related to local load deliverability problems and not new generation enhancement in Tier 2. Each generator is responsible for transmission enhancements associated with its interconnection and network enhancements if necessary. PJM does not use Tier 3 resources.

PJM’s analysis of 2029 and 2032 summer, winter and light load conditions identified 8,520 thermal and voltage criteria flowgate violations across PJM, of which 1,609 were ineligible from competitive windows. The 6,911 remaining violations were addressed in 2024 RTEP Proposal Window No. 1

The large number of violations observed in the 2024 RTEP were driven by heavy west-to-east transmission interface flows caused by large load increases in the Dominion zone and in eastern PJM: 10 GW and 15 GW load increase for 2029 and 2032 between the load forecasts used for the 2022 and 2024 RTEP study cycles, respectively. The significant load growth is attributed primarily to data centers, electrification, and electric vehicle developments.

From PJM’s 2024 RTEP Proposal Window No. 1 (July–September 2024), 94 competitive proposals to solve the 6,911 NERC reliability criteria violations identified in the RTEP 2029 model year analysis as well as those identified in the 2032 model year requiring long-lead-time transmission solutions. The PJM board approved \$5.9 billion worth of regional and local projects to address the reliability criteria violations.

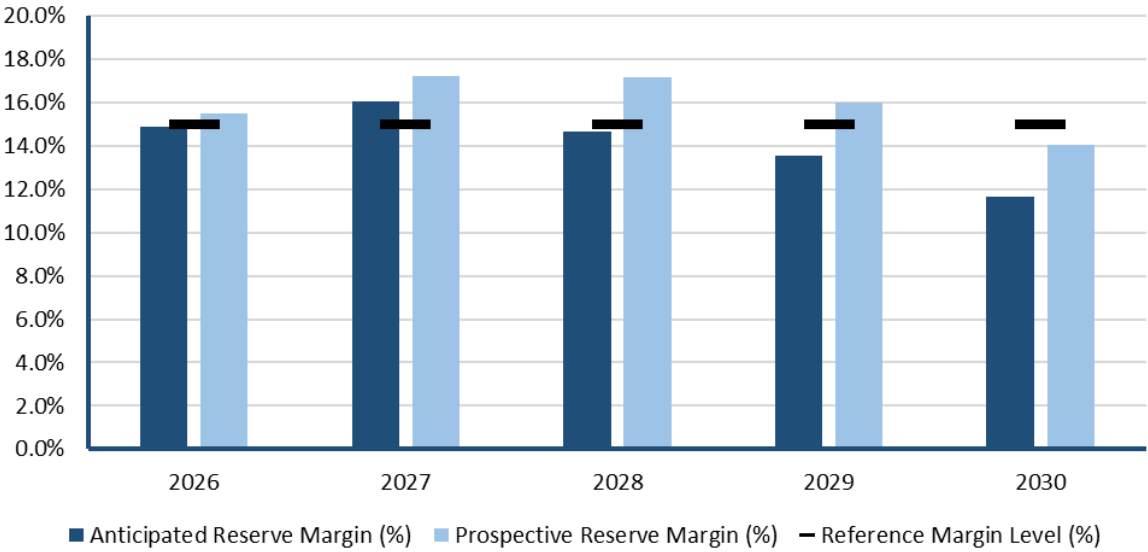


SERC-Central

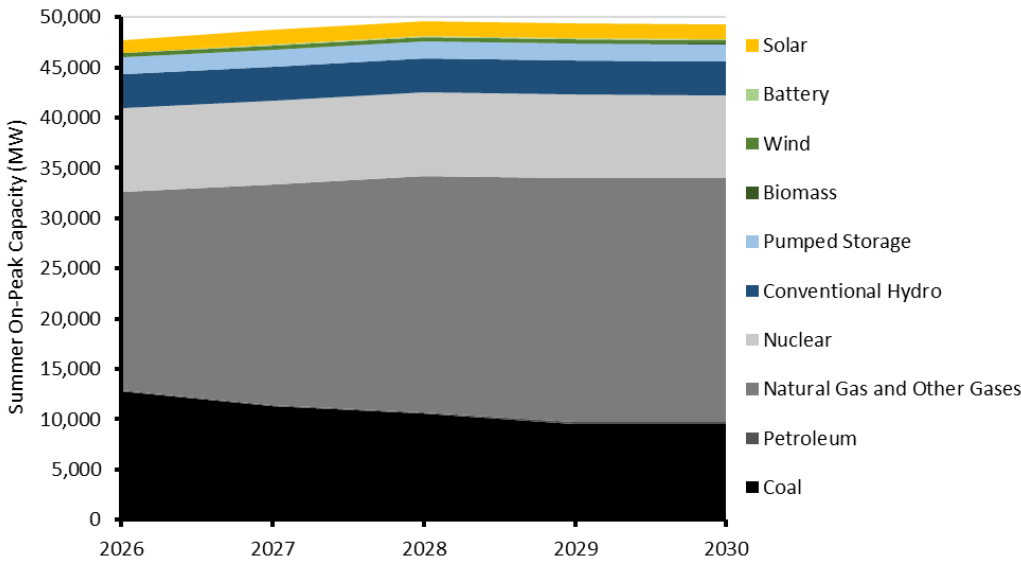
SERC-Central is an assessment area within the SERC Regional Entity. SERC-Central includes all of Tennessee and portions of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, and Kentucky. Historically a summer-peaking area, SERC-Central is beginning to have higher peak demand forecasts in winter. SERC is one of the six companies across North America that are responsible for the work under FERC-approved delegation agreements with NERC. SERC-Central is specifically responsible for the reliability and security of the electric grid across the Southeastern and Central areas of the United States. This area covers approximately 630,000 square miles and serves a population of more than 91 million. The SERC Regional Entity includes 36 BAs, 28 Planning Authorities, and 6 Reliability Coordinators.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	43,066	43,512	44,298	44,616	45,280	45,975	46,034	46,168	46,412	46,619
Demand Response	2,818	3,047	3,287	3,356	3,364	3,377	3,392	3,367	3,323	3,301
Net Internal Demand	40,248	40,465	41,011	41,260	41,916	42,598	42,642	42,801	43,089	43,317
Additions: Tier 1	518	492	4,567	5,435	5,435	5,435	5,435	5,435	5,435	5,735
Additions: Tier 2	20	245	837	837	837	837	837	837	837	837
Additions: Tier 3	178	234	300	362	743	795	2,107	3,293	5,539	5,591
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	460	391	-288	-287	-287	-221	-221	-220	-220	-157
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	47,859	47,438	45,895	44,503	43,474	43,382	43,448	42,484	42,485	41,414
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	19.1%	20.8%	19.7%	18.5%	16.5%	14.8%	12.4%	12.0%	8.7%	9.0%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	19.7%	22.0%	22.3%	21.1%	19.0%	17.3%	14.9%	14.5%	11.2%	11.5%
Reference Margin Level (%)	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

SERC-Central Highlights

- SERC-Central is projected to remain above its RML through 2030. The ProbA shows no loss of load over the 2027 and 2029 study years.

SERC-Central Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	12,782	11,308	10,595	9,565	9,565
Coal*	12,782	11,308	9,944	8,914	8,914
Petroleum	128	128	128	128	128
Natural Gas	19,706	21,956	23,483	24,341	24,249
Natural Gas*	19,279	21,529	22,585	23,443	23,443
Biomass	37	37	37	37	37
Solar	1,181	1,408	1,445	1,455	1,455
Wind	370	370	370	370	370
Conventional Hydro	3,405	3,405	3,405	3,405	3,405
Pumped Storage	1,247	1,247	1,247	1,247	1,247
Nuclear	8,280	8,280	8,280	8,280	8,280
Battery	100	135	135	135	135
Total MW	47,236	48,274	49,124	48,963	48,871
Total MW*	47,256	48,267	47,996	47,835	47,835
*Capacity with additional generator retirements. Generators that have announced plans to retire but have yet to be included in system plans are removed from the resource projection where marked.					

SERC-Central Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

PRMs are crucial for ensuring the reliability and adequacy of electric transmission systems in the Central assessment area, with various entities employing different methodologies and targets. The concept of LOLE, often aiming for a standard of one day in 10 years (0.1 LOLE annually), is a critical metric used to establish these targets.

Several entities establish reserve margin levels based on resource adequacy study results. For instance, one entity sets target reserve margins at 29% in winter and 23% in summer, determined using a 1-in-10 LOLE study, a change from its previous economic reserve margin approach, which resulted in lower targets. Another entity performs a reserve margin study using the Astrapé Strategic Energy and Risk Valuation Model (SERVM) to establish summer (18%) and winter (25%) planning targets, balancing seasonal risk and cost, which also aligns with a 1-in-10-year expected probability of a loss-of-load event. Another entity uses the NERC/SERC-accepted 15% reserve margin for predominantly thermal systems, which is generally consistent with a one-day-in-10-year loss of load. Methodologies for determining these margins often involve probabilistic modeling using extensive weather data (e.g., 40 years of weather data with Astrapé SERVM) and simulations of hourly forced outages, load, market availability, and renewable resources. Key drivers of risk often include extreme weather, low renewable generation, forced outages, and limited import capability.

Since the 2024 LTRA, some significant changes have occurred or are underway. One entity recently updated its minimum reserve margin constraints from economic reserve margin targets to a resource adequacy standard of one day in 10 years LOLE. This entity also conducted a LOLE study that incorporated improvements such as enhanced peak demand modeling and additional sensitivities, including temperature-dependent outage probabilities. Load forecasting is also updated annually to meet NERC MOD-32 requirements, aiming to maintain reserve margins at minimal cost while balancing risk, reliability, environmental responsibility, and flexibility.

Currently, most entities’ ARMs are not expected to fall below their RMLs. However, challenges stemming from load growth and increased load sensitivity to weather, particularly in winter, have led to a reduction in reserve margin levels over the next 10 years for some. To address potential shortfalls and future needs, resource additions are being planned, including solar facilities, natural gas combined-cycle units, and battery storage. Utilities also account for uncertainty and variability in assumptions through quantitative scenario modeling and probabilistic weighting of key assumptions. The results of energy risk assessments are used to establish or confirm PRM targets based on simulations and scenario analyses, which account for variability in load, weather, and unit outages to ensure system reliability.

Non-Peak Hour Risk, Energy Assurance, Probabilistic Based Assessments

Energy risk assessments are an evolving aspect of grid reliability planning, moving beyond traditional peak-demand analyses to encompass all potential hours of the year, including non-peak periods in the Central subregion. These comprehensive assessments are vital due to the increasing variability and uncertainty in system demand and resource mix. Utilities employ a range of methods for these assessments, often including detailed LOLE studies that simulate hourly conditions over a 10-year horizon, incorporating extensive historical weather data and system flexibility. Some entities adopt a holistic, year-round planning approach that integrates scenario-based reserve margin analysis and robust fuel inventory management to handle supply and demand uncertainties. Probabilistic modeling is commonly used, leveraging extensive weather data (e.g., 40 years of weather data), and simulating hourly forced outages, load, market availability, and renewable resources to identify risks across a wide range of conditions.

Key drivers of risk examined in these assessments include extreme weather (both highly unexpected demand impacts and unseasonable conditions), low renewable generation, forced outages, and limited import capability. Other factors considered are low water conditions, fuel availability (such as natural gas pipelines and their interdependencies), resource outages, transmission constraints, common mode failures, correlated and dependent outages (derations), ramping limitations, and flexibility requirements. The results of these energy risk assessments are directly used to establish or confirm PRM targets, which are designed to account for variability in load, weather, and unit outages to ensure overall system reliability. These assessments also emphasize the importance of a balanced and diversified generation portfolio to reduce dependency on single sources and to hedge against supply disruptions. Furthermore, they support detailed operational planning, such as maintaining higher reserve margins during shoulder months to mitigate risks from maintenance outages and unpredictable weather, and implementing fuel security measures like firm transportation contracts and fuel inventory targets. Ultimately, the outcomes of energy assessments inform and guide a broad spectrum of strategic, operational, and planning decisions, ensuring that utilities can build robust, adaptive plans to provide consistent and reliable service despite external uncertainties and the evolving conditions of the electricity system.

ProbA Results

In the SERC model, based on data and assumptions, SERC-Central does not show any loss of load risk for 2027 nor 2029 for any of the 5375 cases. The annual metrics are shown below.

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	0.10	0	0
NEUE (ppm)	0.00	0.00	0.00
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.00	0.00	0.00
*Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

However, the study shows overall reliance on imports from neighboring areas with the potential of insufficient local generation to meet the demand. The month of April in particular shows the risk of low hydro generation, which can coincide with planned maintenance outages. The summer load forecast is expected to grow by 1,005 MW and winter load forecast is expected to grow by 781 MW from 2027 to 2029. At the same time, there is an expected retirement of approximately coal generation in 2028, leading to tighter margins. Close to 2,600 MW of gas generation is expected to be added in the same period. Based on the ProbA, overall margins get tighter in 2029.

Demand growth, planned generator retirements, fuel diversity and reliance on imports contribute to growing energy risks. SERC and the SERC Central entities will need to continue to monitor the resource adequacy studies.

Demand

Utilities in the Central assessment area employ comprehensive and evolving methodologies to project future energy and demand needs, crucial for accurate system planning. Load forecasts are regularly updated, typically every one to two years, drawing heavily on historical data including hourly load profiles, economic indicators, demographic trends, and weather patterns. Many entities utilize econometric or regression-based models to capture the relationship between energy usage and variables like temperature, population, and housing. To account for uncertainty and variability, some utilities develop multiple forecast scenarios, employing historical weather extremes or probabilistic modeling to capture a range of potential outcomes. Forecasts also integrate emerging factors such as DERs, EVs, and end-use efficiency trends. Advanced modeling techniques include shaping system forecasts with hourly load profiles by customer class and DER type, with adjustments for anticipated industrial or commercial growth. Load forecast uncertainty (LFU) is managed through both quantitative scenario modeling and probabilistic weighting of key assumptions. Forecasts beyond a 10-year horizon, while highly uncertain, provide insights into potential long-term drivers such as the addition of data centers and large commercial/industrial loads, which can substantially increase demand and are often modeled as sensitivities in reliability studies. Electrification trends, particularly in home heating, contribute to increased winter peak sensitivity, and transportation electrification is expected to become a more significant driver beyond the 10-year horizon. While climate change and extreme weather impacts often are not pronounced in probabilistic load models, some models are

refined to reflect more frequent cold weather patterns, and load impacts are often addressed through scenario planning rather than directly embedded in long-range forecasts.

Demand-Side Management

DR and other DSM programs vary significantly across utilities in the Central assessment area, playing a role in managing demand and enhancing system flexibility. Some entities model their DR programs as dispatchable supply-side resources, meaning their contribution is not reflected as load reductions in forecasts, with available capacity often estimated based on historical performance and being highly weather-dependent. Plans are in place for significant expansion of DR capacity over the next five years by some entities. Specific programs include legacy Interruptible Power, the newer PowerFlex offering greater flexibility in response times, and the relaunched dispatchable voltage regulation (DVR) program, which provides enhanced credits for both emergency and capacity events. Conservation voltage reduction (CVR) is employed as a 24/7 energy-efficiency tool, and Peak Rewards is an aggregator-based DR program for large commercial and industrial customers. Capacity from these programs is estimated based on historical reactivity to voltage changes and forecasted load, with some having specific use limitations, such as 400 event hours per year for DVR. While some smaller entities in Central report no current or planned dispatchable DR programs or note that DR is not a significant factor in their resource planning, other entities are actively growing this resource class, particularly for DR and peak load management. These aggregator-based programs are included in IRP inputs and modeled through semi-annually updated Power Supply Plan processes. The development and refinement of these programs help utilities ensure consistent and reliable service by balancing supply and demand, especially during critical periods.

Distributed Energy Resources

DERs, primarily solar PV, are generally incorporated into net load forecasts by most entities within the Central assessment area, though the specific methodologies and extent of integration vary. Some entities utilize historical data and national laboratory research to integrate distributed generation and EVs into their peak demand and energy forecasts. For example, one entity projects solar PV to reach approximately 1% of summer peak demand by 2028, with total DER capacity anticipated to be 153 MW by 2032. Another entity, which incorporates both BTM and front-of-meter DERs, forecasts solar PV penetration to grow from 250 MW by 2029 to 350 MW by 2034. They model BTM resources using irradiance-based hourly shapes and treat program-based solar as a fixed energy supply with simulated profiles. Future DER growth is projected using adoption curves based on economic payback periods and market trends, also accounting for local self-generation programs that allow up to 5% of annual energy needs.

However, some entities in the region either do not currently utilize or separately account for DERs due to minimal penetration or a lack of utility-sponsored programs. One entity has implemented a

cap on DER penetration at 10% of peak demand, expecting to reach this limit within five years, and models DERs at 80% of capacity during system peaks. IBRs, which include many DERs, are subject to rigorous modeling and verification processes, including fault ride-through testing, oscillation monitoring, and the enforcement of a minimum short-circuit ratio (SCR) to maintain system reliability.

The contribution of DER aggregators is currently limited but is actively expanding in the assessment area, with select entities integrating them into planning and demand-side management strategies. These aggregator-based programs are included in the entity’s Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) inputs and are modeled through its semi-annually updated Power Supply Plan process. While some smaller entities report no current or planned dispatchable DR programs or note that DR is not a significant factor in their resource planning, others with minimal DER participation do not account for them separately in resource planning. The capacity from DER aggregators, where applicable, is generally reflected as part of DR resources and modeled as dispatchable or embedded in the net load forecast, depending on the entity. Overall, the assessment area sees a proactive effort by leading entities to grow this resource class for DR and peak load management as the energy landscape evolves.

Generation

Utilities in the Central assessment area are actively engaged in managing their generation portfolios, which are undergoing significant transformation, primarily driven by the integration of IBRs and a focus on flexible, dispatchable capacity. Planning entities have mechanisms to prevent the retirement of reliability-critical units, such as state laws mandating replacement with dispatchable capacity or ensuring replacement generation is established before retirement. Reliability and reserve margin studies are used to assess the impacts of retirements. One entity maintains its plan to retire a 297 MW coal-fired unit in 2027 due to economic and environmental factors, though the timing is under reassessment. There have been no changes to confirmed or unconfirmed retirements since the 2024 LTRA, with entities projecting no new retirements.

Changing Resource Mix and Operational Considerations: Entities are addressing potential operational issues stemming from this evolving resource mix, particularly due to the increased penetration of solar, BESS, natural gas, and hydro resources. For instance, one entity is retiring a 297 MW coal-fired unit and adding approximately 240 MW of utility-owned solar, a 645 MW natural gas combined-cycle (NGCC) unit, and a 125 MW battery storage facility to enhance system ramping flexibility and absorb more intermittent generation. While annual stability assessments generally show no transmission stability issues, some entities have observed operational challenges related to IBR controls, tuning, and power oscillations. To mitigate these, advanced testing and commissioning processes for new IBRs are being implemented, including a “burn-in” period, and utilities require utility-scale solar resources to operate on automatic generation control (AGC) and allow for

automated, proportional output reductions during surplus conditions. Planning activities regularly assess system inertia with IBRs, finding no critical issues related to low system inertia so far.

Addressing Net Demand Ramping Needs: Planners are proactively ensuring sufficient flexible resources are available for long-term net demand ramping needs. Some entities maintain a diverse mix of flexible, dispatchable resources with no planned thermal asset retirements, ensuring adequate inertia and system stability. One larger entity is preparing for the potential integration of up to 11,000 MW of solar over the next 15 years. Proactive measures include replacing 1,400 MW of aging combustion turbines (CTs) with 1,500 MW of modern Frame-type CTs, refurbishing older peakers, and planning for at least 500 MW of new aeroderivative CTs to support flexibility. Exploration of **long-duration energy storage technologies**, such as pumped hydro, gravity-based systems, and flow batteries, is also underway to provide future flexibility. A contractual ability to curtail solar output during times of low demand and high solar output, particularly in spring, serves as a backup measure.

Capacity Contribution Values for Various Resources: Capacity contribution values for different generation types vary based on resource characteristics and available data:

- **Thermal resources** typically use historical performance data, with planned additions relying on vendor guarantees. Forced outage rates for thermal units are generally not reflected in the reported values.
- **VERs** like wind and solar utilize seasonal or monthly net dependable capacity (NDC) values based on historical performance or modeled solar irradiance at peak times. For example, one entity uses 84% of nameplate capacity for solar in summer and 0% in winter, while another uses a 50% confidence level for monthly wind and solar contributions, accounting for inverter risk.
- **Energy storage** contributions vary by duration and reliability benefit; one entity assigns 93% for 8-hour storage and 85% for 4-hour storage, considering 4-hour duration sufficient for reliability.
- **Hydroelectric resources** are evaluated using historical seasonal performance. Most methodologies have remained consistent since the previous LTRA, with updates primarily to assumptions for loads, outages, and transmission imports. Probabilistic modeling, such as ELCC, is used to ensure resource adequacy.

IBR Performance and Reliability: Entities are actively addressing reliability risks from IBRs through various study requirements and operational protocols. Some require EMT models as part of the interconnection study process. Rigorous modeling and validation practices are implemented, including mandating PSSE and PSCAD models for interconnection, enforcing quality control, and evaluating harmonic distortion. A key focus is on inverter control systems that prevent momentary cessation and ensure inverters remain on-line during voltage and frequency excursions. While no

protection schemes or ancillary service needs have explicitly emerged, increased regulation demand has been observed with growing IBR penetration. AGC capability is being mandated for all new utility-scale solar facilities, and legacy plants are being retrofitted to allow system-wide output reductions for flexibility during surplus generation events. The primary challenges with IBRs relate to system stability and control rather than resource adequacy.

Generator Retirements

Natural Gas Fuel Supply Risk: Natural gas fuel supply risk is mitigated through various strategies, including **on-site fuel oil backup** at key generation sites and contingency-based studies simulating pipeline disruptions. One entity estimates that approximately **87% of its gas-fired winter peak capacity will have firm gas transportation or fuel oil backup** within the next five years. Following a 2022 winter event, reliability improvements were implemented by an affected pipeline operator. Strategies also include 100% storage-backed firm transportation for combined cycle units, diverse procurement and scheduling, and embedding fuels personnel in system operations for real-time communication with pipeline operators during contingency events. Long-term planning considers natural gas infrastructure limitations when evaluating new generation resource locations, ensuring fuel supply adequacy and construction timelines.

Energy Storage

Energy storage, primarily BESS, is being added to the system and is expected to contribute to reliability and flexibility. Expected uses include economic operation, reliability enhancements, peak shaving, and frequency response. The capacity contribution of energy storage is factored in based on its supply duration, with entities considering different minimum durations (e.g., 4-hour or 8-hour discharge capability). One entity is adding a 125 MW battery storage facility. These resources are incorporated into long-term planning through IRPs and power supply processes.

Capacity Transfers

The Central assessment area is proactively managing capacity transfers and ensuring transmission adequacy through a variety of studies, strategic investments, and coordinated efforts to maintain system reliability amidst an evolving resource mix and load growth.

The assessment area's ability to transfer capacity is continuously evaluated and is evolving:

- **Evaluation Methods:** Transfer capabilities are assessed through biennial resource adequacy studies that account for firm contracts and probabilistic delivery expectations, showing a positive contribution from increased firm contractual capacity to overall reliability. Seasonal assessments are also conducted to identify surplus transfer capacity across different times of the year, allowing for more accurate planning of bidirectional flows and optimizing the scheduling and delivery of transfers.

- **Observed Impacts and Trends:** One entity has seen an increased reliance on external generation resources, with over 6% of its firm capacity sourced from outside its immediate footprint, driven by fossil unit retirements, load growth, and shifts in its generation portfolio. While no significant changes in power flow patterns have been identified overall, the ongoing transition in the resource mix, along with planned retirements and new additions, is anticipated to influence future transfer scheduling, surplus availability, and bi-directional flow characteristics.
- **Coordinated Efforts:** Entities are implementing various coordination efforts to ensure reliable capacity transfers:
- **Seasonal Capacity Transfer Studies** analyze how different system conditions (e.g., summer and winter peaks, shoulder months) impact import/export capabilities.
 - A transfer monitoring process tracks firm capacity from external generators, ensuring their reliable availability during peak conditions.
 - Coordination with neighboring balancing authorities is undertaken to secure contractual commitments and physical transfer capability.
 - Some entities embed transfer analysis into their long-term planning documents (e.g., IRPs) to evaluate how future firm transfers impact transmission constraints and local reliability.

Transmission

Entities in Central are maintaining transmission adequacy, with significant projects and planning processes in place to address limitations and ensure reliability.

- **Major Transmission Projects:** The assessment area is undertaking numerous projects to support reliability and accommodate changing load and generation patterns. These include the following:
 - **New Line Construction:** Approximately 158 miles of new 345 kV lines and 18 miles of 161 kV lines, along with new 56 MVA 161/69 kV stations
 - **Substation Construction and Expansion:** Three new 345/161 kV stations and one new 161 kV switching station
 - **Transformer Additions/Upgrades:** Various upgrades to 345/161 kV and 161/69 kV transformers to increase capacity
 - **Line Rebuilds and Voltage Conversions:** Over 227 miles of 161 kV lines are being rebuilt, and nearly 20 miles of 69 kV lines are being converted to 161 kV

- **Voltage and Stability Projects:** Installation of a 60 MVAR capacitor bank (by 2025) and planned Statcoms to address voltage reliability
- **Regional Reinforcements:** Projects like a new 161 kV Line and Apalachia Area Improvements are critical to mitigate thermal overload, voltage collapse, and support native load reliability
- **Identified Transmission Limitations:** Planning studies have identified constraints often associated with transformer overloads, line loading issues, or high-voltage conditions.
- **Mitigation Planning and Actions:** To address identified limitations, utilities employ the following:
 - **Operating Guides and Real-Time Controls:** Providing generation dispatch limits or specific switching actions for constrained locations
 - **Infrastructure Expansion:** Planning multiple long-term system reinforcements
 - **Congestion Management Processes:** Using system operator tools and protocols to re-dispatch generation or adjust flows
 - **Annual Transmission Assessments:** Identifying and addressing long-term transmission constraints, including new service requests and interconnections
- **Changes to Transmission Planning Processes:** Since the 2024 LTRA, several enhancements are being implemented or considered:
 - Expanding the biennial Long-Range Plan to incorporate power transfers and extreme weather events
 - Updating generator interconnection and affected system procedures to comply with FERC Order No. 2023, with one entity transitioning to a cluster study approach (transitional cluster in 2025, full cluster in January 2026) to streamline interconnection requests and reduce backlogs
 - Evaluating multi-value projects through resource and capacity assessments to proactively address long-term transmission needs

Reliability Issues

The Central assessment area is actively managing and addressing a range of reliability issues stemming from evolving system conditions, including changes in resource mix, load growth, and extreme weather.

- **Reduced Reserve Margins and Challenges from Load Growth:** Entities in the SERC-Central region are confronting challenges due to load growth and an increased sensitivity of load to weather, especially in winter, which has resulted in a reduction in reserve margin levels over the next 10 years. While some entities anticipate their ARMs will not fall below their RMLs, one entity projects that without replacement resources, its reserve margin would fall below its target range due to a unit retirement in 2027, necessitating further resource additions for increasing economic development load beyond 2027. Underlying reliability issues include increasing winter peak demand sensitivity to weather and the potential for new large commercial loads. To address this, resource additions are being planned, and some entities are shifting their minimum reserve margin constraints to a resource adequacy standard of one day in 10 years LOLE, moving away from prior economic reserve margin targets that resulted in lower targets. Large industrial or commercial load additions, such as data centers and manufacturing centers, are actively monitored as they can introduce reliability risks due to short lead times and uncertain scalability, potentially challenging load forecasting and transmission development.
- **Operational Issues and System Stability with the Changing Resource Mix, Particularly IBRs:** The assessment area is actively addressing potential operational issues stemming from the increasing integration of IBRs like solar and BESS. Some entities have experienced operational challenges related to IBR controls, tuning, and power oscillations, including instances where solar generation contributed to over-generation events. While annual stability assessments have not yet identified transmission stability issues or critical issues related to low system inertia, increased regulation demand has been observed with growing IBR penetration. To manage these risks, entities are implementing proactive measures such as advanced testing and commissioning processes for new IBRs, requiring them to demonstrate stable performance. New utility-scale solar facilities are being mandated to operate on AGC, and legacy plants are being retrofitted for system-wide output reductions to provide flexibility during surplus generation events. The primary challenges related to inverter risks in the assessment area are system stability and control, rather than resource adequacy.
- **Natural Gas Fuel Supply Risk:** The reliability of the BPS faces risks from natural gas generator fuel supply issues, including production or transportation curtailments and limitations during both normal and extreme weather conditions. To mitigate these risks, various strategies have been developed.

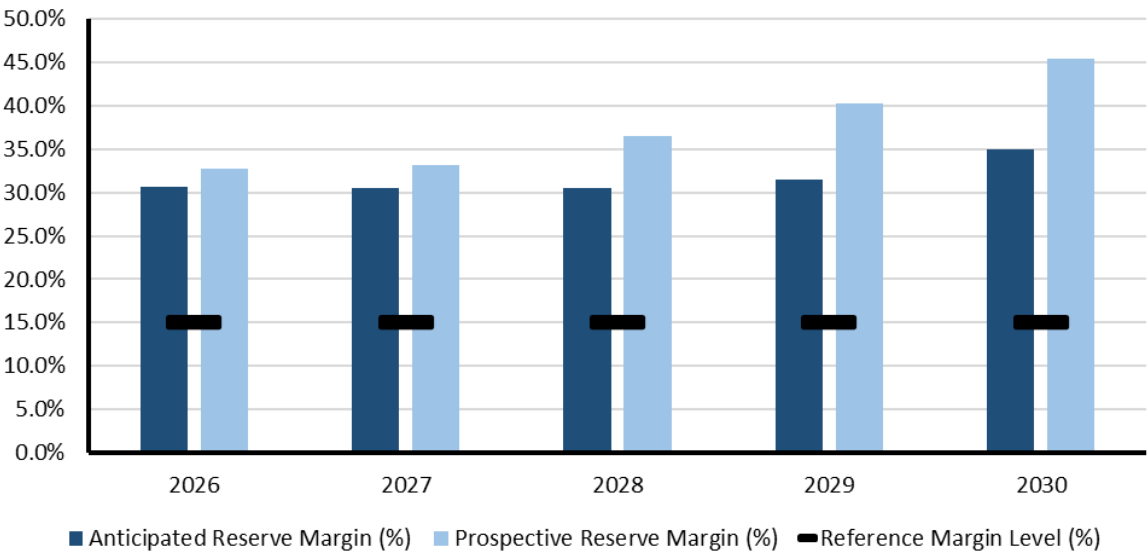


SERC-East

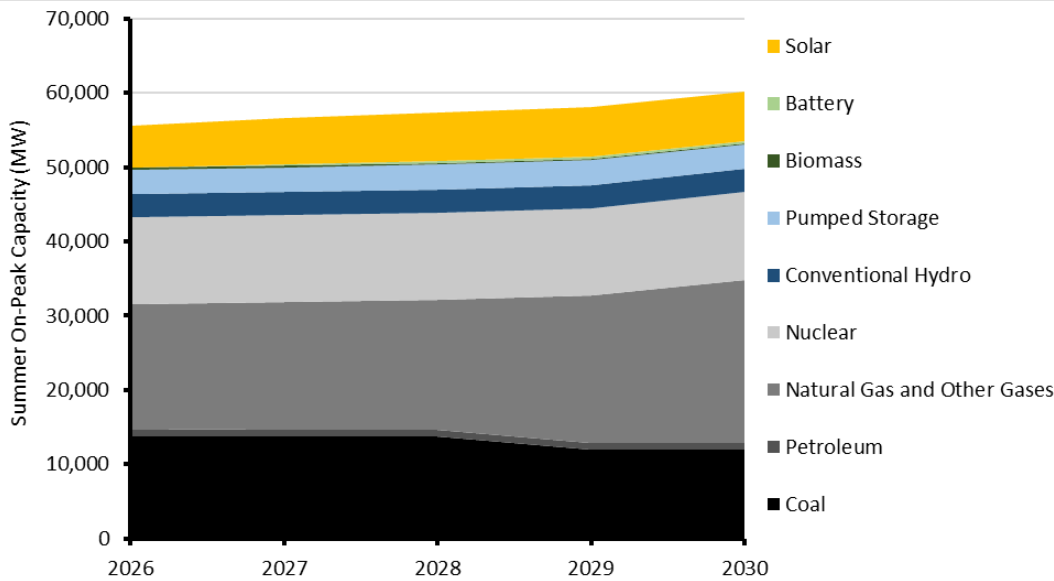
SERC-East is an assessment area within the SERC Regional Entity. SERC-East includes North Carolina and South Carolina. Historically a summer peaking area, SERC-East is beginning to have higher peak demand forecasts in winter. SERC is one of the six companies across North America that are responsible for the work under FERC-approved delegation agreements with NERC. SERC is specifically responsible for the reliability and security of the electric grid across the Southeastern and Central areas of the United States. This area covers approximately 630,000 square miles and serves a population of more than 91 million. The SERC Regional Entity includes 36 BAs, 28 Planning Authorities, and 6 Reliability Coordinators.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	44,414	45,289	45,893	46,128	46,646	47,256	47,776	48,445	48,870	49,313
Demand Response	1,608	1,620	1,621	1,652	1,679	1,702	1,726	1,751	1,773	1,795
Net Internal Demand	42,806	43,669	44,272	44,476	44,967	45,554	46,050	46,694	47,097	47,518
Additions: Tier 1	959	2,109	2,817	5,282	7,348	8,656	9,921	11,186	11,186	11,186
Additions: Tier 2	215	484	2,009	3,231	4,045	4,551	5,114	6,232	9,022	9,022
Additions: Tier 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	150	150	150	236	236	236	236	236	236	236
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	54,964	54,880	54,953	53,222	53,316	52,237	50,919	50,919	49,557	49,557
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	30.6%	30.5%	30.5%	31.5%	34.9%	33.7%	32.1%	33.0%	29.0%	27.8%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	32.7%	33.1%	36.5%	40.3%	45.4%	45.1%	44.7%	47.8%	49.5%	48.2%
Reference Margin Level (%)	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

SERC-East Highlights

- The 2025 ProbA reveals elevated levels of risk occurring in both the 2027 and 2029 study years.
- To offset the upcoming retirements, SERC-East has planned 2 GW of solar resources and 8.9 GW of gas additions over the next 10 years.

SERC-East Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	13,715	13,715	13,715	11,898	11,898
Petroleum	1,044	992	992	992	992
Petroleum*	1,044	868	868	868	868
Natural Gas	16,737	17,081	17,396	19,816	21,851
Biomass	176	176	176	176	176
Solar	5,649	6,223	6,626	6,671	6,702
Conventional Hydro	3,094	3,094	3,094	3,094	3,094
Pumped Storage	3,324	3,324	3,324	3,324	3,324
Nuclear	11,795	11,795	11,808	11,808	11,902
Battery	8	208	258	258	258
Total MW	55,540	56,606	57,388	58,035	60,196
Total MW*	55,540	56,482	57,264	57,911	60,072
*Capacity with additional generator retirements. Generators that have announced plans to retire but have yet to be included in system plans are removed from the resource projection where marked.					

Planning Reserve Margins

PRMs in the assessment area are generally expected to remain above reference levels over the next five years, indicating no immediate system-wide resource adequacy concerns. However, there are variations among entities. For instance, one generation-only BA with an all-hydro portfolio finds reserve margin requirements inapplicable, while another entity reports sufficient margins. A third entity anticipates potential reserve margin challenges starting in Winter 2027 due to significant new load additions and its targeted 18% winter reserve margin. To address this, it has issued requests for proposals for new capacity resources, including battery energy storage, and is evaluating longer-term options.

Other entities expect their reserve margins to remain above the 15% reference level for both near-term (0–5 years) and longer-term (6–10 years) outlooks, despite significant projected winter load growth of approximately 2% annually, which is expected to increase winter peak demand by about 6,500 MW by 2035. Their IRPs identify substantial new resources through 2035, including thousands of megawatts of solar, battery storage, wind, combustion turbines, combined-cycle units, and small modular nuclear reactors. They also plan to implement uprates to existing units. These entities aim to achieve a 22% winter PRM by 2031. Approximately 5,800 MW of coal generation is slated for retirement over the next decade, but these retirements are contingent on securing sufficient replacement capacity to maintain reliability and meet the 22% winter reserve margin target. Without firm replacement resources, coal retirements would be deferred to preserve system reliability.

Since the 2024 LTRA, most entities have not significantly changed their resource adequacy planning or procurement processes. One entity, operating hydro-only resources, has not made any changes, nor has another entity that is replacing coal-fired generation with natural gas combined-cycle units, though this shift indirectly enhances reliability. However, a third entity, based on its 2022 LOLE study, increased its winter reference PRM from 12% to 18% by 2026, while maintaining the summer reserve margin at 15%. This adjustment reflects heightened concern over winter reliability risks due to electrification trends and potential load increases. Other companies continue to refine strategies for load growth, resource additions, unit uprates, and retirements, maintaining an “all-of-the-above” strategy.

The RML is typically determined by each entity using probabilistic reliability metrics, commonly targeting a LOLE of no more than 1 day in 10 years, or to comply with state requirements. Entities establish separate summer and winter RMLs, considering factors such as load forecast uncertainty, generator availability, and extreme weather impacts. Planning relies on detailed statistical modeling and ELCC studies to assess resource contributions, particularly for variable energy resources like solar,

batteries, and wind. The capacity contribution values for variable energy resources and energy storage are determined by ELCC analyses, which discount nameplate capacity to firm, dependable capacity to meet LOLE standards, while non-variable resources like thermal units are counted at their nameplate capacity. Uncertainty and variability in assumptions are accounted for through “High” and “Low” load forecast scenarios that vary demographic and economic growth, large-load adoption rates, rooftop solar penetration, and EV uptake, which in turn drive planning reserve and resource-adequacy sensitivity cases. Although no major methodological changes occurred over the past year, there is a clear trend toward higher winter margins and an emphasis on flexible, dispatchable resources. A reliability verification step within the IRP process ensures that any developed portfolio meets reliability criteria, regardless of its stated installed capacity (ICAP) margin.

Energy Risk, Probabilistic-Based Assessments

Entities within the assessment area exhibit varying approaches to assessing energy risk, with some currently in the early stages of implementation or lacking formal processes. For instance, one generation-only BA with an all-hydro portfolio has not identified any energy risks to date. Another entity has yet to establish a formal energy risk assessment process but is preparing for the forthcoming implementation of NERC’s BAL-007-1 standard, which will mandate the development of such procedures and assessments. A third entity also acknowledges the importance of developing these capabilities but currently has no established process or results to report.

Despite the current limitations in formal assessments, the sources indicate that key drivers of energy risk expected to be considered in future evaluations include the following:

- Fuel availability constraints, particularly concerning natural gas supply and delivery
- Impacts from unseasonable extreme weather
- Limitations of variable energy resources
- Transmission or interchange constraints
- Correlated outages
- Other factors such as low water conditions, resource outages, and ramping limitations

Entities within the assessment area extensively employ probabilistic reliability metrics and studies as fundamental tools in their transmission and resource planning processes. These assessments are primarily centered on determining resource adequacy and PRMs, with a common objective of achieving a LOLE of no more than 1 day in 10 years. This probabilistic standard is a cornerstone for establishing the reliability needed to meet anticipated demand.

Key probabilistic assessments and their applications include the following:

- **LOLE Studies:** These studies are crucial for setting PRMs. For example, one entity increased its winter reference PRM from 12% to 18% by 2026 following a 2022 LOLE study, reflecting heightened concern over winter reliability risks due to electrification trends. The results from LOLE models are also used in a reliability verification step within IRPs to ensure that proposed resource portfolios can meet reliability thresholds year-round, including accounting for net demand ramping and energy adequacy needs.
- **ELCC Studies:** These are a specific type of probabilistic assessment used to determine the capacity contributions of VERs such as solar, wind, and battery storage. Unlike non-variable resources like thermal units, which are typically counted at their nameplate capacity, VERs and energy storage undergo ELCC analyses to discount their nameplate capacity to firm, dependable capacity that effectively contributes to meeting LOLE reliability standards. ELCC studies account for factors such as the intermittent, diurnal nature of solar output, especially noting that solar output is minimal during typical winter peak loads (early morning and late evening).
- **Statistical Modeling:** Entities use detailed statistical modeling to establish separate summer and winter RMLs, considering factors like load forecast uncertainty, generator availability, and extreme weather impacts. While no major methodological changes occurred over the past year, there is a clear trend toward higher winter margins and an emphasis on flexible, dispatchable resources.
- **Stochastic Analysis in Load Forecasting:** To account for the inherent uncertainties in demand, especially with the addition of large industrial customers like data centers, entities employ stochastic analyses. For instance, one entity uses a 50,000-trial stochastic analysis to capture the probability and timing of prospective data center and manufacturing projects.
- **Load Forecast Uncertainty (LFU) Scenarios:** Planning processes integrate “High” and “Low” load forecast scenarios that vary demographic and economic growth, large-load adoption rates, rooftop solar penetration, and EV uptake. These scenarios directly drive planning reserve and resource-adequacy sensitivity cases, allowing planners to assess system resilience under different conditions.

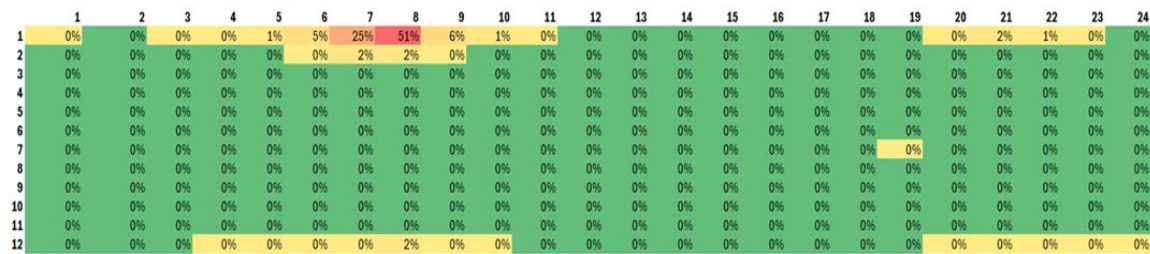
Regarding non-peak hour risk and energy assessments, entities are in varied stages of implementing formal processes. While some currently lack established procedures, they acknowledge the forthcoming implementation of NERC’s BAL-007-1 standard, which will mandate the development of such assessments. As these formal energy risk assessments are initiated, future reports are expected to include risk quantification tied to specific drivers (e.g., fuel supply constraints, weather-driven demand volatility, system flexibility limitations) using probabilistic metrics across operational time

frames, beyond just peak demand hours. These formal energy risk assessments, once fully implemented, are intended to be essential tools for informing strategic planning and operational decisions to ensure resource capacity is available across a broad range of conditions.

ProbA Results

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	143	231	538
NEUE (ppm)	0.60	0.98	2.27
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.09	0.16	0.33
*Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

The ProbA results for the year 2027 indicate some risk for SERC-East in the winter months of January and February. This is in line with the risk findings of previous ProbA studies. The annual EUE is 231.75 MWh but for a very short, expected duration of 0.15 hours. As shown in the 2027 EUE Heat Map below, the risk occurs during winter morning hours around 7:00-8:00 a.m. due to a combination of higher loads and solar resources not yet ramped up. The risk is seen mainly in January but on a smaller scale in the other winter months of February and December. The major contributing weather-years to the EUE in the model are 1982 and 1985, which experienced one of the worst winters throughout the SERC Region, limiting the amount of imports from neighboring subregions.



2027 EUE Heat Map

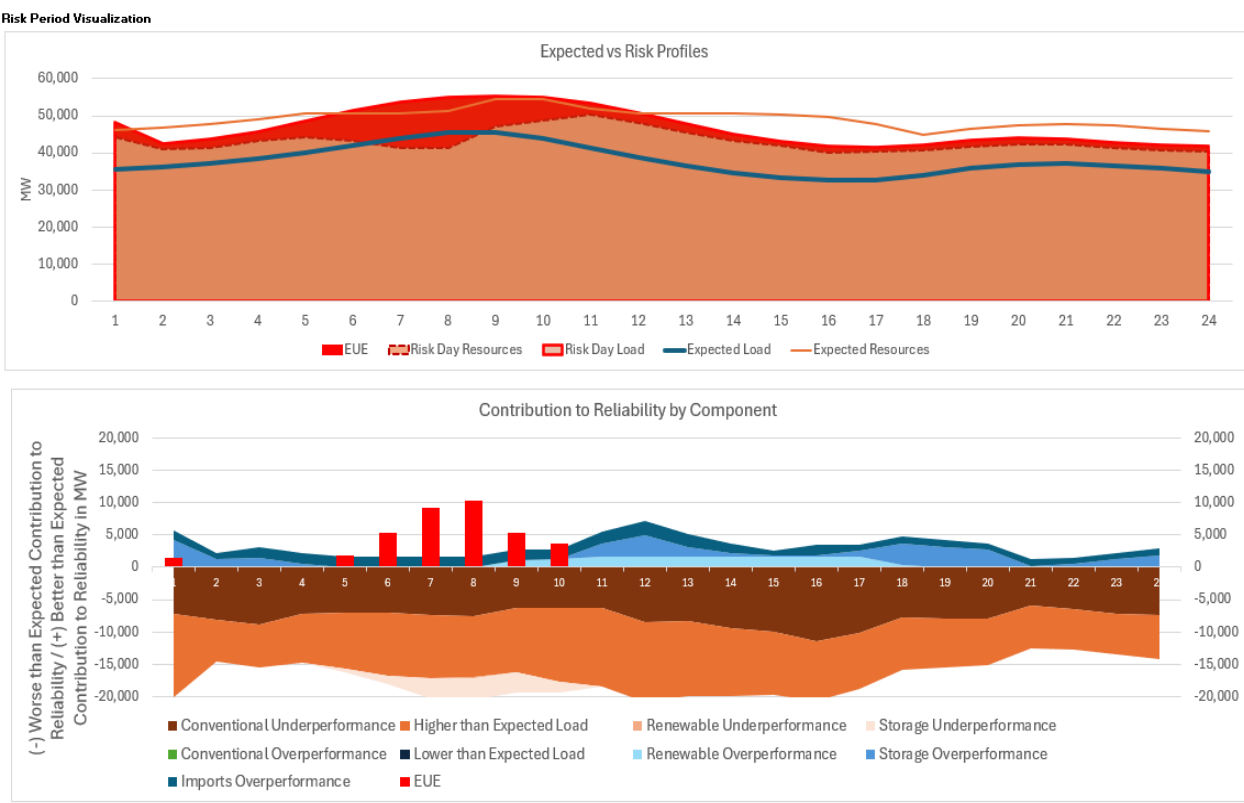
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	7%	23%	41%	9%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
11	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
12	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2029 EUE Heat Map

For the year 2029, SERC-East risk continues to grow with 538.48 MWh of EUE and 0.33 hours of LOLH. As is shown in the 2029 EUE Heat Map above, the trends of risk are similar to the findings of 2027, with risk is expected to occur primarily in January, but other winter months of February and December as well. The expected duration of risk is still very short, occurs around 7:00-8:00 a.m. Load is expected to grow in SERC-East. In 2028, more than 1800 MW of coal is expected to retire. While there are some replacements with battery, solar generation, and DR, they are limited in the winter morning risk hours as seen in the study and contribute to the increase in EUE in 2029.

Between 2027 and 2029, the is an expected addition of 683 MW summer load and 985 MW winter load. In the last stages of the Proba, SERC worked with its entities to identify an error in winter load forecast reporting. We are unable to rerun the model in time for the submission however, we are working with the entities to make the correction to the LTRA. For SERC-East, the overall 2029 winter load forecast should be 1932 MW than is currently reported. The expected risk would be higher along the same trends as is seen in the present study for the year 2029

In the SERC SERVM model, there are 5,375 unique cases. There was not a case for the 1 in 1,000 event or higher probability. The following charts show the expected (typical) vs. risk profiles and the contribution to reliability by component for the study year 2027.

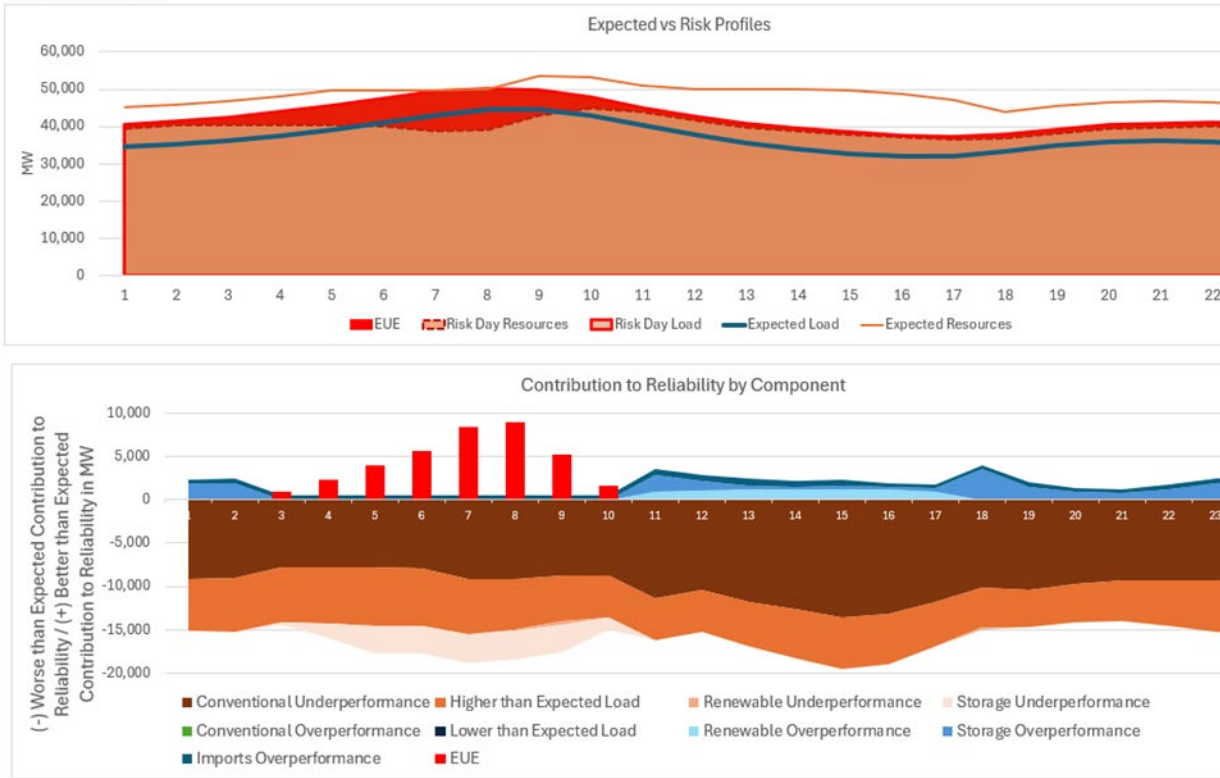


Expected vs. Risk Profiles and Contribution to Reliability by Component

The event day with the worst case EUE hour was chosen for reference (load forecast error +4%, weather year 1985, winter). The chart shows risk during winter morning hours from 4:00-10:00 a.m. and 12:00-1:00 a.m. In this event, the risk is driven by the load forecast higher than expected, unavailability of storage, unavailable or limited solar generation, and some conventional generation on outage. Some imports from neighboring areas are available.

The following charts show the expected (typical) vs. risk profiles and the contribution to reliability by component for the study year 2029. The event day with the worst case EUE hour was chosen for reference (load forecast error +2%, weather year 1985, winter).

Risk Period Visualization



Similar to the 2027 event, there is risk during winter morning hours from 3:00-11:00 a.m. In this event, the risk is driven by the load forecast higher than expected, unavailability of storage, unavailable or limited solar generation, and some conventional generation on outage. While there are some imports from neighboring areas available, it is much lower in this event.

Demand growth and planned generator retirements contribute to growing energy risks. SERC and the SERC East entities will need to continue to monitor the resource adequacy studies.

Demand

The assessment area develops its load forecasts using a combination of short-run and long-run econometric techniques, which are then aggregated into a coincident system peak outlook. One entity uses statistically adjusted end-use (SAE) models for customer classes, supplemented by adjustments for energy-efficiency programs, rooftop solar, and EV forecasts from external consultants. Another entity applies SAE regression for residential and commercial classes, a consultation-based approach

for large industrial customers, and a 50,000-trial stochastic analysis to capture the probability and timing of prospective data center and manufacturing projects. Municipal and wholesale sub-area forecasts are integrated to form the coincident peak, with contracts having defined end dates removed to prevent overstatement of future demand. Load forecast uncertainty (LFU) is addressed through “High” and “Low” scenarios that vary demographic and economic growth, large-load adoption rates, rooftop solar penetration, and EV uptake, driving planning reserve and resource-adequacy sensitivity cases. Since the 2024 LTRA, key refinements include the explicit addition of an EV demand component starting in 2025, more frequent updates for large industrial prospects, and expanded stochastic modeling to capture rising volatility from electrification and BTM generation.

Changes in the 10-year forecasted demand and energy growth rates since the 2024 LTRA are primarily driven by the anticipated addition of large new loads, especially data centers and other industrial facilities. These loads are accounted for via a post-modeling stochastic adjustment from active projects and are a significant driver, contributing approximately 1,100 MW by 2034. Electrification trends, particularly EV adoption, are also included, projected to increase residential and commercial summer peak demand by 33 MW and winter demand by 3 MW by 2034. Rooftop solar is forecast to offset summer demand by 3 MW, with no winter peak impact. Other potential drivers like geographic/demographic shifts, economic outlook, EE (beyond standard modeling), flexible loads, extreme weather, and climate change are currently not considered significant contributors to forecast changes. Beyond the 10-year window, electrification and industrial expansion are expected to continue influencing demand, though uncertainty increases.

Demand-Side Management

DR programs are actively monitored and managed through contractual agreements, control technologies, and performance metrics. DR capacity primarily supports the grid during peak periods, with one entity’s capacity mainly from interruptible loads and customer standby generation based on contracted firm demand. Programs focus on winter peak capacity support with some summer use but do not currently address ancillary services. Recent initiatives include a residential DR program (smart thermostat rewards, peak time rebates, time-of-use education) and a residential DR program with load control switches on HVAC units and water heaters, contributing about 2.3 MW based on industry benchmarks. However, efforts to develop more precise baselines for measuring performance have yielded inconsistent results, especially in winter, leading to continued reliance on industry averages. Plans include piloting a “Bring Your Own Thermostat” initiative and transitioning to smart thermostat and other grid-edge technologies due to limitations of current switch-based programs.

Since the 2024 LTRA, regulatory approvals have expanded incentives for most residential controllable programs (heat strip control, thermostats, water heaters, batteries, except the newer battery program) and increased program coverage. This includes a statewide water heater switch program

launching in 2025, adding November as a winter control month, and enabling year-round water heater control. Emerging technologies like EV batteries, smart panels, home automation, and smart inverters are being monitored for future inclusion. A multi-year initiative has been approved to quantify broader value streams from DR, potentially including energy, regulation, and ancillary services. For non-residential customers, a “Bring Your Own kW” winter load curtailment program is expanding, and two new 2025 programs offer an economic curtailment option and a shorter emergency curtailment program. A planned retirement of one large customer DR program aims to streamline offerings into a unified portfolio called PowerShare.

No major changes have been reported for EE and conservation since the 2024 LTRA, but refinements are being considered. EE impacts are integrated into load forecast models as post-modeling adjustments, reflecting incremental improvements and new program designs. EE is embedded within customer class forecasts and refined through stakeholder input and ongoing evaluation. Looking ahead, increased focus is expected on load-modifying technologies, smart home integration, and more dynamic EE measurement approaches, potentially through real-time metering data or integration with distributed energy resource management systems (DERMS).

Distributed Energy Resources

DERs, particularly BTM solar PV, are anticipated to experience gradual growth within the assessment area over the next 5 and 10 years, although their current penetration levels remain low. Forecasts project residential solar installations to grow by approximately 8% in 2025, tapering slightly to 7% in 2026 and 2027, and then stabilizing around 6% annually thereafter. These projections are informed by local adoption trends, national market dynamics, and regression models that consider economic payback factors such as installation costs, incentives, and bill savings. Historical metering data also shows a recent decline in new BTM installations due to the expiration of DER incentive programs, which influences future projections.

In terms of integration into planning, BTM solar generation is primarily treated as a load modifier, effectively reducing net load through hourly profiles consistent with prior methodologies. Transmission planning similarly incorporates DER generation as a load reduction rather than a supply resource. For generation planning, the capacity value of solar is assessed through ELCC studies due to its intermittent and diurnal nature. Unlike fully dispatchable thermal resources, which are counted at their full nameplate capacity, solar output varies and typically yields minimal output during early morning and late evening winter peak loads. Summer peak loads align better with solar generation, but its capacity contribution still requires careful assessment through ELCC to discount nameplate capacity to firm, dependable capacity to meet LOLE reliability standards.

The system-level impact of current BTM solar on peak demand and load shapes has been minimal, with no significant operational issues identified from existing penetration levels. BTM solar output is projected to represent only 1% to 1.5% of system load over the planning horizons. While no DER-related reliability risks are anticipated for summer 2025, entities are monitoring for potential localized impacts on midday load in areas with higher solar density. Aside from solar PV, no other types of BTM DERs are currently known to materially affect demand-side profiles.

Regarding DER aggregators, there are currently no active or projected aggregators contributing to electricity demand management within the assessment area, and no such capacity is included in forecasts for the next 5 or 10 years. No formal programs are in place to involve DER aggregators in wholesale electricity markets or Integrated Resource Plans, and no virtual power plants operate within the system. While broader grid reliability studies, particularly concerning IBRs, have been conducted through collaborations like the Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative, these efforts have not yet extended to DER aggregation. However, if DER aggregator participation increases in the future, planning practices will be adjusted accordingly.

Since the 2024 LTRA, there have been no major modifications to DER monitoring or modeling methods. However, future updates aim to distinguish between solar-only and solar-plus-storage DERs. Load forecast uncertainty (LFU) scenarios do account for rooftop solar penetration and BTM generation, reflecting the rising volatility introduced by electrification.

Generation

Generation planning and management within the assessment area involve a comprehensive set of studies and strategies to ensure reliability amidst an evolving resource mix and increasing load growth.

Overall Planning and Resource Mix Evolution

Entities in the assessment area conduct extensive reliability studies as part of their resource planning, including resource adequacy and LOLE studies, typically targeting a reliability standard of no more than 1 day in 10 years. These studies inform integrated resource planning (IRP) processes, which evaluate new generation scenarios and resource transitions.

The resource mix is undergoing significant changes, driven by the following:

- **Retirements:** Approximately 5,800 MW of coal generation is slated for retirement over the next decade. However, these retirements are contingent on securing sufficient replacement capacity to maintain reliability and a target winter reserve margin. For instance, Roxboro units are expected to retire 1,156 MW by 2028 and 1,402 MW by 2033, and Mayo 763 MW by 2030, all dependent on replacement capacity being online. Planning entities proactively manage

these risks through transmission impact studies and will delay retirements if replacement resources are not operational.

- **New Additions:** To meet growing demand and replace retiring capacity, IRPs identify substantial new resources through 2035. These include thousands of megawatts of solar, battery storage, wind, combustion turbines (CT), combined cycle (CC) units, and small modular nuclear reactors (SMR). Some entities are also replacing coal-fired generation with natural gas combined-cycle (NGCC) units to introduce more flexible, dual-fuel generation that supports VER integration.
- **Load Growth:** Significant winter load growth of around 2% annually is projected between 2025/2026 and 2034/2035, increasing winter peak demand by approximately 6,500 MW. This growth is primarily driven by the anticipated addition of large new loads, especially data centers and other industrial facilities. These high-load, high-duty-factor customers require resource portfolios capable of sustaining elevated energy demand beyond typical seasonal peaks.

Capacity Valuation and Reliability

For resource adequacy, entities determine PRMs to meet reliability standards.

Capacity Contribution Values: Capacity contributions for different generation types are assigned using a mix of historical performance data and model-based simulations:

- **Variable Energy Resources (VER):** For intermittent resources like solar, onshore wind, offshore wind, and storage, ELCC studies are essential. ELCC studies discount the nameplate capacity of VERs to determine their firm, dependable capacity to meet LOLE reliability standards. Solar output varies and often yields minimal output during early morning and late evening winter peak loads, though summer peak loads align better with solar generation. ELCC values for solar and battery storage are typically updated every three years.
- **Thermal Resources:** Non-solar, wind, and storage resources, such as thermal units, are generally counted at their full nameplate capacity.
- **Hydro Resources:** For hydro-only entities, capacity contributions are based on hydro capacity and remain stable.

Reserve Margins: Reserve margins are generally expected to remain above reference levels over the next five years, indicating no immediate system-wide resource adequacy concerns. One entity, however, anticipates potential reserve margin challenges starting in Winter 2027 due to significant new load additions and has increased its winter reference PRM from 12% to 18%. Another entity plans to adopt a 22% winter reserve margin by 2031.

Operational Considerations

Planning activities are actively underway to address potential operational issues from the evolving resource mix:

- **Ramping Needs:** Planning entities estimate ancillary service needs, such as regulation, balancing, and contingency reserves, to ensure operational reliability amid high penetrations of VERs. While some entities with hydro-based or dispatchable, fast-ramping units have no immediate ramping concerns, and others conduct triennial integration studies aligned with their IRPs to assess the system's ability to integrate intermittent generation.
- **Inertia and Stability:** Stability assessments are conducted as part of TPL-001 compliance and interconnection cluster studies. These studies account for new generators and evaluate the growing share of VERs. Results thus far have not revealed significant stability concerns. If a weaker area with lower inertia is identified, further analysis like EMT modeling may be conducted, and adjustments to IBR performance settings or transmission system upgrades are considered.
- **IBRs:** As solar PV integration grows, interconnection studies now mandate the use of EMT models to evaluate IBR performance during disturbances, addressing issues like momentary cessation and fault ride-through. These studies ensure inverter settings comply with NERC standards (e.g., PRC-024) and FERC Order 827. Efforts focus on maintaining network reliability and system stability. While no new ancillary service needs have emerged in the near five-year horizon, entities are considering adopting IEEE 2800 standards.
- **Natural Gas Fuel Supply Risk:** Planning entities have implemented measures to mitigate risks from natural gas fuel supply disruptions, especially during extreme weather. All natural-gas-fired combined cycle and simple cycle units have dual-fuel capability or firm gas transportation contracts. Future resource planning assumes on-site backup fuel or dual-fuel capability. Long-term studies factor in fuel supply constraints and infrastructure bottlenecks.

Energy Storage

Energy storage (ES) systems, particularly BESS, are anticipated to see significant capacity installations over the coming decade.

Purpose: Much of the planned BESS will be paired with solar facilities to store excess solar generation and enhance system flexibility. The region also operates substantial pumped hydro storage, used to meet load economically and manage generation ramping requirements.

Integration: Energy storage projects are evaluated through generator interconnection studies, modeling both charging and discharging behaviors. Both standalone and hybrid (paired with renewable generation) storage systems are planned for deployment.

Modeling: BESS are modeled assuming a four-hour discharge duration, with capacity contributions varying based on system conditions and resource mix. Hybrid and standalone battery systems are evaluated using ELCC to capture their effective capacity contribution during peak demand periods.

Capacity Transfers

Energy transfer needs and capabilities are undergoing changes, primarily driven by anticipated load growth and the potential retirement of generation resources.

While one generation-only BA does not foresee any changes to its transfer capabilities, other entities acknowledge that the potential retirement of coal plants could constrain transfer capability. To address these potential constraints, new transmission projects are being evaluated and planned. In response to increasing load demands, particularly within specific BAs, multiple active transmission projects are underway to enhance near-term transfer capabilities. Firm transmission service contracts have been secured to support future transfer needs tied to generator retirements, indicating a reliance on these transfers to maintain reliability. Long-term transmission and resource adequacy planning efforts, including IRPs and coordination with neighboring utilities, are ongoing to ensure the region maintains sufficient capacity and transfer reliability. Planning entities model projected resource additions and retirements and incorporate these into transmission models to identify and address any negative impacts through reliability assessments. Long-term firm imports have been requested from neighboring regions to assess whether external capacity transfers might be more cost-effective than developing new local resources, highlighting a consideration for reliance on external capacity for reliability and economic reasons. Potential organizational changes, such as merging BAs, are also being modeled and assessed to ensure system reliability is maintained.

Transmission

Major transmission projects are identified through annual planning assessments to support and maintain system reliability. These projects include new transmission lines (including HVdc), reconductor projects, and power electronic devices like static var compensators (SVC). For instance, a new 230 kV line and synchronous condensers are planned to improve reliability and reduce congestion in coastal areas, and an additional circuit in South Carolina will address low-country congestion. Transmission limitations and constrained areas are identified through annual assessments, but no widespread transmission-constrained areas have been identified in recent planning studies. However, an operating guide exists to manage potential overloads on a specific transmission line. Interconnection study processes are crucial for detecting and resolving potential

constraints before new generation is brought online, which helps prevent congestion during real-time operations. Since the 2024 LTRA, there have not been major changes to transmission planning processes, but entities are actively responding to evolving regulatory requirements, such as FERC Order No. 2023. This includes developing new processes for interconnection heat maps, implementing updated interconnection and affected system processes (including cluster studies), and evaluating grid-enhancing technologies (GET). A business practice is being developed to formalize how GETs will be assessed in both transmission planning and interconnection analyses.

In summary, capacity transfers are important for reliability in this assessment area. System adequacy is maintained through proactive planning for new transmission projects, securing firm transfer contracts, evaluating external imports, and continually refining planning processes to accommodate evolving load and resource dynamics.

Reliability Issues

Entities in East have identified several key reliability issues primarily stemming from projected load growth, an evolving resource mix, and critical infrastructure interdependencies. These challenges necessitate proactive planning and operational adjustments to maintain BPS reliability.

Firstly, large, new load additions, particularly data centers and other industrial facilities, are the primary drivers of significant changes in the 10-year forecasted demand and energy growth rates. These high-load, high-duty-factor customers could strain both generation and transmission resources if not adequately planned for. One entity anticipates potential reserve margin challenges starting in Winter 2027 due to these significant new load additions and is proactively issuing requests for proposals for new capacity resources. All substantial new loads are subjected to interconnection studies to assess their reliability impacts and determine necessary transmission upgrades.

Secondly, the management of generator retirements and the assurance of sufficient replacement capacity pose a significant reliability concern. Approximately 5,800 MW of coal generation is slated for retirement over the next decade. However, these retirements are strictly contingent on securing firm replacement capacity to maintain reliability and meet a target winter reserve margin (e.g., 22%). If firm replacement resources are not in place, coal retirements would be deferred to preserve system reliability. Planning entities actively manage these risks by conducting thorough transmission impact studies to evaluate the effects of retirements on system reliability and to determine required transmission upgrades and replacement generation before allowing retirements to proceed.

Thirdly, the evolving interdependencies with other critical infrastructure sectors, especially natural gas fuel supply, are a major reliability issue, particularly during extreme weather conditions. The risk to BPS reliability from natural gas generator fuel supply issues, such as production or transportation

curtailments, is a recognized concern. Mitigation measures include ensuring that natural-gas-fired combined-cycle and simple cycle units have dual-fuel capability or firm gas transportation contracts. Coordination protocols exist between electric and natural gas operators for both routine operations and emergency response, including maintaining electric service to critical gas infrastructure like compressor stations. Long-term studies also factor in fuel supply constraints and infrastructure bottlenecks, drawing insights from past events.

Fourthly, the operational impacts of the changing resource mix, particularly the increasing penetration of VERs and IBRs, are actively being addressed. Stability assessments are routinely conducted as part of TPL-001 compliance and interconnection cluster studies to evaluate inertia and transmission stability. While results so far have not revealed significant stability concerns, further analysis, such as EMT modeling, may be conducted in identified weaker areas with lower inertia. Interconnection studies for IBRs now mandate the use of EMT models to evaluate their performance during disturbances (e.g., momentary cessation, fault ride-through) and ensure compliance with NERC standards and FERC Order 827. Additionally, ensuring sufficient flexible resources are available to meet expected system ramping needs is a key planning consideration, with triennial integration studies assessing the system's ability to integrate intermittent generation.

Finally, one entity highlighted that its southern system, which is closely interconnected with neighboring utilities, may face import constraints during the spring and fall shoulder seasons when generation outages are common. To mitigate this, the entity proactively coordinates major generation outages with neighboring utilities and prioritizes reliance on internal generation rather than market purchases during these vulnerable periods. For extreme cold weather, a specific temperature threshold triggers the inclusion of additional operational reserves in its planning process, supported by enhanced forecasting tools. While no widespread transmission-constrained areas have been identified in recent planning studies, new transmission projects are being evaluated and planned to enhance transfer capabilities in response to increasing load demands and potential coal plant retirements, indicating ongoing efforts to prevent future transmission-related reliability issues.

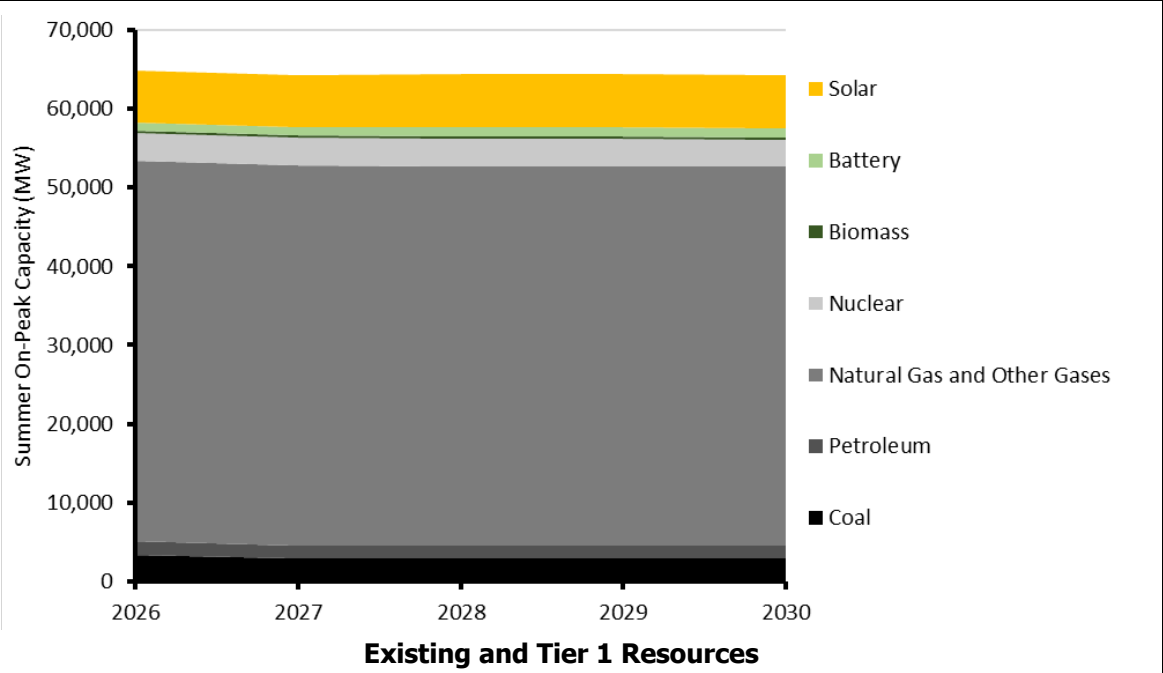
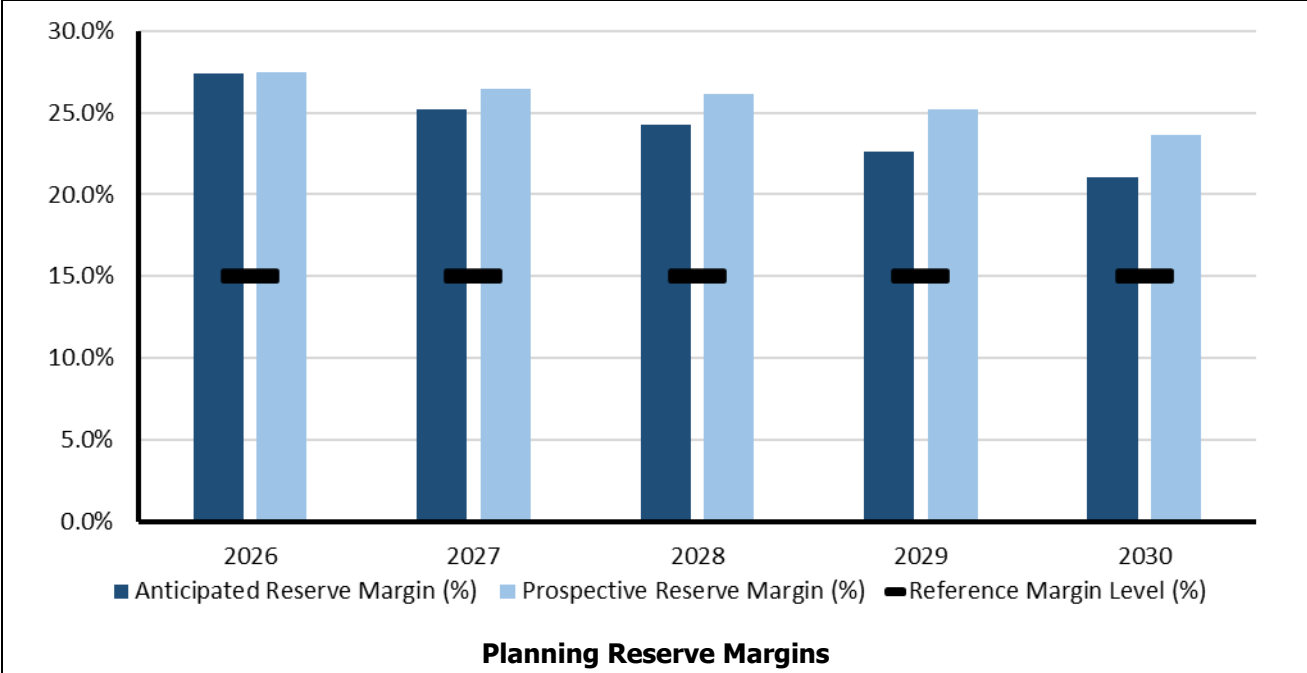


SERC-Florida Peninsula

SERC-Florida Peninsula is a summer-peaking assessment area within SERC. SERC is one of the six companies across North America that are responsible for the work under FERC-approved delegation agreements with NERC. SERC is specifically responsible for the reliability and security of the electric grid across the Southeastern and Central areas of the United States. This area covers approximately 630,000 square miles and serves a population of more than 91 million. The SERC Regional Entity includes 36 BAs, 28 Planning Authorities, and 6 Reliability Coordinators.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	54,477	54,933	55,377	56,099	56,666	57,414	58,267	58,972	59,724	60,415
Demand Response	3,345	3,345	3,357	3,360	3,368	3,379	3,388	3,400	3,412	3,418
Net Internal Demand	51,132	51,588	52,020	52,739	53,298	54,035	54,879	55,572	56,312	56,997
Additions: Tier 1	754	800	997	1,000	1,001	1,801	1,801	1,802	1,803	1,803
Additions: Tier 2	32	620	962	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375
Additions: Tier 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	293	293	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	64,393	63,795	63,659	63,659	63,525	63,001	62,966	62,966	62,966	62,966
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	27.4%	25.2%	24.3%	22.6%	21.1%	19.9%	18.0%	16.5%	15.0%	13.6%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	27.5%	26.4%	26.2%	25.2%	23.7%	22.5%	20.5%	19.0%	17.5%	16.1%
Reference Margin Level (%)	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%



SERC-Florida Peninsula Highlights

- SERC-Florida Peninsula’s ARM falls below the RML during the 2035 time frame.
- SERC-Florida Peninsula’s ProbA results for the study years 2027 and 2029 indicate a normal level of risk.

SERC-Florida Peninsula Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	3,361	2,902	2,902	2,902	2,902
Coal*	3,346	2,418	2,418	2,418	2,418
Petroleum	1,795	1,667	1,667	1,667	1,667
Petroleum*	1,768	1,459	1,459	1,459	1,459
Natural Gas	48,214	48,202	48,159	48,159	48,025
Biomass	310	310	310	310	310
Solar	6,666	6,712	6,814	6,817	6,818
Nuclear	3,502	3,502	3,502	3,502	3,502
Battery	1,000	1,000	1,095	1,095	1,095
Total MW	64,849	64,297	64,450	64,453	64,321
Total MW*	64,806	63,604	63,757	63,760	63,628
*Capacity with additional generator retirements. Generators that have announced plans to retire but have yet to be included in system plans are removed from the resource projection where marked.					

Planning Reserve Margins

The Florida Peninsula subregion annually assesses its PRMs to ensure the regional total reserve margin (TRM) requirement is met over a 10-year projected period, considering summer and winter peak loads, generating resources, and firm DSM resources. The State of Florida’s Public Service Commission (FPSC) reliability criterion of a 15% reserve margin serves as the general TRM for entities in the subregion. Notably, investor-owned utilities (IOU) in the subregion voluntarily maintain a higher 20% reserve margin, which also functions as their RML based on firm load. These subregional TRM calculations incorporate merchant plant capacity that is under firm contract to load-serving entities.

Currently, the ARM for the Florida Peninsula subregion is projected to remain above the RML throughout the entire assessment period, indicating no present concerns regarding resource adequacy due to reserve margin deficiencies. Specifically, the projected Regional TRM is above the NERC RML of 15%, and Florida Peninsula subregion reserve margins are anticipated to stay at or above 20% for all summer and winter seasons during the assessment period. This healthy reserve level, coupled with excess import capability, means that the subregion does not foresee changes to its energy transfer needs or capabilities.

Probabilistic analyses confirm that the Florida Peninsula subregion continues to operate below this 0.1 loss of load probability (LOLP) standard. The methods used to calculate the Florida Peninsula RML have remained consistent since the prior LTRA. While individual planners account for uncertainty and variability before submitting their data, which is then aggregated, energy adequacy concerns are not directly addressed within the immediate calculation of ARM/RML. Instead, energy adequacy is reviewed through a biennial Loss of Load Probability Study, which assesses all hours of the year, as well as through transmission and fuel reliability study work. Although no formal changes have been made to existing resource adequacy planning or procurement processes since the 2024 LTRA, the Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC) and individual entities are actively considering enhancements, particularly focusing on the increasing penetration of IBRs to ensure sufficient dispatchable generation for potential energy assurance concerns. The FRCC is also continuing to develop its analysis of the 24-hour load and resource outlook around peak days to better understand the impact of increased solar penetration and energy storage charging/discharging on ARM/RML.

Non-Peak Hour Risk, Energy Assurance, Probabilistic-Based Assessments

The Florida Peninsula Subregion undertakes energy risk assessments to understand its ability to meet uncertain forecasted system demand, particularly as traditional resource adequacy approaches face shortcomings with increasing variability. These assessments are primarily conducted through biennial loss-of-load probabilistic (LOLP) assessments, which are distinct from NERC’s ProbA and are designed to assess energy adequacy across every hour of a five-year study period, rather than solely focusing on seasonal peaks. Inputs for these studies include projected generating unit information (current and future capacity), seasonal demand values, projected DR availability, generation maintenance schedules, and Forced Outage Rates (FOR). The FRCC utilizes Astrapé’s SERVVM Software for multiple base case and sensitivity LOLP studies, with scenarios often examining conditions like no firm import availability, no DR availability, or a 90/10 load case.

These assessments review a 24-hour load and resource outlook centered around the peak day for both the summer and winter seasons. This effort helps entities fully comprehend the impact of increasing solar penetration levels and energy storage charging/discharging across all hours on the ARM and RML. The analysis has indicated no expected hours of shortfall in adequacy through 2034, though it has observed that increasing solar levels tend to shift the hours of thinnest reserve margins in the summer to later in the day (specifically, HE 18–19).

The FL-Peninsula subregion assesses system adequacy against the industry standard metric of 0.1 LOLP, which equates to approximately one event every 10 years, and currently remains under this standard. Although no significant adequacy impacts have been identified for off-peak hours and shoulder periods, the subregion entities are continuously working to improve their probabilistic analysis methodologies and enhance the robustness of their assessments for these periods. The results of these energy risk assessments are foundational for proactive planning, risk mitigation, and regulatory compliance, guiding long-term strategic decisions like infrastructure development and resource procurement, as well as short-term operational preparedness. The FRCC and its members are also actively considering enhancements to these processes, particularly focusing on the increasing penetration of inverter-based resources (IBR) to ensure sufficient dispatchable generation for potential energy assurance concerns.

ProbA Results

Based on the data and assumptions of SERC’s ProbA model, SERC-Florida Peninsula does not show any loss of load in 2027. For 2029, the annual, probability weighted risk is 0.094 MWh and the LOLH is 0.0001 hours. This is summarized in the table below.

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	2	0	0.094
NEUE (ppm)	0.01	0.00	0.00
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.01	0.00	0.00
* Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
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11	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
12	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

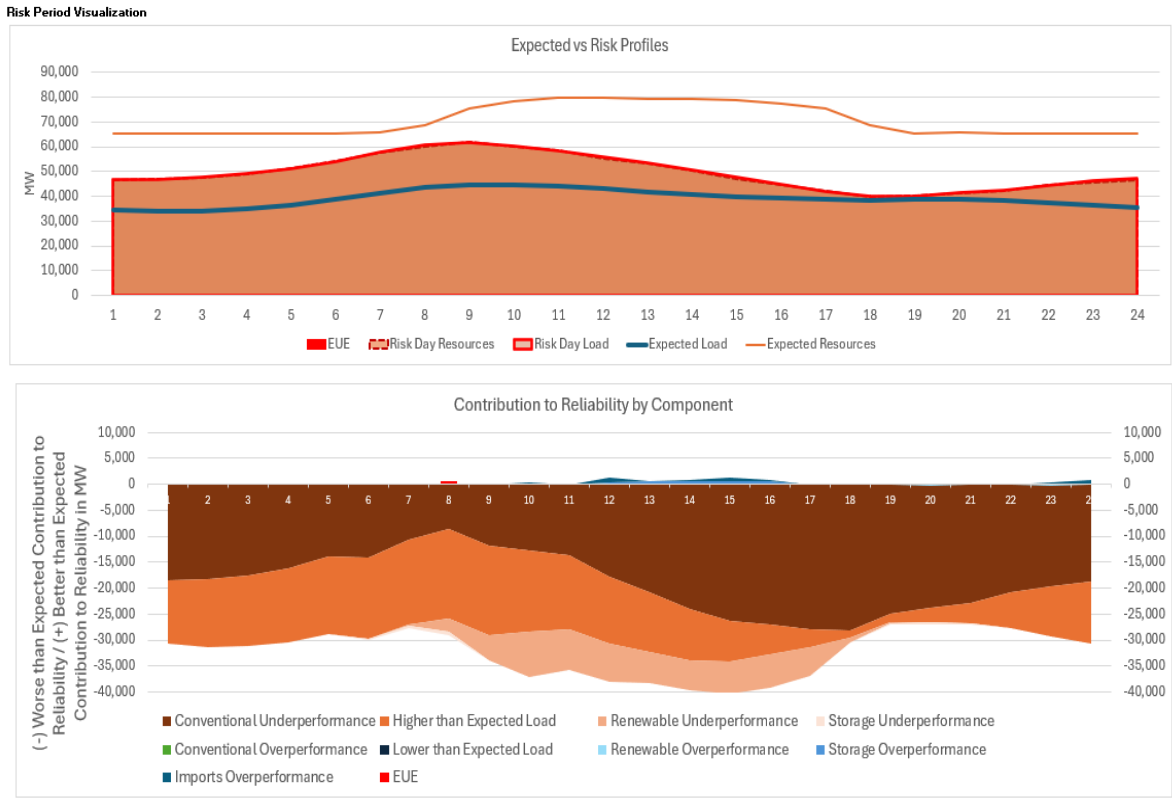
2027 EUE Heat Map

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
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6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
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10	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
11	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
12	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2029 EUE Heat Map

As seen above, the 2027 EUE heat map does not show any risk hours. For study year 2029, there is only one out of 5,375 cases that show risk, which is for a load forecast error of +4%, and weather years 1985 which was an extreme winter year. For that one case, SERC-Florida Peninsula shows an EUE of 720 MWh, with all the risk in December at 7:00-8:00 a.m.

In the SERC SERVVM model, there are 5,375 unique cases. There was not a case for the 1 in 1,000 event or higher probability. Figures below show the expected (typical) vs. risk profiles and the contribution to reliability by component for the study year 2029 show event details for one risk event for 2029.



Expected vs. Risk Profiles and Contribution to Reliability by Component

Above, the event day as higher than expected load (extreme winter 1985, 4% load forecast error) and resources available are less than expected. The above shows the risk hour to be between 7:00-8:00 a.m. when solar generation is limited, storage and imports are limited. There is some conventional generation on outage.

SERC-Florida Peninsula is also seeing load growth, with an addition of 1,551 MW winter load and 1,146 MW summer load between 2027 and 2029. While the subregion continues to add solar generation, this study indicates that it would not help alleviate risk in cases of extreme winter mornings when solar generation would be very limited.

With the heavy dependence on natural gas in the SERC-Florida Peninsula subregion, fuel diversity could become an area of future concern. Entities in FL-Peninsula have reported a high number of dual-fuel units to mitigate potential disruptions in the natural gas pipelines. Additionally, a new gas pipeline and connection hubs were constructed in the past few years to provide additional gas to the SERC-Florida Peninsula units. The growing penetration of renewable energy means that SERC and the SERC-Florida Peninsula entities will need to continue to monitor the resource adequacy studies and the impact that renewable resources will have. As solar generation continues to grow, the need to ensure the availability of quick start generating units to meet the ramp in demand will increase.

Demand

The Florida Peninsula subregion’s approach to demand forecasting involves individual entities developing their own load forecasts, which are then aggregated by the FRCC to calculate a non-coincident seasonal peak for the subregion. These individual entities annually adjust their forecasts to account for factors such as actual peak demands, updated economic outlooks, population growth, weather patterns, conservation and EE efforts, and electric appliance usage patterns.

The net energy for load (NEL) as well as summer and winter peak demands are forecasted to grow, with the current average annual growth rate for NEL at 1.1% per year, and firm summer and winter peak demand growth expected to increase to 1.34% and 1.45%, respectively, implying a declining trend for the regional load factor. While some larger utilities account for load profile modifiers like DERs and EVs, smaller utilities either lack sufficient data or deem their current impacts as minimal. The penetration of dependable ac solar capacity and EVs is currently low but expected to grow steadily. LFU is assessed at the individual entity level but is incorporated in FRCC and SERC probabilistic analyses for determining potential Loss-of-Load metrics, though not at the subregional level for Total Demand calculation.

Overall, demand and energy growth rates are projected to increase slightly (between 0.15% and 0.3%) compared to the previous LTRA, driven by population growth, economic performance, electricity prices, changing technology and consumption patterns, and more-efficient building codes. Higher-than-normal temperatures have played a noticeable role in higher average consumption per customer. The impact of data centers or similar large loads is currently minimal and not anticipated to create reliability concerns within the planning horizon, and insights beyond the 10-year forecast are not provided.

Demand-Side Management

DSM programs, controllable and dispatchable DR programs within the Florida Peninsula subregion are treated as a load modifier, projected to remain constant at approximately 6% of the summer and winter total peak demands throughout the assessment period. Each reporting entity independently

develops its forecast of firm controllable and dispatchable DR values based on their specific methodologies and program policies, with the FRCC aggregating these impacts for regional analytical purposes. In addition to utility-sponsored EE programs, many utilities also include forecasts of EE associated with the impact from governmental codes and standards. Trends in both utility-sponsored EE and EE from governmental codes and standards remain consistent with prior years, and no modifications have been made to these methods or assumptions since the previous LTRA. Looking forward over the next 10 years, while no changes to how EE and conservation are measured or accounted for have been implemented since the 2024 LTRA, enhancements are actively being considered. These considerations include improved hourly granularity, standardized methodologies, advanced measurement and verification techniques, and better integration of EE into long-term resource planning to support system reliability amidst growing energy demands and increasing renewable integration.

Distributed Energy Resources

The Florida Peninsula subregion systematically monitors and integrates DERs into its planning processes, primarily focusing on BTM solar PV as the most significant type of DER currently identified.

Penetration and Trends: The FRCC conducts an annual collection of DER data across its membership, as reflected in the Load and Resource Plan. While DER penetration levels, particularly for private dependable ac solar capacity and EVs, are currently relatively low, they are forecast to increase steadily over the planning horizon. This includes observed and anticipated year-over-year increases in BTM PV penetration, though these levels remain low compared to the total demand of the Florida Peninsula subregion.

Accounting and Integration in Planning: Entities within the subregion utilize NERC-published definitions for DERs. In general, DERs are modeled as being netted out with the actual customer demand, as their impacts are implicitly accounted for within the load forecasts developed by individual entities. Some larger utilities specifically account for DERs and EVs as load profile modifiers in their forecasts.

Monitoring and Studies: The FRCC’s Load Forecast Working Group (LFWG) meets annually to monitor trends in demand sensitivities related to DERs and coordinates on best practices. Additionally, resource planning, transmission planning, and stability analysis subcommittees annually review DER penetration levels to assess whether further study work or sensitivities are required.

Challenges and Reliability Impacts: No additional challenges or significant operational issues have been identified by PCs and Transmission Planners in the assessment area stemming from increased

DER penetration levels at this time. The subregion has not identified any significant BTM resources other than solar PV.

DER Aggregators: Currently, the FRCC and its members do not collect additional data from third-party DER aggregators beyond what is already included in the members’ integrated resource plans via their annual data collection process.

Generation

The Florida Peninsula subregion is actively managing its generation fleet to maintain reliability amidst an evolving resource mix, with a particular focus on the increasing integration of IBRs like solar and battery installations, and its continued reliance on natural gas.

Here are the key details regarding generation in the subregion:

- Changing Resource Mix and Operational Considerations:
 - While no significant operational issues have been identified at this time due to the changing resource mix, FRCC subcommittees and working groups are collaboratively learning about potential operational considerations associated with increased IBR penetration levels (solar and battery installations).
 - The FRCC Operating Committee (OC) monitors actual output of solar units and tracks how much additional solar capacity will be online within the next 18 months, discussing any operational issues at monthly meetings.
 - Transmission planning studies, including short-circuit ratios and transient stability analyses, have been conducted to assess the performance of existing and planned IBR installations. These studies indicate that the FRCC system is anticipated to maintain reliable stability performance under expected IBR penetration levels in the five-year planning horizon, with no TPL performance issues identified.
 - Additional study sensitivities include light load conditions with solar modeled at projected output and system strength evaluations.
 - IBR performance issue risks are not considered significant in the near term for the assessment area relative to synchronous capacity.
 - The FRCC Planning Committee reviews IBR interconnection studies to ensure transmission system reliability.
- Natural Gas Reliance and Fuel Supply Risk

- The Florida Peninsula subregion is not expecting any long-term reliability impacts resulting from an increased reliance on natural gas-fired generation.
- The Fuel Reliability Working Group (FRWG) and Resource Subcommittee (RS) periodically study current and projected natural-gas-fired generation levels, including analyses of long-term infrastructure requirements, potential loss of compressor stations, availability of alternate fuel, and extreme weather analyses.
- Entities in the subregion do not anticipate natural gas supply issues to create reliability risk.
- Members are projected to hold the vast majority (approximately 90%) of firm pipeline capacity delivering into Florida, supporting increasing gas generation requirements.
- In the event of a short-term failure of gas delivery infrastructure, there is sufficient back-up fuel capability to meet projected demand. Approximately 55–57% of natural gas generation has alternate fuel capability.
- Communication protocols include fuel data status reporting by Operating Entities (OE) to the FRCC State Capacity Emergency Coordinator (SCEC) and FRCC RC during threats to fuel availability, integrating this data into enhanced daily capacity assessments.

Net Demand Ramping

No entity has identified any potential issues with net demand ramping within the 10-year planning horizon, as sufficient flexible resources are available. Potential ramping changes are not seen as emerging given current IBR penetration levels and the availability of dispatchable resources. FRCC planning and operating subcommittees plan to further evaluate aggregate system ramping needs over the next few years.

Capacity Contribution Values

Estimates for VERs, including wind, solar, and hydro, and energy storage, are determined by individual members based on actual performance of existing resources and projected performance using industry standard modeling tools (e.g., PVsyst).

Generator Retirements

Confirmed retirements are incorporated into the *Load and Resource Reliability Assessment Report*, while unconfirmed retirements are not tracked. Retirement decisions are made by each entity based on factors such as unit end of lifespan, operating costs vs. new alternatives, environmental regulations, and local sustainability targets. The subregion is not anticipating any negative impacts on reliability from retirements. Confirmed retirements projected have decreased from approximately 3,400 MW in the prior LTRA to 2,150 MW in the current analysis. Entities analyze projected resource

needs in their annual 10-year site plans (TYSP), which include planned retirements and new generation facilities.

Energy Storage

ES is increasingly being integrated into the planning processes within the Florida Peninsula subregion, with methodologies continuously evolving as entities gain more experience in their planning and operation. While entities are modifying their planning processes based on this accumulating experience, no significant modifications have been made to the core VER methods or assumptions, which include ES, since the previous LTRA.

For deterministic analyses, energy storage units are anticipated to be available to provide energy at the time of peak at their full capacity, effectively contributing to peak capacity. However, for probabilistic analyses and energy adequacy assessments, entities are continuing to discuss methodologies to incorporate supply duration and charging time to better reflect the resource's characteristics over time. The FRCC's biennial loss-of-load probabilistic assessments, which review every hour of a five-year study period, help assess energy adequacy and can include considerations for ES.

The impact of energy storage on system adequacy is also evaluated through the FRCC's "2x24 Hour Analysis." This analysis reviews the 24-hour load and resource outlook, helping entities understand more completely the impact of increased solar penetration levels and energy storage charging and discharging across all hours of the peak days on the ARM and RML. This detailed hourly assessment helps observe how ES operations influence system adequacy throughout the day and has indicated no expected hours of shortfall through 2034.

The capacity contribution values for energy storage are determined by individual members, generally based on a combination of actual performance of existing resources and projected performance using industry standard modeling tools. The basis for the percentage capacity contribution considers the nameplate rating of each facility.

Energy storage installations, particularly battery installations, are considered alongside other IBRs. FRCC subcommittees and working groups are collaboratively learning about potential operational considerations associated with increased IBR penetration levels, including these battery installations. The FRCC Planning Committee reviews IBR interconnection studies to ensure transmission system reliability.

Currently, PCs and Transmission Planners in the assessment area have not identified any additional challenges or significant operational issues specifically stemming from increased DER penetration levels, including ES.

Capacity Transfers

In the Florida Peninsula subregion, capacity transfers primarily refer to anticipated firm import and export values with neighboring assessment areas, particularly the Southern Balancing Authority. While these transfers are an integral part of regional planning, Florida is generally not reliant on external capacity transfers for its core reliability, due to its robust internal generation and healthy reserve margins.

The FRCC Load and Resource Plan (LRP) annually incorporates anticipated firm import and export values reported by member utilities. Recent projections indicate a decline in firm imports for the region over the past few years.

To ensure effective capacity transfers and assess their sufficiency, the Florida–Southern Interface owners conduct an annual transfer capability assessment. This assessment determines the available transfer capability between Peninsular Florida and the Southern Balancing Authority and between the Southern Balancing Authority and FPL Northwest. The results of the most recent analysis project that the interface capability is sufficient to meet anticipated firm import needs.

Transmission

The Florida Peninsula subregion has not identified any specific major transmission projects that impact or are needed to maintain reliability during the planning horizon that are not already identified in the Annual Regional Plan. The individual entities have planned projects that are primarily related to system expansion in order to serve their forecasted growing demand and resource integration and to ensure long-term reliability (beyond the planning horizon). At this time, there have been no changes made to the transmission planning process since last year’s reporting.

Reliability Issues

The Florida Peninsula subregion generally maintains a strong reliability outlook, with no other significant emerging reliability issues identified at this time. The ARM is expected to remain above the RML throughout the entire assessment period, meaning there are no current concerns regarding resource adequacy related to reserve margin deficiencies and thus no reliance on Tier 2 resources or supplemental options. Similarly, no potential issues with net demand ramping have been identified within the 10-year planning horizon, and no additional challenges from increased penetration levels of DERs have been identified by PCs and Transmission Planners. Large industrial or commercial load additions, such as data centers, are not anticipated to create reliability risk in the subregion, nor have

any transmission-constrained areas been identified in planning studies. The subregion is also not reliant on external capacity transfers for its core reliability due to robust internal generation and healthy reserve margins.

Even though the Florida Peninsula subregion is not projecting any significant emerging reliability issues, there are areas that the assessment area continues to monitor closely and actively consider for future enhancements or reassessments, indicating underlying risks or concerns that could impact long-term reliability:

- **Increasing Penetration of IBRs and Associated Energy Assurance/Operational Flexibility Concerns:** Although IBR performance issues are “not considered significant in the near-term” for the Florida assessment area at current penetration levels, the increasing integration of IBRs (such as solar and battery installations) is a “key area of focus.”

- **Risks of Extreme Weather:** While the Florida-specific energy risk assessments note “no expected hours of shortfall,” scenario cases are run that include altered projected load to reflect extreme conditions (e.g., a 90/10 case), demonstrating an awareness of these potential risks.
- **Dependency on Natural Gas as a Fuel Resource:** Despite that Florida does not anticipate any natural gas supply issues that may create risk to reliability and has developed robust mitigation strategies (such as holding approximately 90% of firm pipeline capacity and having 55%–57% of natural gas generation with alternate fuel capability), the area’s “dependency on natural gas as a fuel resource” is still factor where possible impacts on the long-term reliability of the BES are continuously monitored.

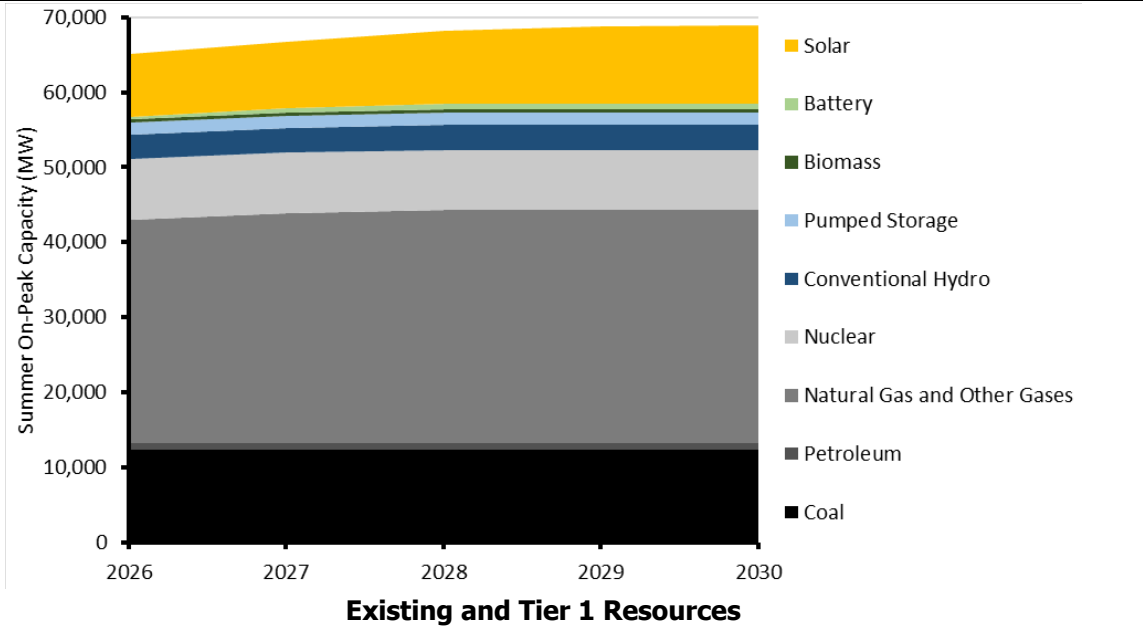
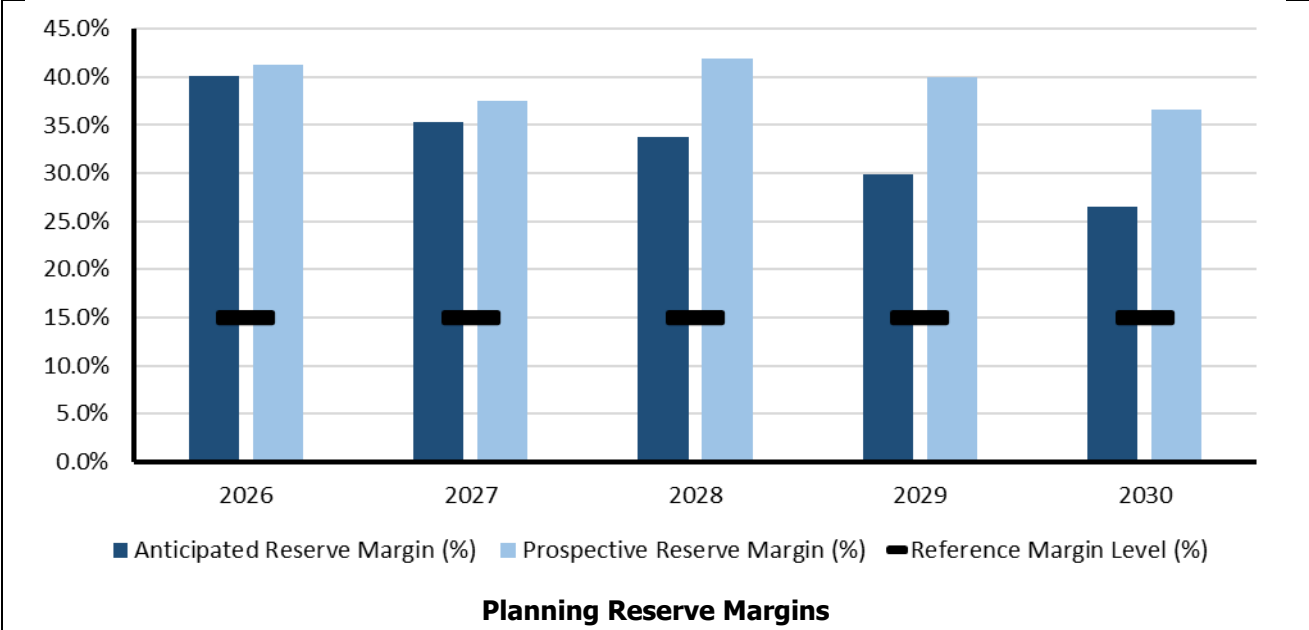


SERC-Southeast

SERC-Southeast is a summer-peaking assessment area within the SERC Regional Entity. SERC-Southeast includes all or portions of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. SERC is one of the six companies across North America that are responsible for the work under FERC-approved delegation agreements with NERC. SERC is specifically responsible for the reliability and security of the electric grid across the southeastern and central areas of the United States. This area covers approximately 630,000 square miles and serves a population of more than 91 million. The SERC Regional Entity includes 36 BAs, 28 Planning Authorities, and 6 Reliability Coordinators.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	48,386	50,648	52,900	55,127	56,624	57,544	57,978	58,552	59,004	59,166
Demand Response	1,358	1,391	1,623	1,634	1,640	1,650	1,656	1,664	1,671	1,677
Net Internal Demand	47,028	49,257	51,277	53,493	54,984	55,894	56,322	56,888	57,333	57,489
Additions: Tier 1	684	2,262	3,704	4,395	4,474	4,474	4,474	4,474	4,474	4,474
Additions: Tier 2	0	516	3,687	4,889	4,989	4,989	4,989	4,989	4,989	4,989
Additions: Tier 3	0	150	250	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	814	-53	414	619	619	619	619	619	619	619
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	65,201	64,393	64,860	65,065	65,065	65,065	65,065	65,065	65,065	65,065
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	40.1%	35.3%	33.7%	29.8%	26.5%	24.4%	23.5%	22.2%	21.3%	21.0%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	41.3%	37.5%	42.0%	40.0%	36.5%	34.3%	33.3%	32.0%	30.9%	30.6%
Reference Margin Level (%)	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%



SERC-Southeast Highlights

- SERC-Southeast’s ARM does not fall below the RML during the 2025–2035 time frame.
- SERC-Southeast’s ProbA results for the study years 2027 and 2029 indicate a normal level of risk.

SERC-Southeast Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	12,403	12,403	12,403	12,403	12,403
Coal*	12,403	12,403	11,145	11,145	11,145
Petroleum	866	866	866	866	866
Natural Gas	29,765	30,646	31,057	31,057	31,057
Natural Gas*	29,751	30,632	31,043	31,043	31,043
Biomass	428	428	428	428	428
Solar	8,358	8,836	9,667	10,358	10,358
Conventional Hydro	3,292	3,292	3,292	3,292	3,292
Pumped Storage	1,632	1,632	1,632	1,632	1,632
Nuclear	8,018	8,018	8,018	8,018	8,018
Battery	279	557	757	757	836
Total MW	65,042	66,678	68,120	68,811	68,890
Total MW*	65,042	66,678	66,862	67,553	67,632
*Capacity with additional generator retirements. Generators that have announced plans to retire but have yet to be included in system plans are removed from the resource projection where marked.					

SERC-Southeast Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

PRMs in the Southeast assessment area highlight a proactive and stable approach to ensuring grid reliability, with ARMs projected to remain above reference or target levels throughout the long-term assessment period. Utilities in the region typically plan for a 15% reserve margin, a target that has remained unchanged from prior years. Capacity plans are specifically designed to maintain 15% reserve margins in summer and 25% in winter, consistent with previous long-term assessments. The annual IRP process is crucial, as it addresses resource adequacy well in advance, ensuring that reserve margins consistently stay above these required levels, considering both primary and secondary generation resources.

The methodologies for determining these RMLs are robust and comprehensive. A LOLP analysis is conducted to ascertain if adjustments are necessary to maintain a 1-in-10-year LOLE. This analysis relies on assumptions concerning system loads, potential outages, transfer capabilities, and resource plans, drawing from historical and forecasted data. To account for uncertainties, these assumptions are stress-tested through Monte Carlo simulations across a range of best- and worst-case scenarios, calculating EUE at current RMLs. One utility, which operates independently of state regulatory oversight, conducts its own triennial reserve margin study (RMS) to pinpoint an economically optimal reserve level. This RMS balances capacity costs, production costs, and the costs associated with unserved energy, utilizing a wide array of data including weather variability, unit reliability, fuel availability, and market conditions to model hourly system operations and assess the risk and cost of potential capacity shortfalls. Furthermore, resource adequacy assessments are evolving to include advanced capacity accreditation methods like perfect capacity (PCAP) and ELCC, which more accurately reflect the reliability contributions of VERs. For instance, one ELCC study increased solar peak credit from 50% to 89% for certain solar capacity. No significant changes have been made to reserve margin modeling or resource procurement processes since the previous LTRA, and none are planned for the next decade regarding resource adequacy planning, though input assumptions are regularly updated.

Despite maintaining adequate reserve margins, energy risk assessments highlight an important nuance: reserve margins alone do not guarantee reliability; energy deliverability and fuel sufficiency are also crucial. Results from these assessments may prompt policy updates or recalibrated targets for PRM policies to better align with actual risk levels identified across the year, including non-peak hours. To address identified capacity needs or potential shortfalls, the IRP process leads to procurement actions approved by regulatory commissions. New resource technologies are selected based on their technical, economic, and capacity attributes. For example, one utility intends to maintain its 15% reserve margin by incorporating potential capacity purchases of up to 370 MW to

serve anticipated data mining loads over the next four years, alongside plans to add solar and battery resources in 2029. Overall, planning entities consistently update their capacity expansion plans annually to meet load requirements and adhere to these PRMs.

Non-Peak Hour Risk, Energy Assurance, Probabilistic-Based Assessments

Energy risk assessments in the Southeast assessment area utilize a combination of deterministic and probabilistic methods to identify and address potential energy shortfalls across various planning horizons. These assessments incorporate crucial assumptions about fuel availability, generation outages, extreme weather events, and transmission capabilities. Winter peak hours have been identified as the highest-risk period for energy shortfalls, driven primarily by volatile peak demand during extreme cold weather events that exceeds forecasts, and sustained overnight load where demand remains high throughout the evening and early morning, eliminating traditional off-peak troughs. Recent winter events, like Winter Storm Elliott, have led to updates in load shapes used in modeling, reflecting higher and more sustained loads even outside traditional peak hours.

A significant finding from these assessments is that fuel availability, particularly for natural gas, presents a risk, especially in systems with limited renewable penetration. Entities are mitigating this by securing firm pipeline transportation contracts for baseload plants and ensuring onsite fuel storage (natural gas or fuel oil) for peaking units. Probabilistic modeling, including Monte Carlo simulations, evaluates the impact of these drivers, calculating metrics such as LOLE and EUE; these studies show increased risk in winter and significant EUE increases under fuel-constrained scenarios. Crucially, the results underscore that reserve margins alone do not guarantee reliability; energy deliverability and fuel sufficiency are also vital.

Furthermore, scenarios modeling low hydro output and low solar generation during high-demand periods (especially in winter or prolonged cloudy conditions) indicate increased energy risks when variable energy resources (VERs) underperform. While annual production cost simulations performed in an “island” mode (excluding market purchases) have not identified energy deficiencies under base conditions, the RMS provides a comprehensive probabilistic analysis of hourly energy adequacy by simulating thousands of scenarios and considering historical weather, load, solar availability, fuel constraints, and generator outages. The RMS also assesses regional interdependency risks, finding that transmission constraints can hinder economic and emergency imports, exacerbating local energy shortages during widespread events. Energy risk assessments reflect a maturing focus on year-round, all-hour reliability, emphasizing risks from fuel supply chains, weather variability, and the increasing integration of variable renewable energy sources. These findings may lead to policy updates or recalibrated targets for PRM policies (e.g., 15% summer/25% winter) to better align with actual identified risk levels.

ProbA Results

SERC-Southeast does not show any loss of load risk for the year 2027, the EUE is 0.00 MWh and LOLH is also 0.00 hours. For the year 2029, there is a small ANNUAL risk of 0.39 MWh and 0.001 hours.

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	0	0.0	0.4
NEUE (ppm)	0.00	0.00	0.001
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.00	0.00	0.001
* Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

The figure below shows the EUE as a Heat Map for the year 2027.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
11	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
12	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2027 EUE Heat Map

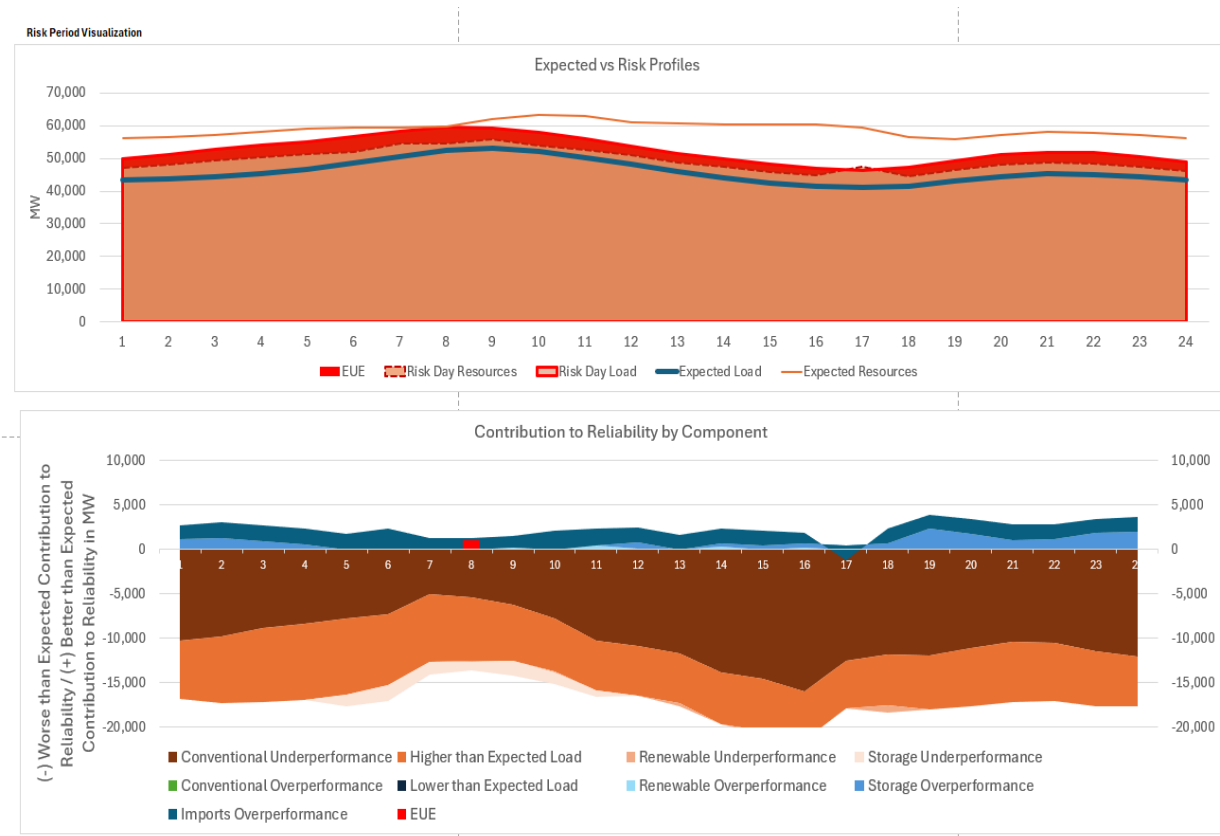
For the year 2029, there is a small annual risk of 0.39 MWh and 0.001 hours. There are some iterations of cases in the 2029 case, for load forecast error +2% and +4%, there is an EUE of up to 1,006 MWh. As shown in the figure below, higher load forecasts, particularly during extreme cold weather events such as weather years 1982, 1985, and 2022, contribute to risk in winter mornings (7:00-8:00 a.m.) and nights (10:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.). December shows the most risk, followed by January.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	29%	0%
2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
11	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
12	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	35%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	22%	0%	0%

2029 EUE Heat Map

In the SERC SERVM model, there are 5,375 unique cases. There was not a case for the 1 in 1000 event or higher probability, so the event day with the highest EUE in an hour was selected. Figures below

show the expected (typical) vs. risk profiles and the contribution to reliability by component for the study year 2029.



The top figure compares the event day to a typical day in December, with weather year 1985, which was an extreme cold event. The lower figure shows the loss of load between 7:00-8:00 a.m. when the load is higher than projected, solar generation is unavailable, energy storage and imports are available during the risk hour.

Between 2027 and 2029, SERC-Southeast is expected to add battery and solar generation Tier 1 resources. The addition of solar generation, however, would not help alleviate risk that occurs in winter morning or winter night hours when solar irradiation is unavailable. Georgia Power Company has publicly filed their intent to build company owned combined cycle, battery energy storage systems, hybrid solar and battery energy storage systems, coming online between 2029 and 2031. However, the commission has yet to vote on approval, expected to do so in December and are not included in the model. SERC-Southeast is not expected to retire additional generation during this time.

SERC-Southeast is seeing high load growth. Between summer 2027 and 2029, there is expected to be an addition of 4,468 MW of summer load and 2,134 MW of winter load.

With the growing dependence on natural gas as the predominant energy source in the SERC Southeast subregion, fuel diversity could become an area of future concern.

Demand

The entities in the Southeast assessment area employ a robust approach to developing their load forecast for the LTRA. This methodology combines econometric modeling, statistically adjusted end-use (SAE) analysis, and hourly bottom-up aggregation across members. Forecasts are annually updated based on historical data and the latest S&P Global economic outlook, using regression models that account for weather, economic indicators, population, appliance efficiency, and load shapes. Both coincident and non-coincident peak demand forecasts are included and refined using specialized tools. LFU is addressed by testing load levels ranging from 80% to 104% of projected peak demand, with weather identified as the primary driver of variability. While DERs like rooftop solar currently have minimal impact, their potential effects are considered in sensitivity scenarios. No major changes have been made to the core forecasting methodology since the prior LTRA, though input assumptions are regularly updated.

Several factors contribute to the 10-year forecasted demand and energy growth rates. Data centers are a significant and highly uncertain consideration, capable of substantially increasing demand when included as a sensitivity in reliability studies, with nearly 400 MW of data mining load expected by 2025. These loads often exhibit unpredictable behavior, with some shifting to 24/7 operation, flattening the overnight load curve and extending peak periods, which complicates traditional peak-centric planning. Large commercial and industrial loads are expected to contribute to energy growth in specific economic development areas. Electrification trends are emerging slowly, with limited current impact on forecasts, though home heating electrification is notably contributing to increased winter peak sensitivity. Beyond the 10-year horizon, transportation electrification is anticipated to become a more significant driver of load growth. The influence of climate change and extreme weather on load forecasting is modest in most cases, with some utilities refining models to reflect more frequent cold weather patterns. Recent winter events, like Winter Storm Elliott, have led to updates in load shapes used in modeling, reflecting higher and more sustained loads even outside traditional peak hours. EE improvements are occurring but are not yet deemed a significant overall impact, and flexible or price-sensitive loads are typically modeled on the supply side, thus excluded from direct demand forecasts.

Demand-Side Management

Depending on the entity, DSM could be a voluntary DSM water heater program, which allows for limited control of appliance usage during peak demand periods, with the number of installed control switches tracked monthly to forecast future participation. Load research data is used to estimate the diversified load contribution from these devices. While the entity is monitoring how new EE regulations may impact program effectiveness and developing a DSM measurement and verification (M&V) framework, its analysis currently relies on historical load research data. DR resources under contract are monitored and dispatched, and annual ELCC simulations determine the capacity value of each active DR program. BTM DERs are accounted for within annual load forecasts, while front-of-the-meter (FTM) DERs are treated as generation assets. The entity is also exploring new DR and flexibility programs, including pilot efforts in commercial and industrial automated DR and solar-plus-storage, and implementing a DERMS to enable broader coordination. No modifications to DR methodologies or assumptions have been made since the 2024 LTRA, but new pilot programs and system capabilities are actively being developed. For EE and conservation, no significant changes have occurred in measurement or accounting since the prior LTRA. EE impacts are generally incorporated through adjustments to load forecasts based on federal and state efficiency standards, appliance saturation trends, and building code updates, reflected in econometric models or end-use forecasts that estimate reduced energy consumption over time.

Distributed Energy Resources

The estimated penetration of DERs in the Southeast assessment area remains modest, with forecasts projecting 1–1.5% of peak load over the next five years and staying below 2% over a 10-year horizon. Specifically, BTM solar PV is expected to grow from 57 MW by 2030 to 120 MW by 2035. Currently, DERs and rooftop solar are considered to have minimal impact on overall reliability, with no emerging transmission or resource adequacy issues directly attributed to them anticipated for Summer 2025.

In terms of planning, BTM DERs are accounted for within annual load forecasts and are not explicitly modeled as discrete capacity resources. Instead, they are represented using hourly generation profiles to account for operational factors like ramping, and estimated generation is placed back onto load buses when installations reach or exceed 2 MW. Conversely, FTM DERs are treated as generation assets. While BTM solar is contributing to energy availability and reducing fossil fuel consumption, their limited capacity value and variability are creating challenges, particularly during the sunrise and sunset hours, requiring greater flexibility from non-solar resources. Solar-related ramping concerns and energy adequacy under evolving weather conditions are considered emerging reliability challenges, which are actively being studied through triennial renewable integration studies. Load forecast uncertainty related to DERs is addressed by considering their potential effects in sensitivity scenarios, such as assuming zero DER contribution under stress conditions.

Generation

The Southeast assessment area actively manages its generation portfolio to ensure reliability amid a changing resource mix, with particular focus on the increasing integration of utility-scale solar and other VERs. While current renewable penetration is modest, leading to no significant stability or inertia issues observed to date, future challenges like intra-hour volatility and ramping needs are being proactively evaluated. The Renewable Cost and Benefit (RCB) Framework is utilized to assess integration costs and identify mitigation strategies such as flexible backup resources.

Regarding net demand ramping, the assessment area does not currently identify any emerging issues due to the limited penetration of VERs and a robust, flexible generation portfolio primarily composed of natural gas units. Annual analysis of five-minute ramping data is conducted to inform regulating reserve requirements, and existing natural-gas-fired units, supported by firm fuel supply and fuel-switching capabilities, are deemed sufficient to meet current and projected ramping needs.

Capacity contribution values for VERs like solar and wind are determined using a combination of historical performance data and ELCC analyses via the SERVIM reliability and production cost model. For solar, contributions are initially set at 50% of nameplate capacity during May–September, with annual re-evaluation based on actual performance, though no contribution is assigned in winter due to the assessment area’s winter peak planning season. An ELCC study in 2024 notably increased solar peak credit for up to 340 MW of solar capacity. While energy storage resources are evaluated through ELCC, with a preferred minimum duration of two hours, no operational storage resources are currently on the system. Hydro resources are credited at 100% due to firm delivery contracts.

Efforts to address IBR performance issues include enhanced interconnection studies that assess various factors like thermal loading, voltage stability, and short circuit performance. EMT models are now required from Generator Owners to better simulate and understand IBR behavior during disturbances, and mitigations include adjusting ramp rates and enforcing ride-through requirements. Additional phasor measurement units (PMU) are being deployed to enhance real-time situational awareness, particularly at IBR interconnection points. While current IBR penetration is low, network impacts and protection coordination are identified as the primary reliability concerns being addressed.

Generator retirements have seen no changes to confirmed or unconfirmed projections since the *2024 LTRA*, with no unit retirements currently projected over the 10-year planning horizon. All native generation, including coal, natural gas, and nuclear resources, is expected to remain available to meet peak demands. Planning entities have established processes involving detailed studies over a 10- to 20-year horizon to assess potential reliability impacts of retirements, considering mitigations such as transmission infrastructure capital improvements or dynamic VAR support. The IRP process

coordinates retirement schedules with the addition of replacement capacity to prevent reliability gaps.

Natural gas fuel supply risk is actively managed, with approximately 78% of winter on-peak natural gas generation capacity having either firm fuel supply arrangements or backup fuel options like oil or dual-fuel capability. Annual gas pipeline failure studies are conducted ahead of each summer and winter season to assess impacts under various curtailment scenarios. Communication protocols between electric system operators and natural gas operators are maintained for coordinated responses. Long-term planning processes incorporate fuel risk through load capability analysis and production cost modeling over a 20-year horizon, ensuring capacity plans meet PRMs.

Energy Storage

While there are currently no operational energy storage resources on the system in the Southeast assessment area, future plans do include the addition of solar and battery resources by 2029. BESS are recognized as IBRs that, like solar, require different modeling and analysis techniques compared to traditional synchronous generation. The uncertainty surrounding the future locations and generation outputs of new BESS is noted as a factor that complicates proactive planning.

For planning purposes, energy storage resources are primarily evaluated for their capacity contribution through ELCC analyses. A preferred minimum duration of two hours is considered for operational reliability when evaluating energy storage resources, although there is no formal duration requirement currently enforced. Pilot programs are also being explored, specifically solar-plus-storage initiatives, as new DR and flexibility programs. These programs aim to provide flexible capacity and fast-start capabilities to the system.

No major methodology modifications have been made to the methods or assumptions for incorporating energy storage since the *2024 LTRA*.

Capacity Transfers

Capacity transfers are important for reliability in the Southeast assessment area and the SERC Region. System adequacy is maintained through planning studies and coordination with neighbors to manage evolving energy needs and maintain regional reliability.

Currently, surplus capacity for transfer and delivery is anticipated to remain available to meet reliability margins and support marketing opportunities. Transmission flow patterns are becoming more dynamic due to shifts in internal and external resource portfolios, retirements, additions, and system topology adjustments, but no significant impacts to firm transmission contracts have been

identified to date. Furthermore, recent reserve margin studies suggest that current transmission capabilities do not pose a constraint on resource adequacy within the assessment area.

To facilitate and ensure reliable capacity transfers, the assessment area engages in extensive coordinated efforts, studies, and protocols with neighboring assessment areas for both peak and non-peak hours. These coordinated efforts include:

- **Joint Transmission Planning Studies**, such as the Southeast Regional Transmission Planning (SERTP) process, which evaluate the BPS’s ability to support transfers under various seasonal and system conditions, accounting for projected load growth, generation changes, and transmission upgrades.
- **Firm Transfer Agreements and Modeling**, which are integrated into seasonal and long-range planning studies to ensure deliverability under normal and contingency conditions. These agreements are regularly reviewed and updated.
- **Seasonal Coordination Studies**, including power flow, stability, and transfer capability analyses, conducted prior to each summer and winter season to assess the ability to maintain reliability and meet transfer obligations under expected and extreme conditions.
- **Contingency and Emergency Protocols** with neighboring BA and Reliability Coordinators to support emergency situations and real-time transfers. These protocols are exercised through reliability drills and supported by tools like dynamic line ratings and real-time data sharing.
- **Reserve Sharing and Balancing Arrangements** that enable entities within the assessment area to share generation reserves during system events or peak demand periods, supporting both operational reliability and economic efficiency.
- **Real-Time Operational Coordination** where neighboring areas monitor real-time flows and manage congestion through dynamic scheduling, redispatch strategies, and curtailment procedures as necessary.
- **Coordinated use of the Open Access Same-Time Information System (OASIS)** to ensure transparency and proper scheduling of transfers, preventing violations of reliability standards or operational issues.

Despite these robust coordination mechanisms, energy risk assessments have highlighted certain limitations regarding external reliance, particularly during extreme conditions. Studies, including the RMS, have modeled interactions with 13 neighboring systems to understand the limits of market support during high risk periods. These assessments indicate that regional transmission constraints can hinder economic and emergency imports, potentially exacerbating local energy shortages during widespread events. Furthermore, studies suggest limited excess market generation availability during

extreme weather events in the Southeast, underscoring the critical importance of internal resource adequacy planning.

In terms of future reliance, while the overall trend suggests sufficient internal capacity, one utility expects to potentially make capacity purchases of up to 370 MW to serve possible data mining loads over the next four years. This indicates a willingness to utilize external purchases to meet specific, potentially high-density and unpredictable, new loads. The results of energy risk assessments are used to inform capacity expansion plans and determine the need for additional capacity purchases.

Transmission

Entities within the assessment area have numerous transmission projects planned or underway over the next 10 years to support system reliability and address evolving load and generation needs. These projects include approximately 1,308 miles of new transmission lines above 100 kV, 1,322 miles of line rebuilds, around 20 reactive compensation installations, 50 new transmission stations, and various upgrades to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure. One entity plans to retire a 46 kV transmission path and convert affected delivery points to 115 kV service, constructing a new network line to address localized thermal constraints and improve contingency performance. Power electronic devices such as reactive compensation systems are being installed to enhance voltage stability and system performance. While no major transmission adequacy issues have been identified, there are risks of project delays due to supply chain disruptions and contractor availability. Mitigation measures include staggered project timelines, strategic inventory management, and evaluation of interim technologies like variable line impedance devices. Overall, the assessment area maintains a coordinated and proactive transmission planning approach to ensure continued reliability across the region. Since the 2024 LTRA, planning entities across the assessment area have begun implementing or exploring several enhancements to their transmission planning processes in response to evolving reliability, resource mix, and regulatory conditions. One key area of focus is the growing presence of IBRs, such as solar and battery storage, which require different modeling and analysis techniques compared to traditional synchronous generation. Entities are now incorporating additional scenarios into their long-term planning to assess the adequacy of the transmission system under various levels of IBR penetration, particularly in areas experiencing rapid deployment of utility-scale renewables.

Another significant development involves planning for large data center loads, which present unique challenges due to their high energy consumption and sensitivity to power quality. Entities are preparing to implement new technical studies—such as dynamic modeling and harmonic analysis—to ensure that these loads can be reliably served without compromising grid stability. These studies are expected to become increasingly important over the next 10 years as data centers proliferate across the region. While there have been no wholesale changes to core transmission planning methodologies, adjustments are being made to better reflect recent operating experiences. For

example, entities have refined the load levels used in extreme case scenarios to align more closely with observed peak events. There is also growing interest in performing comprehensive gas-electric interdependency studies to assess the risks posed by natural gas supply disruptions to gas-fired generation resources.

For non-FERC-jurisdictional entities, FERC Order No. 2023 is being monitored, and although compliance is not mandatory, potential alignment with its principles—such as improved generator interconnection procedures and enhanced transparency in queue management—is being considered.

Regional coordination remains a critical component of transmission planning. Entities continue to work closely with first-tier neighbors through long-term, quarterly, and weekly coordination protocols. Interface transfer capabilities are calculated regularly on monthly and two-day-out bases, with requests managed through the OASIS system. Coordination of transfer capability assessments and planning assumptions is also carried out through interregional forums, such as the SERC Long-Term and Near-Term Working Groups and the Southeastern Regional Transmission Planning process. These efforts ensure that planned projects and operational practices are aligned across the region, helping to maintain reliability as system conditions evolve.

Reliability Issues

The Southeast assessment area actively manages its generation portfolio to ensure reliability amidst a changing resource mix. While no significant stability or inertia issues have been observed to date due to the current modest renewable penetration, several evolving reliability concerns are being proactively addressed:

- **Elevated Winter Energy Risk and Sustained Overnight Loads:** Energy risk assessments consistently identify winter peak hours as the highest-risk period for energy shortfalls. This

increased risk is driven by two primary factors: volatile peak demand due to extreme cold weather events exceeding forecasts, and sustained overnight load where demand remains high throughout the evening and early morning. Recent winter events, such as Winter Storm Elliott, have led to updated load shapes that reflect higher and more sustained loads, underscoring the importance of energy adequacy beyond just peak periods. This indicates a shift requiring more continuous energy coverage rather than just peak-hour capacity.

- **Natural Gas Fuel Supply Vulnerability:** Fuel availability, particularly for natural gas, has emerged as a significant energy risk. To mitigate this, entities in the assessment area actively manage natural gas fuel supply risk through firm fuel arrangements, backup capabilities like onsite fuel storage or dual-fuel options (e.g., oil), and annual gas pipeline failure studies conducted before each summer and winter season. Communication protocols are also maintained between electric and natural gas system operators for routine and contingency operations. Long-term planning studies also incorporate considerations for gas production limitations and transportation bottlenecks.
- **Challenges Posed by Large Industrial and Commercial Load Additions:** The assessment area is experiencing an increasing demand of large industrial and commercial load additions, such as data centers and crypto mining facilities, which require enhanced coordination, especially with local distribution cooperatives. These loads can “substantially increase demand” and exhibit unpredictable behavior, with some shifting to 24/7 operation and relying on short-term capacity purchases. Entities are proactively developing updated technical interconnection requirements and pursuing regulatory approvals to procure additional generation to serve these new loads.

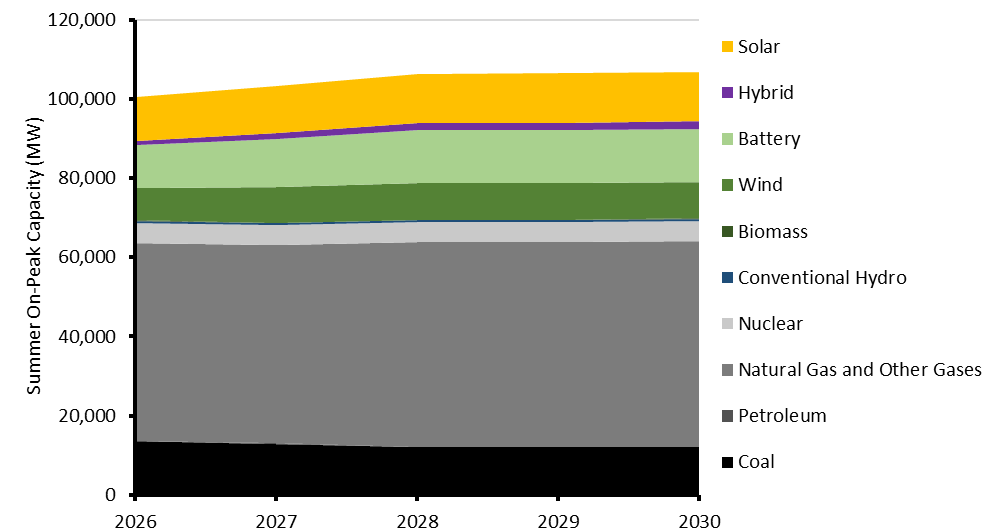
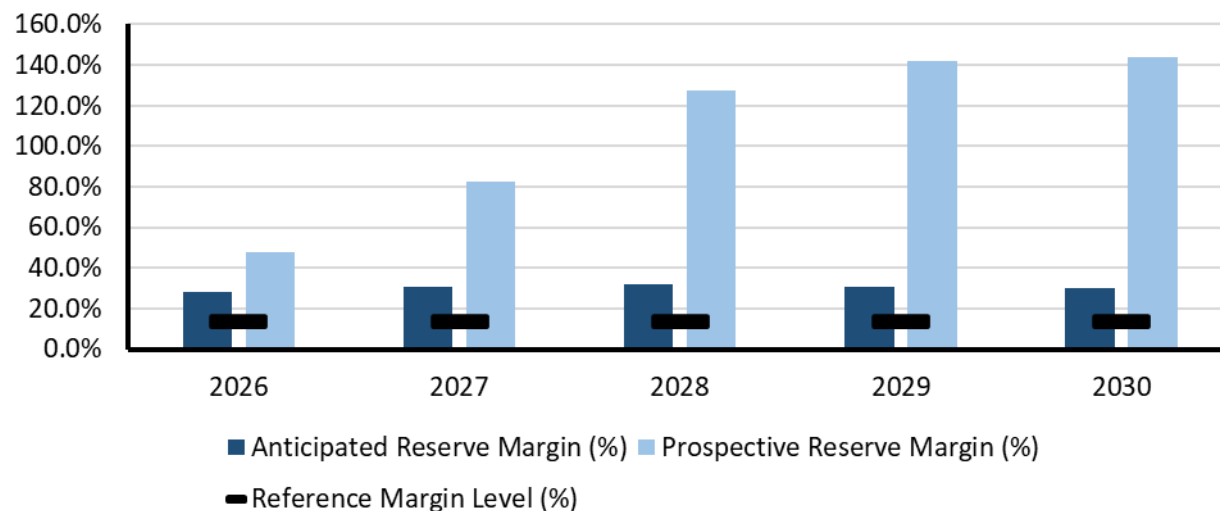


Texas RE-ERCOT

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is the ISO for the ERCOT Interconnection and is located entirely in the state of Texas; it operates as a single BA. It also performs financial settlement for the competitive wholesale bulk-power market and administers retail switching for nearly 8 million premises in competitive choice areas. ERCOT is governed by a board of directors and subject to oversight by the PUCT and the Texas Legislature. ERCOT is summer-peaking. It covers approximately 200,000 square miles, connects over 54,100 miles of transmission lines, has over 1,250 generation units, and serves more than 27 million people. Lubbock Power & Light joined the ERCOT grid on June 1, 2021. Texas Reliability Entity is responsible for the Regional Entity functions described in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 for ERCOT.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	94,650	104,295	121,543	128,851	138,944	144,522	148,567	149,846	152,230	154,077
Demand Response	13,346	22,127	37,672	43,888	53,131	57,720	60,942	61,846	62,644	63,321
Net Internal Demand	81,304	82,168	83,871	84,963	85,813	86,802	87,625	88,000	89,586	90,756
Additions: Tier 1	10,377	15,216	18,527	19,037	19,037	19,037	19,037	19,037	19,037	19,037
Additions: Tier 2	15,391	42,413	79,923	95,374	98,707	99,018	99,018	99,018	99,018	99,018
Additions: Tier 3	5,022	17,546	36,405	51,080	58,217	58,217	58,463	58,463	58,463	58,463
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	508	659	1,122	1,122	1,122	1,122	1,122	1,122	1,122	1,122
Existing-Certain and Net Firm Transfers	93,870	92,008	92,046	92,113	92,401	92,401	92,401	92,401	92,401	92,401
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	28.2%	30.5%	31.8%	30.8%	29.9%	28.4%	27.2%	26.6%	24.4%	22.8%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	47.9%	82.3%	127.3%	142.1%	143.9%	141.5%	139.2%	138.2%	134.0%	131.0%
Reference Margin Level (%)	13.75%	13.75%	13.75%	13.75%	13.75%	13.75%	13.75%	13.75%	13.75%	13.75%



Texas RE-ERCOT Highlights

- The ARM is above the 13.75% RML for all years and seasons and reflects the inclusion of provisional forecast estimates of large-load curtailment potential, applicable before and during ERCOT emergency conditions.
- ERCOT forecasts total internal demand to increase from 94,650 MW for 2026 to 154,077 MW for 2035, an average annual increase of 5.6%.
- Texas Senate Bill 6, signed into law in June 2025, provides ERCOT with new large-load curtailment management tools and the authority to direct large loads to curtail their load both prior to and during declared energy emergency situations.
 - Offsetting the positive ARM impact of these load management programs is the switch from using historical average on-peak capacity factors to average ELCC for IBRs.
- ERCOT expects battery energy storage capacity to reach 18.9 GW by Summer 2026, growing to 25.2 GW by 2029, which reflects the furthest future year for reported planned commercial operations dates.
- ERCOT's 2024 Regional Transmission Plan (RTP) includes a 345 kV plan and the Texas 765 kV Strategic Transmission Expansion Plan (TX 765-kV STEP), which addresses unprecedented load growth expected by 2030.

Texas RE-ERCOT Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	13,596	12,941	12,156	12,156	12,156
Coal*	13,596	12,550	11,205	11,205	11,205
Petroleum	30	30	30	30	30
Natural Gas	50,032	50,122	51,689	51,689	51,977
Natural Gas*	50,032	49,764	51,331	51,331	51,619
Biomass	131	131	131	131	131
Solar	11,049	11,923	12,305	12,534	12,534
Wind	8,303	8,900	9,215	9,219	9,219
Conventional Hydro	570	570	570	570	570
Nuclear	4,973	4,973	4,973	4,973	4,973
Hybrid	1,127	1,497	1,813	1,909	1,909
Battery	10,734	12,285	13,375	13,374	13,374
Total MW	100,545	103,372	106,257	106,584	106,872
Total MW*	100,545	102,203	104,528	104,855	105,143
*Capacity with additional generator retirements. Generators that have announced plans to retire but have yet to be included in system plans are removed from the resource projection where marked.					
**Wind, solar, and battery capacities are based on their projected effective load carrying capabilities during peak load conditions.					

Texas RE-ERCOT Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

The ARM is above the 13.75% RML only for summers 2026 and 2027, and winters 2025–26 and 2026–27. The main contributing factor for lower ARMs relative to last year’s LTRA is the switch from using historical average on-peak capacity factors to average ELCC for IBRs. In the case of solar, ELCCs are significantly lower than on-peak capacity factors since ELCCs reflect resource reliability value, and in the case of solar, this value has been decreasing as reserve scarcity risk shifts to the evening hours when solar availability is low. Partially offsetting the reduction in solar contribution was the shift from assigning 0% on-peak capacity contribution for battery energy storage to using average ELCCs based on design duration. For example, battery storage systems with a duration of one hour or less are assigned an ELCC of 36%, whereas the ELCC for systems greater than one hour and less than two hours is 69%.

Energy Risk, Including Non-Peak Hour Risk

For non-winter months, ERCOT continues to experience the highest reserve scarcity risk during the early evening hours—peaking at HE 9:00 p.m.—based on probabilistic capacity reserve modeling for monthly peak load days. The elevated risk is due to the drop-off in solar generation and continued higher loads during those hours. However, the large growth in battery energy storage resources and associated changes in state of charge management have mitigated the capacity reserve scarcity risk relative to previous years. For winter, risk modeling indicates elevated reserve scarcity risk for the morning hours (HE 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.) as well as the early evening hours.

Probabilistic Assessments (NERC ProbA and Other Studies)

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	11,090	5,864	17,053
NEUE (ppm)	18.95	8.70	18.84
LOLH (hours per Year)	1.57	0.94	3.64
* Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

Like the 2024 ProbA Study, most risk is in the winter, and this is mainly driven by the large demand variability modeled in the winter. By 2029, there is significant risk in the summer and slight risk in the shoulder seasons, driven by the considerable growth of large loads across the year.

12x24 EUE Heat maps (months for the vertical axis, hours for the horizontal axis) for 2027 and 2029 are provided below. Note that as the numbers are given in percentages, the lower winter values in 2029 relative to 2027 do not indicate a decrease in winter risk, just a smaller portion of the annual total.

2027

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	4%	3%	2%	2%	3%	5%	8%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	4%	7%	5%	4%	4%
3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
11	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
12	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	4%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	3%	4%	4%	4%

2029

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	4%	6%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%
3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%
8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%
9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
11	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
12	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%

Demand

ERCOT forecasts summer peak total internal demand to increase from 94,650 MW for 2026 to 154,077 MW for 2035, an average annual increase of 5.6%. This load growth is mainly driven by forecasted interconnections of large loads, comprised mostly of data centers. The breakdown of new large loads added by 2030 by customer classification is as follows:

Load Additions in the Load Forecast (MW) (Cumulative)			
Load Type	End of Year 2 (2027)	End of Year 5 (2030)	End of Year 10 (2035)
Data Centers	6,700	23,000	25,000
Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities	4,500	7,500	8,500
Hydrogen Electrolysis	3,000	7,902	9,100
Industrial Manufacturing Load	2,800	7,100	7,600

For 2025, the ERCOT transmission service providers (TSP) had once again reported a significantly larger-than-normal amount of contracted large loads that they asked to be included in the *2025 Long-Term Load Forecast* and *Regional Transmission Planning Study*. Due to the large amount of large-load requests for 2025, ERCOT has applied adjustment factors to these requests. ERCOT has adjusted the large-load projections provided by the TSPs based on the patterns observed by recent projects. The first adjustment was based on the average project delay of 180 days from the original project requested energization date for projects with in-service dates in 2022 through 2024. The next adjustment was applied to Data Centers. ERCOT studied requested MWs versus the peak consumption by data center site for data centers with in-service dates in 2022 through 2024. The average peak consumption per site was 49.8% of the requested MW. This factor was applied to all non-crypto data center load additions. The final adjustment used the percentage of previously filed officer letter projects with in-service dates in 2024 that have energized (55.4%). This percentage is based on percentage of loads energized.

The PUCT is developing criteria for including large loads in ERCOT’s load forecasts along the lines of criteria applicable to generation projects (for example, the large-load customer has executed and securitized an interconnection agreement or meets other criteria demonstrating a firm commitment to interconnecting the load).

Demand-Side Management

Signed into law in June 2025, Texas Senate Bill 6 directs the PUCT to establish uniform large-load interconnection standards that, among other things, provide ERCOT with new large-load curtailment management tools and ERCOT’s authority to direct (or require transmission service providers to direct) large loads to curtail their load prior to and during declared energy emergency situations. The following table shows the total large loads and their curtailment amounts included in the “Controllable and Dispatchable Demand Response” line items.

Summer	Total LL (MW)	LL Curtailment (MW)	Winter	Total LL (MW)	LL Curtailment (MW)
2025 (S)	3864.4	1,313.9	2025-26 (W)	9112.9	8,227.7
2026 (S)	12355.4	8,853.5	2026-27 (W)	17289.8	15,909.3
2027 (S)	21665.7	17,171.5	2027-28 (W)	31590.8	29,408.9
2028 (S)	38583.3	32,716.5	2028-29 (W)	45249.3	42,298.1
2029 (S)	45681.1	38,932.6	2029-30 (W)	55533.1	51,981.4
2030 (S)	55964.9	48,175.5	2030-31 (W)	60917.9	57,010.6
2031 (S)	61349.7	52,764.3	2031-32 (W)	64863.6	60,672.7
2032 (S)	65295.4	55,985.9	2032-33 (W)	66370.5	62,017.8
2033 (S)	66802.3	56,890.6	2033-34 (W)	67764.7	63,256.0
2034 (S)	68196.5	57,688.4	2034-35 (W)	69032.1	64,373.6
2035 (S)	69463.9	58,365.6	2035-36 (W)	69805.1	65,043.3

Distributed Energy Resources

DERs that register with ERCOT to participate in wholesale energy and/or ancillary services markets are modeled and dispatched in ERCOT transmission planning studies similarly to transmission-connected resources participating in those markets. For DERs not participating in those markets, ERCOT relies on member Transmission and Distribution Service Providers (TDSPs) to provide information about individual DERs on their systems for shorter-term reliability and economic impact studies, typically a one-to-six-year time frame.

ERCOT has proposed rule changes mandated by the Texas Legislature to establish a process to collect comprehensive data from Distribution Service Providers for so called “Unregistered Distributed Generators” (primarily rooftop solar systems). The data will be collected on a substation level and will include information to be used for network modeling and analysis, including aggregate reactive power capability and status of PUCT voltage/frequency ride-through requirements.

Generation

In 2024, ERCOT received notices of suspension of operations for three gas-steam units in the San Antonio area. Reliability impact studies indicated that all three were needed to manage the South Texas Interconnection Reliability Operating Limit (IROL) established in 2024. As a result, ERCOT signed

a two-year “Reliability Must Run” (RMR) agreement with CPS energy for one of the three generators (Unit 3). This generator, as part of its RMR service obligation, would only operate when necessary to provide voltage support, stability, or management of localized transmission constraints when a market solution does not exist. ERCOT also signed a contract in June 2025 to use 15 mobile generators that are being relocated from Houston to the San Antonio area. The contract ends in March 2027 when transmission solutions are expected to be in place to offset the loss of the mothballed CPS generating units.

New rules became effective in October 2024 to improve IBR ride-through performance and monitoring and mitigation efforts. The rules were developed in response to NERC recommendations following IBR failures during system disturbances in West Texas. The new ride-through requirements align with the specifications of the updated IEEE 2800-2022 standard, which addresses the interconnection and interoperability of IBRs. As part of the new rules, IBR entities are required to maximize their IBR ride-through capabilities, which includes making software, firmware, and settings adjustments, and potentially physical modifications to ensure that they can remain connected to the grid during frequency and voltage disturbances. The rules also establish a process for investigating, reporting, and mitigating ride-through performance failures, requiring resource entities to develop mitigation plans within a defined timeline. IBR entities must meet the new requirements by December 31, 2025, or their synchronization date, subject to an extension/exemption process.

During 2024, units totaling 18.6 MW were retired, comprising a 9.6 MW biomass facility, a 7 MW wind site, and 2 MW battery storage system. So far in 2025, a 62 MW gas combined-cycle unit was retired.

Energy Storage

ERCOT expects battery energy storage capacity to reach 18.9 GW by summer 2026 (Existing and Tier 1 resource categories). The capacity grows to 25.2 GW by 2029, which reflects the furthest future year for planned commercial operations dates reported by project developers.

ERCOT is moving away from a dual to an integrated single model of an energy storage resource for operational and transmission planning studies. Under the dual approach, an energy storage resource is composed of a generator with a negative minimum power to represent consumption and a generator with a positive maximum power to represent injection. The single “integrated” generator model, along with other system enhancements for battery energy storage, is being implemented as part of ERCOT’s “Real Time Co-Optimization + Battery” project, expected to be implemented by December 2025. Since each resource receives independent dispatch instructions and ancillary service deployments in the dual model approach, moving to a single integrated resource model will eliminate current performance monitoring issues. The discharging behavior for all energy storage resources is considered for peak cases in transmission planning studies. The charging behavior for all energy

storage resources is considered for minimum load cases in transmission planning studies. Energy storage resources, if required to provide voltage support, need to have the reactive power capability be available at all MW levels when charging or discharging and meet the voltage ride-through requirements to remain connected to the system. To support larger penetration levels of energy storage resources, new rules have been implemented to improve state-of-charge monitoring in energy dispatch and Reliability Unit Commitment.

Capacity Transfers (Reliance on Assistance)

ERCOT has coordination plans in place with neighboring grids. These plans cover DC tie emergency operations, procedures for generators that can switch between grids, and temporary block load transfers. For its transmission planning studies, ERCOT tests the outage of each of the ERCOT-SPP DC ties, plus a contingency on top of that, to ensure no reliability issues post-contingency. There are no severe scenarios studied where multiple DC ties are assumed to be unavailable.

Transmission

ERCOT’s 2024 RTP includes a 345 kV plan and a 765 kV plan, called the Texas 765-kV Strategic Transmission Expansion Plan (TX 765-kV STEP). The 765-kV plan tackles the unprecedented load growth expected by 2030 and associated regional planning challenges and addresses existing congestion issues. TX 765-kV STEP enhances transfer capability by an additional 600 to 3,000 MW across various scenarios evaluated in the analysis and would also increase the West Texas export stability constraints. The 765 kV addition enables power to flow more efficiently through long-distance transmission from resource-rich regions to load centers. Overall, 274 reliability projects were identified in the 2024 RTP’s 345 kV plan to address all reliability violations compared with 173 projects in the 2023 RTP, 89 projects in the 2022 RTP, 67 projects in the 2021 RTP, and 50 projects in the 2020 RTP. This upward trend reflects grid infrastructure needed to support rapidly growing power demands and an evolving generation resource mix.

ERCOT is adopting changes to its planning processes to address the long-term transmission challenges. Examples of the major changes include establishment of a new congestion cost savings test for economic project evaluation, establishment of resiliency criteria for the ERCOT region, and development of new multi-value criteria to address the process for determining whether a project that addresses a resiliency issue provides sufficient benefit balanced with economic savings or reliability benefits.

Reliability Issues

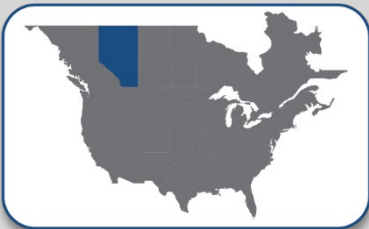
There are several reliability concerns associated with the rapid growth in large loads:

Loss of Load: Due to the amount of large electronic-based load projected to energize in upcoming years (mainly from cryptocurrency mining facilities), ERCOT is concerned that potentially thousands of megawatts of load can instantly drop or switch to backup generation during normally cleared system faults, thereby posing significant risks to system reliability. To address this concern, ERCOT has proposed a change to its Reliability Performance Criteria to limit load loss for any single contingency and to specify how loss of load is calculated for this criterion. ERCOT recently completed a Load Loss Threshold Analysis that indicates that the load loss should be limited to 2,600 MW.

Load Forecasting Challenges: The flexible operation of large loads also presents challenges for accurate load forecasting and monitoring. ERCOT has observed increasing errors in its load forecasts, which is problematic during extreme or unusual operating days when having an accurate forecast is most critical for maintaining reliability. New approved rules include standards for the identification and classification of a site with an aggregate peak demand of 25 MW or more at a common substation in ERCOT’s Network Operations Model. Such information will provide ERCOT visibility of the locations of these loads for operational, modeling, and planning purposes.

Potential Subsynchronous Oscillation Vulnerabilities: Large loads, particularly those with high reactive power consumption, can cause subsynchronous oscillation (SSO) that can damage generation and other equipment and ultimately destabilize the grid. This vulnerability is highest in areas with a weak grid, such as West Texas. To address SSO issues, ERCOT is implementing new rules that require SSO vulnerability assessments for large-load customers seeking grid interconnection as well as for transmission projects.

Need for a Large Load Interconnection Study Process: ERCOT identified the need for a Large Load Interconnection Study (LLIS) process several years ago due to the emerging reliability impacts. An interim process was estimated in March 2022. A final interconnection process was approved by the PUCT in May 2025.

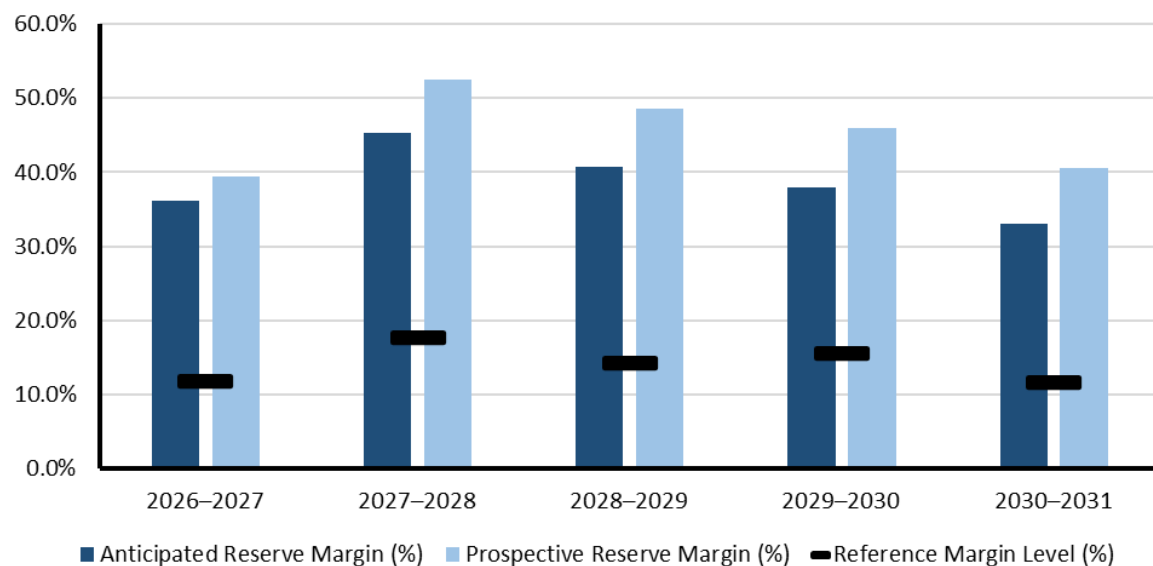


WECC-Alberta

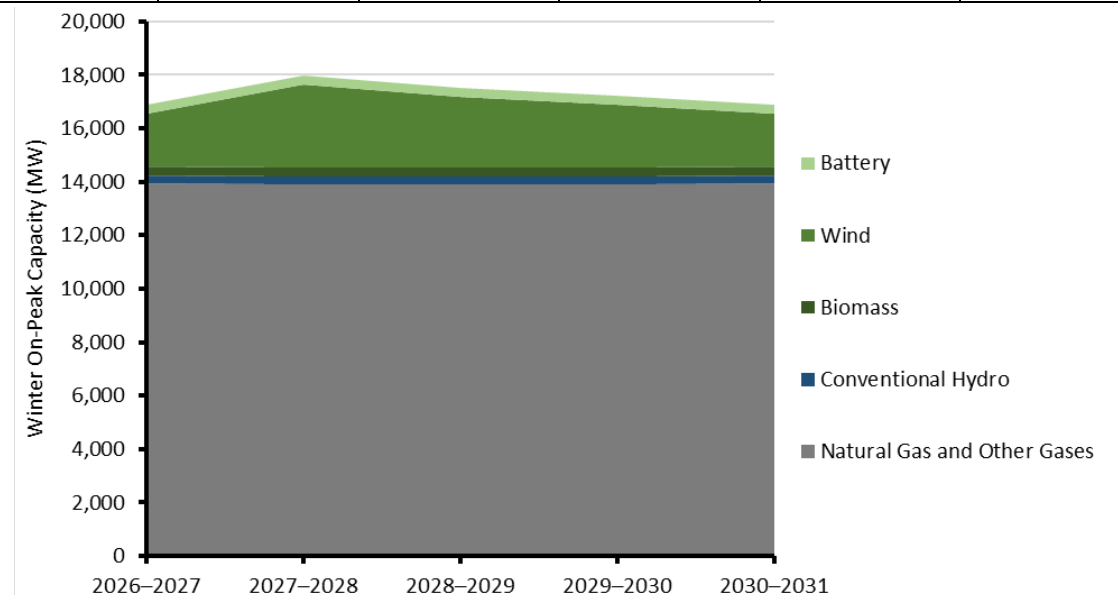
WECC-Alberta is an assessment area that covers the Canadian province of Alberta. The province has a geographic area of 661,848 square kilometers (255,541 square miles) and a population of almost 5 million people. The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) is the province’s Planning Entity and Reliability Coordinator responsible for safe, reliable, and economic operation of the Alberta Interconnected Electric System. AESO is a non-profit corporation that operates a system that includes approximately 26,000 kilometers of transmission lines and connects approximately 426 qualified generating units and nearly 250 market participants through a wholesale market. Alberta’s transmission system has three interties with neighboring areas—Saskatchewan (see MRO-SaskPower), British Columbia (see WECC-British Columbia), and Montana (see WECC-Northwest). Peak electricity demand on the AESO system currently occurs during the winter season.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031	2031–2032	2032–2033	2033–2034	2034–2035	2035–2036
Total Internal Demand	12,463	12,434	12,510	12,528	12,759	12,831	12,956	12,992	13,076	13,470
Demand Response	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Internal Demand	12,463	12,434	12,510	12,528	12,759	12,831	12,956	12,992	13,076	13,470
Additions: Tier 1	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209
Additions: Tier 2	393	889	983	1,009	959	1,009	921	971	971	971
Additions: Tier 3	392	658	917	1,297	1,334	1,631	1,635	1,751	1,751	1,751
Net Capacity Transfers (WECC Model)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Existing-Certain and Net Transfers	16,764	17,856	17,394	17,074	16,764	17,074	16,502	16,820	16,820	16,820
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	36.2%	45.3%	40.7%	38.0%	33.0%	34.7%	29.0%	31.1%	30.2%	26.4%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	39.3%	52.4%	48.6%	46.0%	40.5%	42.6%	36.1%	38.5%	37.7%	33.6%
Reference Margin Level (%)	11.8%	17.6%	14.3%	15.6%	11.6%	15.2%	12.2%	14.3%	13.9%	13.5%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

WECC-Alberta Highlights

- WECC-Alberta’s ARM does not fall below the RML during the 2025–2035 time frame.
- WECC-Alberta’s total electricity demand is projected to grow by 10% over the next 10 years. Summer peak hour demand is projected to grow by 7%, and winter peak hour demand is projected to grow by 11% over the same period.
- Alberta is anticipated to add 556 MW of Tier 1 gas, solar, and battery resources over the next 10 years. Alberta’s thermal power generation fleet is aging, and significant additions of Tier 2 and 3 variable renewable energy resources are being proposed to make up for forthcoming thermal retirements while meeting Alberta’s 30% renewable by 2030 policy requirement. On top of the 250 MW of existing storage, 88 MW are anticipated Tier 1 and 370 MW are Tier 2 additions over the next 10 years. Still, rapid declines in solar and wind output could cause ramping issues in the future and require the use of contingent reserves and assistance from the NWPP Reserve Sharing Group.
- AESO has recently added two transmission lines to its system to increase reliability and integrate fossil-fired generation additions.
- Under a different set of assumptions and with a different vintage of data from the LTRA, the NERC ITCS for Canada concluded that WECC-Alberta may have winter energy deficiencies that could be alleviated by increased transfer capabilities.

WECC-AB Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031
Natural Gas	13,932	13,908	13,890	13,900	13,932
Biomass	336	336	335	336	336
Wind	2,000	3,109	2,665	2,327	2,000
Conventional Hydro	293	301	301	310	293
Other	81	81	81	81	81
Battery	330	330	329	330	330
Total MW	16,973	18,065	17,602	17,283	16,973

WECC-Alberta Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

WECC-Alberta’s ARM does not fall below the RML during the 2025-2035 time frame. WECC continues to use a probabilistic approach for determining RMLs, holding a LOLP less than or equal to 0.02% (approximately a 1 day in 10 years loss of load). The model determines what reserve margin must be held to maintain a fixed LOLP. Using this technique, a target reserve margin is evaluated for every hour of every year of the full forecast period.

There have, however, been changes to policies that might affect planning and procurement over the next 10 years. The Canada Clean Electricity Regulations (CER) were finalized in December 2024, which delayed the nationwide net-zero electricity target from 2035 to 2050. Alberta has recently entered into an agreement with the Canadian federal government to pursue alternative policies to achieve a net-zero power grid by 2050.

Energy Risk, Including Non-Peak Hour Risk

AESO uses an hourly probabilistic model to quantify uncertainties around unit availability, dispatch economics, load variability, and weather impact on load and generation in operational time frames.

ProbA Results

Alberta does not show any LOLH or EUE in 2027 or 2029 and therefore does not have any further reporting or visualizations.

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	0	0	0
NEUE (ppm)	0.00	0.00	0.00
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.00	0.00	0.00
* Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

Demand

Alberta’s annual demand is projected to grow 10% over the next 10 years. Summer peak hour demand is projected to grow 7% and winter peak hour demand is projected to grow 11% over the same period. The primary driver for demand growth in Alberta is transportation electrification. Large-load additions in the forecast total 80 MW over the next five years and 105 MW through 2035. Additional large loads that may materialize and are not included in the forecast amount to 1,600 MW by 2030 and 2,100 by 2035.

Seasonally, the region is becoming more dual-peaking with summers almost matching winters.

Demand-Side Management

AESO factors in approximately 250 MW of DSM in its load forecast and this is projected to remain steady across the 10-year assessment period.

Generation

Alberta is anticipated to add 556 MW (nameplate capacity) of Tier 1 gas, solar, and battery resources over the next 10 years. Tier 2 additions include nearly 5 GW of gas, solar, wind and batteries and Tier 3 additions include just over 5 GW of gas, solar, wind, conventional hydro, and batteries. Operational and planning issues related to generation in WECC-Alberta include the following:

- Aging Thermal Resource Fleet: There is ongoing analysis of potentially mothballing aging coal-to-gas boilers. Alberta has five natural gas steam sites over 35 years old, which total 1,745 MW of capacity. Alberta shows significant additions of Tier 2 and Tier 3 solar and wind to make up the difference. Supply shortfalls are addressed using the protocols in AESO’s ISO Rules. These protocols include directives such as instructing available assets and long-lead-time assets to deliver energy up to their maximum capability, calling upon DR, and maximizing import capability.
- Solar and Wind Variability: Rapid decline in solar and wind output coupled with off-line thermal resources can create situations in which thermal resources cannot be ramped up in time to counter the loss of renewable generation. The use of contingency reserves coupled with a subsequent grid alert declaration to receive assistance from the NWPP Reserve Sharing Group (NWPPRSG) are options for addressing these situations.
- Electric-Gas Coordination: As a part of WECC’s load and resources data request, members were asked to provide a conservative estimate of the percentage of natural gas generating capacity that is likely to have firm supply for 2025 and 2030 for both the summer and winter season. Results indicated that all natural-gas-fired generators connected to AESO’s system are fueled through firm gas supply contracts during both the summer and winter seasons but do not report any dual-fuel capacity. To enhance operational reliability of natural gas fuel supplies for the province, Alberta’s natural gas operators are part of the Northwest Mutual Assistance Agreement. This is a voluntary collaboration amongst entities controlling natural gas resources in British Columbia, Alberta, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and Idaho to cooperate and provide aid to one another when unplanned events impact the gas supply and transportation system. There is frequent communication between system operators regarding gas resources

that are planned for operation and pipeline representatives regarding the status of pipelines serving the jurisdictions covered by the agreement.

- Resource Portfolio, Clean Electricity, and Development Policies: The Canadian province of Alberta is required to ensure its electricity supply is [30% renewable by 2030](#). Alberta has also issued a ban on renewable energy project development on prime agricultural land and a buffer zone around pristine views, both of which could limit siting for wind and solar. This followed a temporary moratorium from August 2023 to March 2024 on new renewable approvals, creating investment uncertainty. In January 2025, Alberta lifted a previous 2022 moratorium on coal exploration, reopening 190,000 hectares of land to new coal development.

Energy Storage

In addition to the 250 MW of existing energy storage in Alberta, 88 MW are anticipated Tier 1 additions, and 370 MW are projected Tier 2 additions of energy storage over the next 10 years. Storage in the west is generally being relied on to help mitigate ramping risk from afternoon net demand due to increasing penetrations of solar.

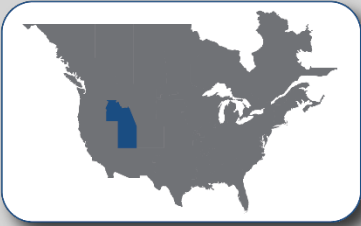
Energy Transfers

According to the NERC's [ITCS Canadian Analysis](#), the total simultaneous transfer capability into the Alberta transmission planning region from all its neighbors, including dc-only interties, is 1,096 MW in 2024 Summer and 1,005 MW in 2024–25 Winter. These values translate to approximately 10% of peak summer load and 9% of peak winter load in the analysis years. The two interfaces include connections with the U.S. state of Montana (see WECC-Northwest) and British Columbia (see WECC-British Columbia).

The ITCS for Canada further showed that WECC-Alberta may have winter energy deficiencies that can be alleviated with increased transfer capabilities.

Transmission

In 2024, Alberta added two transmission lines for fossil-fired integration. The reported primary driver for transmission expansion in Alberta is reliability.

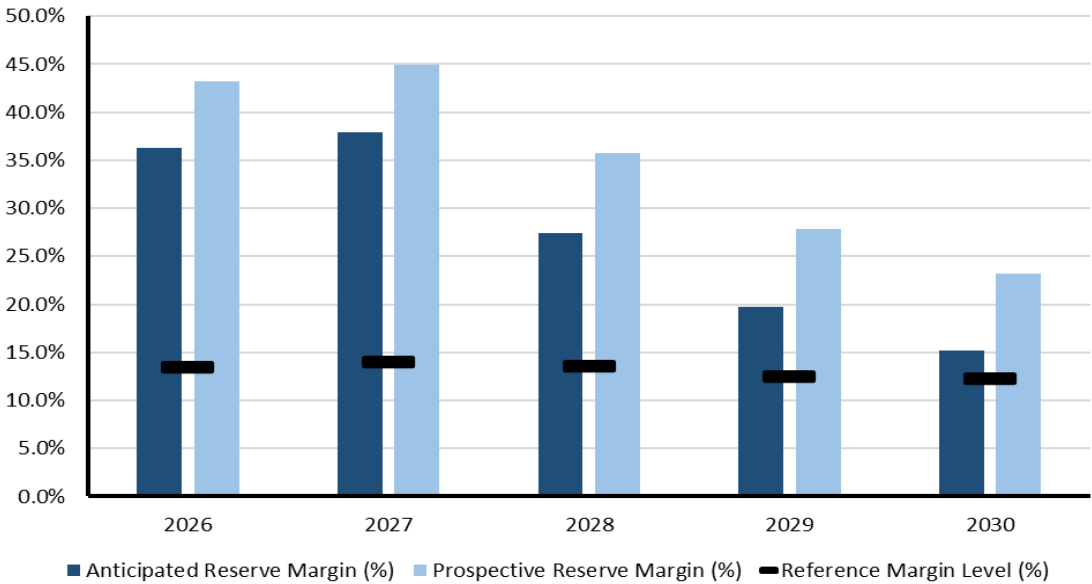


WECC-Basin

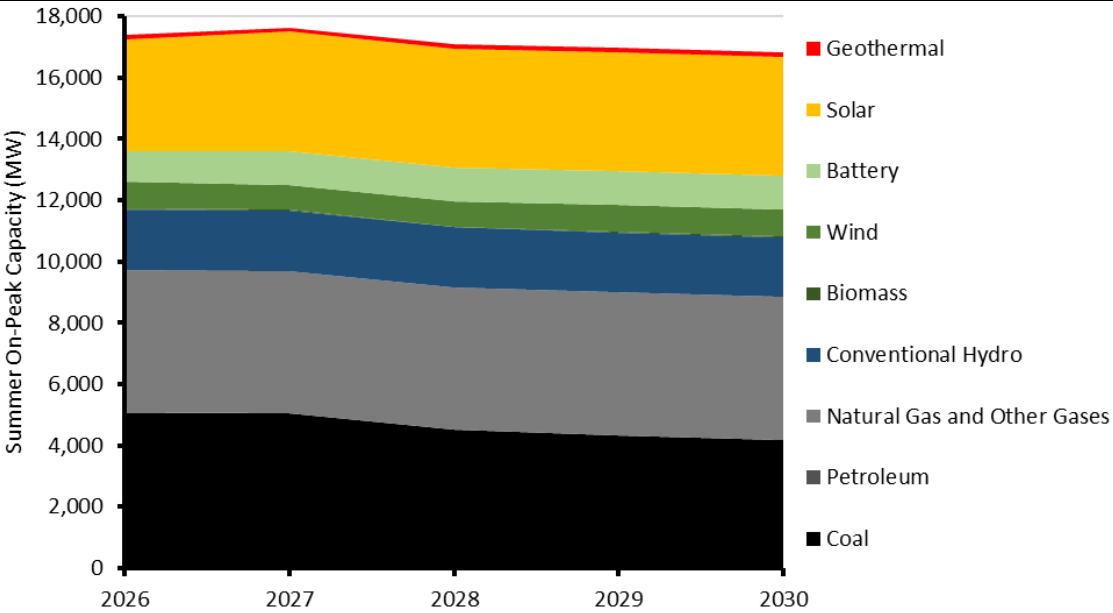
WECC-Basin is a summer-peaking assessment area in the WECC Regional Entity that includes Utah, southern Idaho, and a portion of western Wyoming, covering Idaho Power and PacifiCorp’s eastern BA area. The population of this area is approximately 5.4 million. It has 15,910 miles of transmission. WECC is responsible for coordinating and promoting BES reliability in the Western Interconnection. WECC’s 329 members include 40 BAs, representing a wide spectrum of organizations with an interest in the BES. Serving an area of nearly 1.8 million square miles and more than 84.5 million customers, it is geographically the largest and most diverse Regional Entity. *Note: The 2025 LTRA includes a new assessment area map for the U.S. Western Interconnection. The new assessment area boundaries provide more geographic detail of reliability risk information. WECC-Basin is a new assessment area in 2025 that was part of WECC-NW in the 2024 LTRA.*

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	14,794	15,326	16,012	16,396	16,762	17,099	17,202	17,268	17,344	17,467
Demand Response	670	670	670	670	670	670	670	670	670	670
Net Internal Demand	14,124	14,656	15,342	15,726	16,092	16,429	16,532	16,598	16,674	16,797
Additions: Tier 1	2,125	2,453	2,453	2,466	2,466	2,466	2,466	2,453	2,466	2,466
Additions: Tier 2	973	1,018	1,270	1,279	1,279	1,279	1,279	1,270	1,279	1,279
Additions: Tier 3	127	1,162	2,024	2,616	4,209	4,726	5,665	6,203	6,332	6,332
Net Capacity Transfers (WECC Model)	1,822	2,545	2,420	1,820	1,698	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Existing-Certain and Net Transfers	17,125	17,763	17,097	16,357	16,071	15,736	15,729	15,315	15,288	15,280
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	36.3%	37.9%	27.4%	19.7%	15.2%	10.8%	10.1%	7.1%	6.5%	5.7%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	43.2%	44.9%	35.7%	27.8%	23.1%	18.6%	17.8%	14.7%	14.2%	13.3%
Reference Margin Level (%)	13.5%	14.0%	13.6%	12.4%	12.3%	12.1%	12.1%	12.5%	11.8%	11.8%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

WECC-Basin Highlights

- The ARM does not fall below the RML during the 2025–2035 time frame. IPCO and PACE participate in the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP).
- The Basin subregion shows three LOLH in 2027 totaling approximately 3 MWh of EUE in June and July at hours beginning 18:00 and 19:00. In 2029, the subregion shows 310 LOLH totaling approximately 200,892 MWh of unserved energy. Over 90% of the EUE occurs between the hours of 17:00–22:00 from June to September.
- For 2027 and 2029, the peak hour is projected to occur in July at hour beginning 15:00.
- The LOLH in 2027 and 2029 coincides with the evening solar down ramp and the persistence of elevated demand after peak.

WECC-Basin Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	5,068	5,041	4,508	4,326	4,177
Petroleum	5	5	5	5	5
Natural Gas	4,655	4,634	4,634	4,655	4,655
Biomass	31	31	31	31	31
Solar	3,668	3,899	3,899	3,884	3,884
Wind	900	826	826	897	882
Geothermal	139	139	139	139	139
Conventional Hydro	1,962	1,976	1,968	1,954	1,954
Other	31	31	31	19	19
Battery	967	1,090	1,090	1,092	1,092
Total MW	17,428	17,672	17,130	17,003	16,839

WECC-Basin Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

The ARM does not fall below the RML during the 2026–2035 time frame. The Idaho Power and PacificCorp East balancing areas both participate in WRAP, the first regional reliability planning and compliance program in the West.

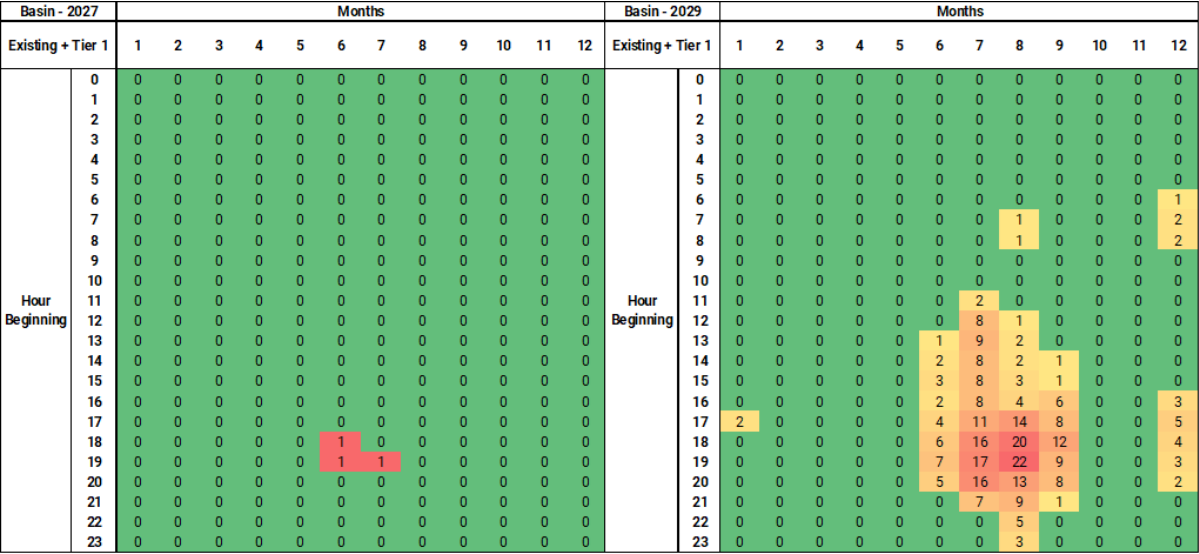
Energy Assessment, Including Non-Peak Hour Risk

WECC performs a probabilistic resource adequacy analysis using the Multiple Area Variable Resource Integration Convolution model (MAVRIC). MAVRIC is WECC’s internally developed modeling tool that performs energy based ProbAs that support NERC’s LTRA and seasonal assessments, as well as WECC’s Western Assessment of Resource Adequacy (WARA).

Although the WECC-Basin assessment area’s ARM does not fall below the RML during the 2026–2035 time frame and indicates substantial surplus, the ProbA results indicate significant EUE and LOLH. As resource additions struggle to keep up with rising demand and expected generator retirements, reflected in falling ARMs after 2027, unserved energy and load-loss increase in the ProbA results. The LOLH in 2027 and 2029 coincides with the evening solar down ramp and the persistence of elevated demand after peak.

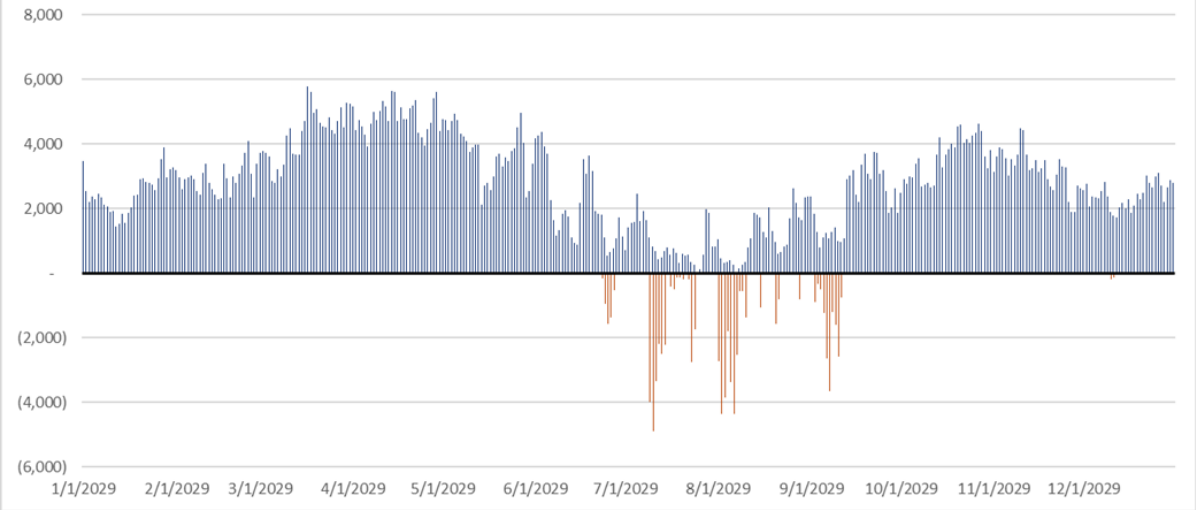
Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	N/A	3	200,892
NEUE (ppm)	N/A	0.04	2250.70
LOLH (hours per Year)	N/A	3.00	310.00
* No prior results as the assessment area is new for the 2025 LTRA.			

The risk of shortfall in the WECC-Basin area is concentrated in the summer months when seasonal electricity demand is highest. In the ProbA results illustrated in the following heat map figure, risk is most concentrated to the month of peak demand (June) and the hours around sunset as solar output declines. The values in the heat map are the number of hours from the MAVRIC simulations that resources fall short of demand and reliability margins in the study year. For 2029, as planned retirements of coal-fired generation and all currently projected resource additions are reflected in the resource mix, risk periods expand across all summer months, and the hours of risk extend from midday to nighttime.



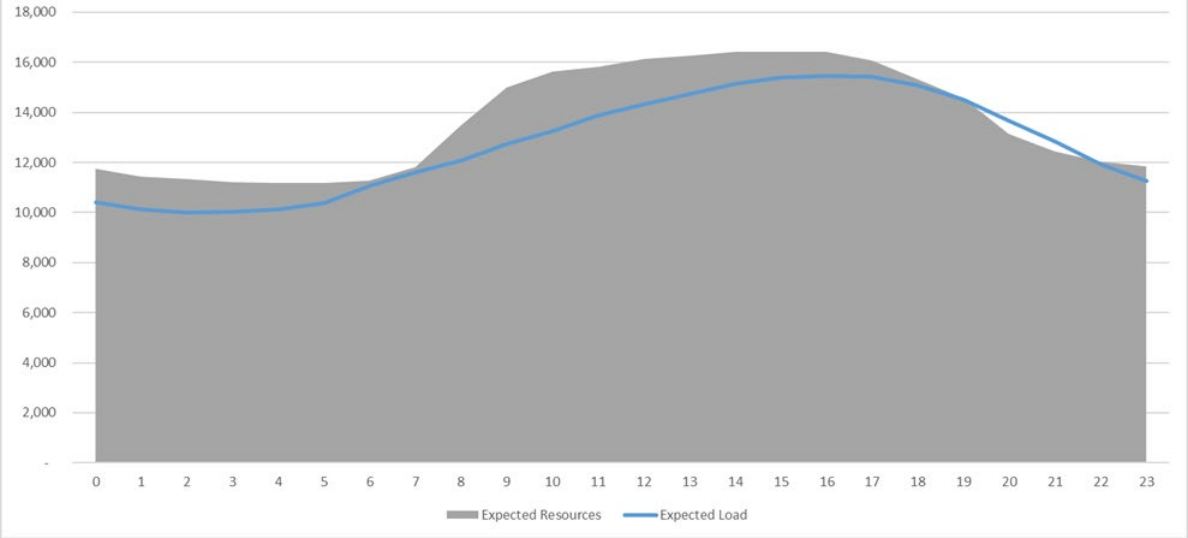
Heat Map Showing Months and Hours Where LOLH is Projected for the WECC-Basin Assessment Area in 2027 and 2029

In WECC’s ProbA modeling, energy transfers from neighboring areas are helping WECC-Basin meet supply deficits, but at times they are insufficient, resulting in the unserved energy and load-loss hours. The chart below shows energy surplus and deficit results from the ProbA 2029 study year. For most of the year, WECC-Basin has excess energy that can be transferred to neighboring areas. During peak summer months, however, more of WECC-Basin’s resources are needed for its own internal demand and, at times, energy deficits that must be met by importing energy from neighbors can exceed 4,000 MW.



Hourly Energy Surplus and Deficits in MW for ProbA 2029 Study Year

The chart below shows a 24-hour look at expected resources and imports versus expected load for ProbA days with the greatest amount of EUE in 2029. LOLH occurs at hour of 17:00 to 21:00 in 2029. This coincides with the evening solar down ramp and the persistence of elevated demand after the peak hour. The profile for the 2027 study year is similar but limited to the 18:00 to 19:00 hour. It should be noted that it is possible for a day to not show the expected load greater than expected resources on an area-wide basis and still have LOLH. This is because the WECC-Basin assessment area includes a conglomerate of BAs, and one of the BAs within the subregion can encounter energy shortfalls in the ProbA that could not be satisfied by imports due to nearby entities not having sufficient surplus energy to transfer.



Load and Resource Profile in MW on an Unserved Energy Day for ProbA 2029 Study Year

Demand

Average annual growth rate for Basin is 2.5%. The primary drivers are data centers and semiconductor manufacturing. Large-load additions in the forecast are 1,223 MW through 2035.

Idaho Power implements a substantial dispatchable DR program focused on the agricultural sector with its Irrigation Peak Rewards Programs. This allows the utility to remotely turn off specific irrigation pumps a minimum of four times during the summer. Participation varies year-to-year based on factors such as the availability of water and program parameters. PacifiCorp states in its most recent IRP that it plans to reach more than 1,100 MW of dispatchable DR by 2042, a 21% increase from its previous plan. The company’s dispatchable DR programs include residential and small commercial air-conditioner load control programs, irrigation load management programs, and approximately 200 MW of evergreen interruptible contracts.

Distributed Energy Resources

BTM DER impacts are reflected in the demand forecasts (net of the DERs). BAs did not report a forecast for BTM resources.

Generation

Operational and planning issues related to generation in WECC-Basin include the following:

- **Aging Thermal Resource Fleet:** An aging thermal resource fleet is a year-round concern for this subregion. Older resources require additional maintenance and can be more prone to forced outages or partial derates. Maintenance is planned years in advance and avoided during summer peak season as much as possible. Quarterly evaluations are done to adjust maintenance schedules as needed.
- **Gas Fleet Derates:** During the winter, gas resources may be derated during extreme cold and precipitation events for equipment issues such as snow-clogged inlet filters. This issue is remedied by monitoring filters and changing them out as needed.
- **Hydro Variability:** Hydro resources in this subregion are subject to seasonal and multi-year fluctuations in water supply. This is a year-round concern that requires persistent monitoring. Regular updates to near-term hydro forecasts ensure system operators can be ready for a range of potential hydro output.
- **Solar Variability:** As the solar capacity in this subregion grows, solar ramps are becoming a concern on summer evenings. Large declines in solar output require the dispatch of flexible resources to meet demand. In addition, during the winter solar generation tends to be significantly lower. BESS that typically charge from solar must charge from other resources. Wind and solar forecasts are used to estimate energy availability to serve load versus the amount available for BESS charging, and other resources are dispatched accordingly.
- **Wind Variability:** Particularly during the winter, the timing and volume of wind generation can vary significantly between forecasts and actuals. This is due to the unpredictable behavior of winter storms that may overspeed turbines, or cold temperatures mixed with moisture that may result in the icing of turbine blades.

Electric-Gas Coordination

Electric-gas coordination in long-term planning studies is considered for at least one Basin entity. For integrated resource planning assumptions, Resource Planners reach out to gas traders to confirm pipeline capability to serve existing and future generating asset needs. Gas supply constraints are not explicitly modeled but are inherently reflected in the GADs data used to develop long-term models.

Maintaining gas supplier diversity is one strategy implemented to reduce the risk of fuel shortages and delivery issues in this subregion. In addition, at least one entity in this subregion participates in the Northwest Mutual Assistance Agreement (NWMAA). This is a voluntary collaboration amongst entities controlling natural gas resources in British Columbia, Alberta, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and Idaho to cooperate and provide aid to one another when unplanned events occur impacting the gas supply and transportation system. There is frequent communication between system operators regarding gas resources that are planned for operation and pipeline representatives regarding the status of pipelines serving those resources.

Renewable Portfolio, Clean Electricity, and Emissions Standards

Idaho Power serves ~63% of the state's electricity load and is targeting [100% clean electricity by 2045](#); Idaho has no state Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) or other clean energy target. Utah has enacted a voluntary renewable portfolio goal of 20% renewable energy by 2025. As of 2023, 15.5% of electricity generated in the state was renewable, putting the state on a path to meet the goal.

Transmission

PacifiCorp's [Energy Gateway Transmission Plan](#) addresses future transmission requirements necessary to serve PacifiCorp's Network Load customer needs. In total, the Energy Gateway Transmission plan, initiated in May 2007, adds approximately 2,000 miles of new transmission lines. Segments A, B, C, F, G and parts of Segment D have been completed. Segment D.3 Bridger/Anticline to Populus has a planned in-service date of 2034; Segment E Populus to Hemingway is beyond the 10-year planning horizon.

The 500 kV Boardman to Hemingway transmission line was first proposed in 2007 and has faced multiple delays. Now, as a joint project between Idaho Power and PacifiCorp (represented as Segment H in PacifiCorp's Energy Gateway transmission plan), the companies intend to break ground this year, with a planned in-service date of 2027. This ~295-mile 500 kV transmission line provides ~1,000 MW of bidirectional capacity increase between the Northwest and Idaho.

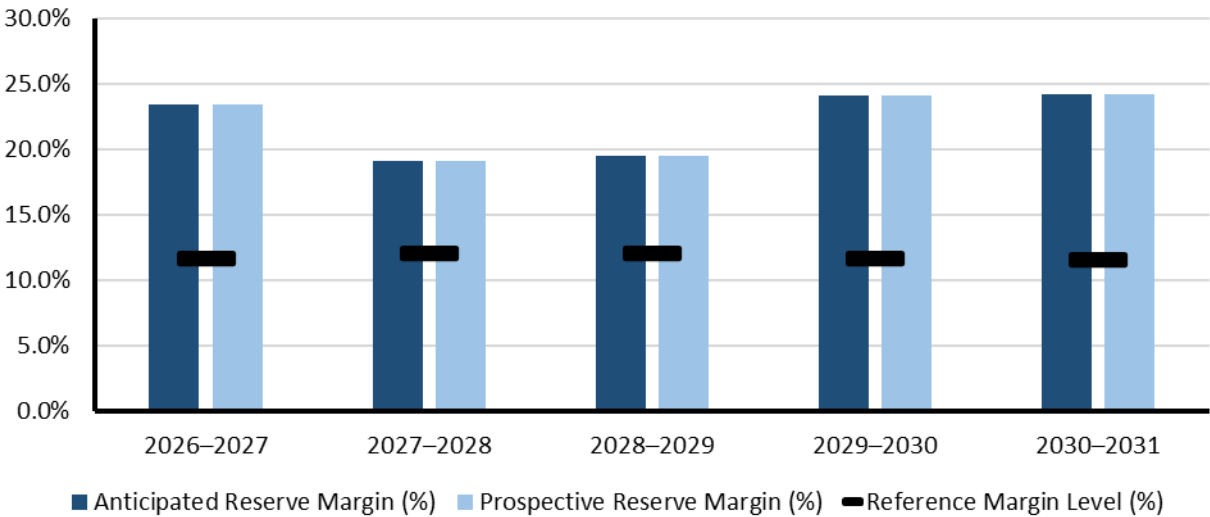


WECC-British Columbia

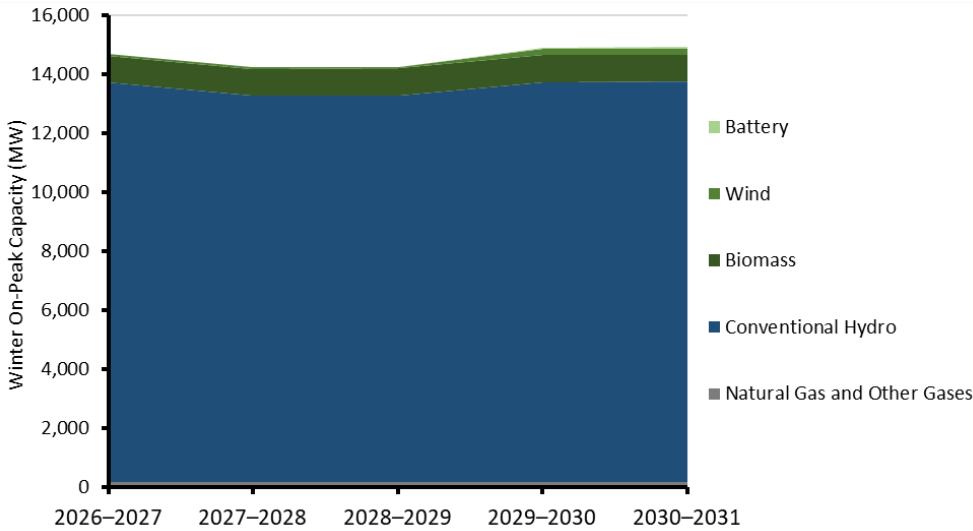
WECC-British Columbia is an assessment area that covers the Canadian province of British Columbia. The province has a geographic area of 944,735 square kilometers (364,764 square miles) and a population of just over 5 million people. BC Hydro is the Planning Entity and Reliability Coordinator for the province of British Columbia and is the principal supplier of electricity for the province. BC Hydro is a provincial Crown corporation and, under provincial legislation, is responsible for the oversight of the British Columbia Bulk Electric System and its interconnections. BC Hydro operates an integrated system supported by 30 hydroelectric plants, approximately 80,000 kilometers of transmission and distribution lines, and 125 contracts with independent power producers. BC Hydro’s transmission system has two interties with neighboring areas—the U.S. state of Washington (see WECC-Northwest) and Alberta (see WECC-Alberta). Peak electricity demand on the BC Hydro system currently occurs during the winter season.

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031	2031–2032	2032–2033	2033–2034	2034–2035	2035–2036
Total Internal Demand	11,915	11,970	11,932	12,022	12,028	12,074	12,116	12,177	12,243	12,320
Demand Response	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Internal Demand	11,915	11,970	11,932	12,022	12,028	12,074	12,116	12,177	12,243	12,320
Additions: Tier 1	636	620	625	850	863	863	863	814	863	863
Additions: Tier 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Additions: Tier 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	381	369	381	381
Net Capacity Transfers (WECC Model)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Existing-Certain and Net Transfers	14,072	13,638	13,638	14,072	14,072	14,072	14,072	13,638	14,072	14,072
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	23.4%	19.1%	19.5%	24.1%	24.2%	23.7%	23.3%	18.7%	22.0%	21.2%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	23.4%	19.1%	19.5%	24.1%	24.2%	23.7%	23.3%	18.7%	22.0%	21.2%
Reference Margin Level (%)	11.7%	12.1%	12.1%	11.6%	11.6%	11.6%	11.5%	11.9%	11.5%	11.4%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

WECC-British Columbia Highlights

- WECC-British Columbia’s anticipated reserve margin does not fall below the RML during the 2025–2035 timeframe.
- British Columbia’s annual demand is projected to grow 10% over the next 10 years. Summer peak hour demand is projected to grow 4% and winter peak hour demand is projected to grow 3% over the same period.
- British Columbia is anticipated to add 2.6 GW nameplate capacity of Tier 1 solar, wind, conventional hydro, and battery resources over the next 10 years. Hydro variability is the biggest operational issue related to generation in WECC-British Columbia.
- BC Hydro’s most recent 10-year capital plan allocates \$36 billion (CAD) for infrastructure investments across BC to address load growth and increased customer connections, dam safety, reliability, and the sustainment of existing assets.

WECC-BC Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031
Natural Gas	170	170	170	170	170
Biomass	900	903	903	900	900
Wind	73	59	59	222	222
Conventional Hydro	13,544	13,104	13,109	13,560	13,573
Other	22	22	22	22	22
Battery	0	0	0	49	49
Total MW	14,708	14,258	14,263	14,922	14,935

WECC-British Columbia Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

BC Hydro has used the one-day-in-10-years LOLE standard since 1975. Using a probabilistic model, BC Hydro concluded in its updated 2021 IRP that a 12% PRM of dependable generating capacity was required to ensure system resource adequacy. WECC-British Columbia’s ARM does not fall below the RML during the 2025–2035 time frame.

There have, however, been changes to policies that might affect planning and procurement over the next 10 years. The Clean Electricity Regulations were finalized in December 2024, which delayed the nationwide net-zero electricity target from 2035 to 2050. Provincial policies in BC that might affect resource planning and procurement include the Renewable Energy Projects Act (May 2025), (which streamlines permitting and grants the BC Energy Regulator broader approval powers for wind, solar, and transmission projects) and the BC Clean Power Action Plan (which aims to double clean electricity supply by 2050 and includes a new biennial procurement cycle for renewable resources).

BC Hydro is included in the Powerex footprint in WRAP. The WRAP defines an adequate reserve margin for its footprint for an 18-month forward period based on a loss of load expectation reliability threshold of one event day in 10 years. WRAP uses an ELCC methodology to determine capacity contribution in its analysis. The WRAP is a non-binding program for Winter 2025–26 but is currently planned to transition to a fully binding program with deficiency charges sometime in 2027. For [2025–2026 Winter](#), monthly PRMs for the Northwest WRAP subregion (called Mid-Columbia) range between 11.7% and 27.2%. For [2026 Summer](#), a PRM range between 14.2% and 22.3% is reported.

Energy Assessment, including non-peak hour risk

ProbA Results

British Columbia does not show any LOLH or EUE in 2027 or 2029.

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	0	0	0
NEUE (ppm)	0.00	0.00	0.00
LOLH (hours per Year)	0.00	0.00	0.00
* Provides the 2024 ProbA Results for Comparison			

British Columbia did not have LOLH in 2027 or 2029; therefore, no additional reporting or visualizations are provided.

Demand

British Columbia’s annual demand is projected to grow 10% over the next 10 years. Summer peak hour demand is projected to grow 4% and winter peak hour demand is projected to grow 3% over the same period. The primary driver for demand growth in British Columbia is natural gas processing. Significant, but uncertain, effects on demand are also expected because of commercial and residential electrification and simultaneous advances in EE in those two sectors.

Distributed Energy Resources

BC Hydro has a net metering program. Net metering for residential and commercial customer projects are up to 100 kW. The net metering program has no annual energy volume target.

Generation

With its abundant hydro, British Columbia is already approximately 95% carbon free. The [CleanBC Roadmap](#) states, “By 2030, BC will phase out BC Hydro’s last gas-powered facility so the electricity we make is 100% clean.”

British Columbia is anticipated to add 2.6 GW nameplate capacity of Tier 1 solar, wind, conventional hydro, and battery resources over the next 10 years. Tier 3 additions include 500 MW of conventional hydro.

Hydro variability is the main operational and planning issue related to generation in WECC-British Columbia. Over 80% of British Columbia’s capacity is comprised of hydro resources, making hydro variability a concern year-round. While parts of British Columbia remain in drought classification as of the end of October 2025, many of the province’s basins have recovered and conditions are now better for this time of year than in the prior two years. Drought indices for 2026–2027 remain dependent on this year’s snowpack accumulation and subsequent seasonal rain. At this time, it is too soon to forecast whether drought conditions will persist or continue easing into next season for the BC Hydro integrated system. Power imports from the United States to British Columbia assist in maintaining water storage levels. More than a fifth of the power in the province was imported from the United States in 2024. Increasing electrification trends coupled with potential continued drought conditions may exacerbate the need for imports to the region in the future.

As BC is working to phase out its last natural-gas-fired power generation units over the next five years, electric-gas coordination issues are not anticipated for power supply. However, BC’s natural gas operators are part of the Northwest Mutual Assistance Agreement. This is a voluntary collaboration amongst entities controlling natural gas resources in British Columbia, Alberta, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and Idaho to cooperate and provide aid to each other when unplanned events occur impacting the gas supply and transportation system. There is frequent communication between system operators regarding gas resources that are planned for operation and pipeline representatives regarding the status of pipelines serving the jurisdictions covered by the agreement.

Energy Storage

BC Hydro is expected to add 50 MW of Tier 1 battery energy storage over the next 10 years. Battery storage in the West is generally being relied on to help mitigate ramping risk from afternoon net demand due to increasing penetrations of solar.

Energy Transfers

According to NERC’s [*ITCS Canadian Analysis*](#), the total simultaneous transfer capability into the British Columbia transmission planning regions from all its neighbors is 2,897 MW in 2024 Summer and 3,078 MW in 2024/25 Winter. These values translate to approximately 31% of peak summer load and 27% of peak winter load in the analysis years. The two interfaces include connections with the U.S. state of Washington (see WECC-Northwest) and Alberta (see WECC-Alberta).

Transmission

BC Hydro’s most recent 10-Year Capital Plan allocates \$36 billion (CAD) for infrastructure investments across BC to address load growth and increased customer connections, dam safety, reliability, and the sustainment of existing assets. These changes are expected to shorten development lead-times, boost renewable energy procurement, and enhance grid infrastructure planning.

Reliability Issues

Congestion of the transmission systems supplying high-growth areas of the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island could be a potential future emerging reliability issue. Load growth due to electrification, expected population increases, and industrial expansion could couple with increased variability in load caused by extreme weather, wildfires, atmospheric rivers, and heat waves or cold snaps, to add stress to the transmission network. Lastly, aging infrastructure could add to higher forced outage risk if supply chain disruptions create project delays, as has been occurring across the Western Interconnection in recent years.

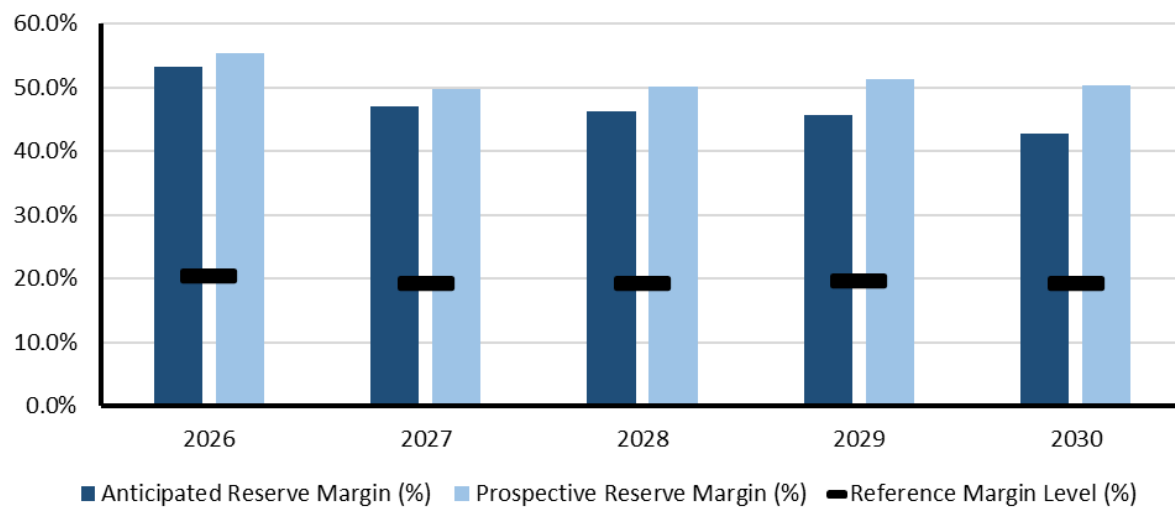


WECC-California

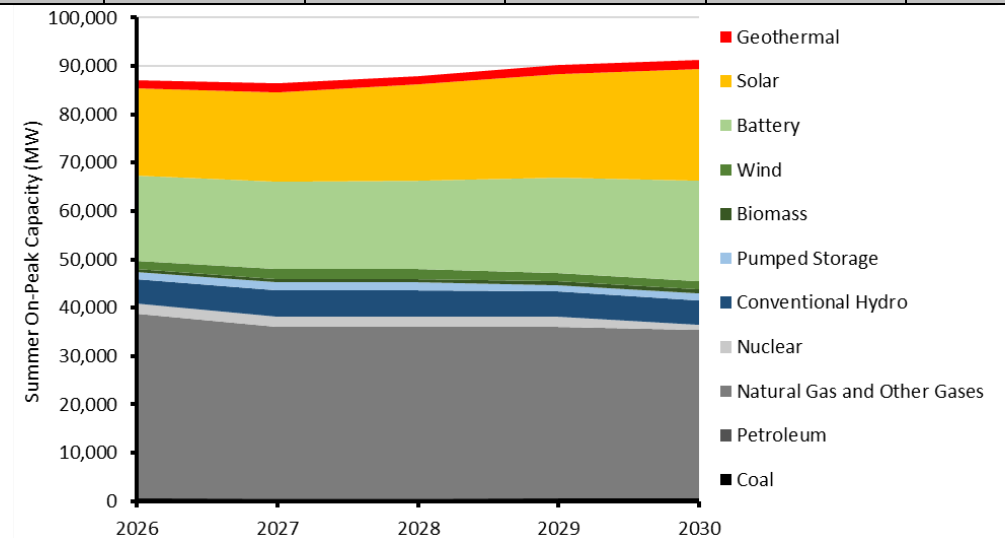
WECC-California is a summer-peaking assessment area in the Western Interconnection that includes most of California and a small section of Nevada. The assessment area has a population of over 42.5 million people. The area includes the California ISO, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Turlock Irrigation District, and the Balancing Area of Northern California. It has 32,712 miles of transmission. WECC is responsible for coordinating and promoting BES reliability in the Western Interconnection. WECC's 329 members include 40 BAs, representing a wide spectrum of organizations with an interest in the BES. Serving an area of nearly 1.8 million square miles and more than 84.5 million customers, it is geographically the largest and most diverse Regional Entity. *Note: The 2025 LTRA includes a new assessment area map for the U.S. Western Interconnection. The new assessment area boundaries provide more geographic detail of reliability risk information. WECC-California is a new assessment area in 2025 that was part of WECC-CA/MX in the 2024 LTRA.*

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	58,165	60,060	61,547	63,261	65,221	66,879	68,315	69,759	71,373	73,017
Demand Response	756	764	775	783	795	799	812	823	836	836
Net Internal Demand	57,409	59,296	60,772	62,478	64,426	66,079	67,504	68,936	70,537	72,182
Additions: Tier 1	11,558	13,202	14,765	17,206	19,945	19,945	21,532	22,541	23,771	25,622
Additions: Tier 2	1,288	1,552	2,388	3,489	4,974	4,974	6,509	8,475	9,208	9,244
Additions: Tier 3	10	10	10	10	557	557	557	562	557	557
Net Capacity Transfers (WECC Model)	561	583	651	639	541	234	310	314	298	287
Existing-Certain and Net Transfers	76,371	73,982	74,050	73,773	71,969	70,585	70,661	70,925	70,649	70,613
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	53.2%	47.0%	46.1%	45.6%	42.7%	37.0%	36.6%	35.6%	33.9%	33.3%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	55.4%	49.6%	50.1%	51.2%	50.4%	44.5%	46.2%	47.9%	46.9%	46.1%
Reference Margin Level (%)	20.3%	19.2%	19.3%	19.7%	19.3%	19.1%	18.9%	17.8%	18.3%	18.0%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

WECC-California Highlights

- The ARM does not fall below the RML. Further, ProbA results indicate that planned resources can reliably meet demand during the studied years of 2027 and 2029.
- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) recently increased the PRM requirement for 2026 and 2027 from 17% to 18%. [CPUC’s ruling](#) also maintains procurement targets that provide additional summer reliability resources by ordering IOUs to procure resources of 1,260 to 2,300 MW for the months of June through October in 2026 and 2027.

WECC-California Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	466	466	466	466	466
Coal*	16	16	16	16	16
Petroleum	103	103	103	103	103
Natural Gas	38,144	35,507	35,507	35,468	34,837
Natural Gas*	38,144	34,994	34,994	35,468	34,837
Biomass	734	745	749	749	749
Solar	18,126	18,574	19,936	21,506	23,065
Wind	1,643	1,991	2,000	1,650	1,650
Geothermal	1,809	1,808	1,808	1,809	1,809
Conventional Hydro	5,112	5,426	5,426	5,112	5,112
Pumped Storage	1,401	1,549	1,549	1,401	1,401
Nuclear	2,152	2,151	2,151	2,152	1,076
Other	194	194	194	194	194
Battery	17,486	18,088	18,275	19,731	20,911
Total MW	87,368	86,601	88,164	90,340	91,372
Total MW*	86,918	85,637	87,200	89,890	90,922
*Capacity with additional generator retirements. Generators that have announced plans to retire but have yet to be included in system plans are removed from the resource projection where marked.					

WECC-California Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

The ARM does not fall below the RML. The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) recently released a PRM increase for 2026 and 2027 from 17% to 18%. The ruling also increases the PRM procurement target from 1,260 to 2,300 MW for the months of June through October for 2026 and 2027 (divided across the IOUs). Note, the CPUC’s reserve margins are not used in WECC’s methodology for the LTRA.

Energy Assessment, including non-peak hour risk

WECC performs a probabilistic resource adequacy analysis using the MAVRIC model. MAVRIC is WECC’s internally developed modeling tool that performs energy based probabilistic assessments that support NERC’s LTRA and seasonal assessments, as well as WECC’s WARA.

ProbA Results

The ProbA found that planned resources meet demand and reliability margins for all hours (no EUE or LOLH).

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	N/A	0	0
NEUE (ppm)	N/A	0.00	0.00
LOLH (hours per Year)	N/A	0.00	0.00
* No prior results as the assessment area is new for the 2025 LTRA.			

For 2027 and 2029, the peak hour is projected to occur in early September at hour beginning 16:00. California does not show any LOLH or EUE in either 2027 or 2029. No risk period visualizations are included for this subregion as there were no identified risk hours.

Demand

Average annual demand growth rate for WECC-CA is 2.4%. The primary drivers are transportation electrification and incremental load for extreme heat events. Large-load additions in the forecast are 4,993 MW through 2035.

Demand-Side Management

DR accounted for about 2.6% (1,400 MW) of total system resource adequacy capacity in the summer of 2024 compared to about 3 to 4% in the previous four summers. This drop is mainly due to a change in CPUC rules removing the PRM and transmission adders totaling over 11% previously applied to DR capacity.

DR was supplied by CPUC-regulated utility programs, non-utility third-party programs, and non-CPUC jurisdictional load-serving entities (municipal utilities, etc.). Utility DR accounts for about 76% of DR used to meet resource adequacy requirements. About 85% of this capacity was bid into the real-time market during the most critical hours of summer 2024. When dispatched, this category reported curtailing about 81% of scheduled load reductions.

Non-utility (third party) DR accounts for about 18% of DR used as resource adequacy capacity requirements, with actual load reductions of about 54% of scheduled. However, during some hours, this sector exceeded the scheduled level.

Non-CPUC jurisdictional load serving entities (municipal utilities, etc.) utilize an average of about 75 MW of DR—or about 6% of DR used to meet total ISO system resource adequacy requirements. Since this capacity is not bid or scheduled into the ISO market, its performance cannot be verified.

Distributed Energy Resources

A recent policy change in California significantly increased the payback period for residential BTM PV. As predicted, installations of residential rooftop solar systems have fallen to near three-year lows over the past year; existing systems were grandfathered in. Now, the California legislature is considering a bill to undo that grandfathering by reducing those existing net metering contracts with IOUs from 20 years to 10. AB 942 would impact the value of solar on the nearly 2 million homes that have installed panels years ago by shifting them to the “net billing tariff” that pays approximately 75% lower rates for energy sent back to the grid. Given California’s shifting policy environment, it is difficult to predict future adoption of BTM PV solar.

Generation

- **Aging Thermal Resource Fleet:** During the summer, aging thermal resources can become a concern for this subregion. Older resources require additional maintenance and can be more prone to forced outages or partial derates. In addition, thermal plant and system operators are becoming increasingly hard to replace, as there appears to be difficulty in finding personnel with the necessary experience to fill these rolls. Succession planning is becoming an integral part of successful thermal plant operation.
- **Behind-the-Meter Variability:** BTM output variability can be an operational concern for this subregion year-round. BTM resource generation can be masked from the transmission operator and BA. For example, localized cloud coverage limiting BTM output has been seen to increase demand by 200 MW, requiring unplanned additional resources to be dispatched.

Flexible operating reserves remain on standby to address the uncertainty associated with BTM output.

- **BESS Fires:** BESS fires have occurred in California. These are isolated events that can render a BESS inoperable. Electrical faults, manufacturing defects, degradation due to aging, and gas buildup can all lead to fires. New technologies for passive fire suppression, such as immersion cooling, are being developed to reduce the occurrence of BESS fires.
- **Gas Fleet Derates:** Gas resources in this subregion can be derated during extremely hot weather in the summer due to ambient conditions. Quantifying gas fleet limitations and ensuring there are alternative resources available to meet demand is paramount.
- **Hydro Variability:** Primarily during the summer season, variations in annual precipitation can have a significant impact on water supply. Extended droughts can reduce head pressure, directly resulting in the reduction of hydro capacity. Improvements in hydro models for run off and precipitation are in progress to address these concerns. For resource adequacy models, a 1-in-5 dry-year planning scenario is used.
- **Inertia Decline on System:** Local and federal regulations have driven a reduction in traditional spinning mass generators, which has exacerbated frequency deviations in California. Operating plans are being updated with the necessary steps to mitigate this issue. This issue is observed year round.
- **Solar Variability:** Solar output variability is a concern year round. Spring, fall, and winter often have overcast cloud coverage in California, which can make solar output difficult to forecast. Summer evenings tend to be a time of day when demand is elevated but solar output declines. Weather forecasts are heavily monitored, and net load uncertainty is accounted for with regulation, flexible ramp, and future imbalance reserve requirements.
- **Wind Variability:** Wind variability is an operational concern year round. Toward the end of summer, the beginning of winter, and the beginning of spring, Santa Ana Winds can create overspeed conditions for wind turbines, limiting their output. Weather forecasts are heavily monitored, and net load uncertainty is accounted for with regulation, flexible ramp, and future imbalance reserve requirements.

Electric-Gas Coordination

Most entities in California consider electric-gas coordination in long-term planning studies. Resource Planners collaborate with gas supply teams to gather assumptions on forecasted gas deliveries and pricing. Constraints are not directly incorporated in resource planning studies.

Operating Procedure 4120 ensures that CAISO provides daily estimated gas usage reports to gas transmission operators (GTO). These are used as the basis for gas curtailment event planning. This procedure helps mitigate risks associated with gas supply limitations that may impact generation resources and applies to both real-time and day-ahead operations. In addition, participants of RC West have formed the Real-Time Working Group (RTWG). This group convenes prior to extreme weather events to prepare for potential gas supply interruptions. California entities that are part of RC West also participate in the Northwest Mutual Assistance Agreement (NWMMA). Communication protocols include following NERC Reliability Standard COM-002-4 which contains predefined communication procedures. In addition, plant operators work directly with power supply and gas schedulers to coordinate scheduling and dispatch of gas generating resources.

Renewable Portfolio, Clean Electricity, and Emissions Standards

California has a mandate for its electricity supply to be 60% carbon free by 2030 and is currently on track to meet that level. The requirement for 100% carbon free is set at 2045.

Transmission

The ITCS report showed that in a heat wave Northern California may be energy-deficient.

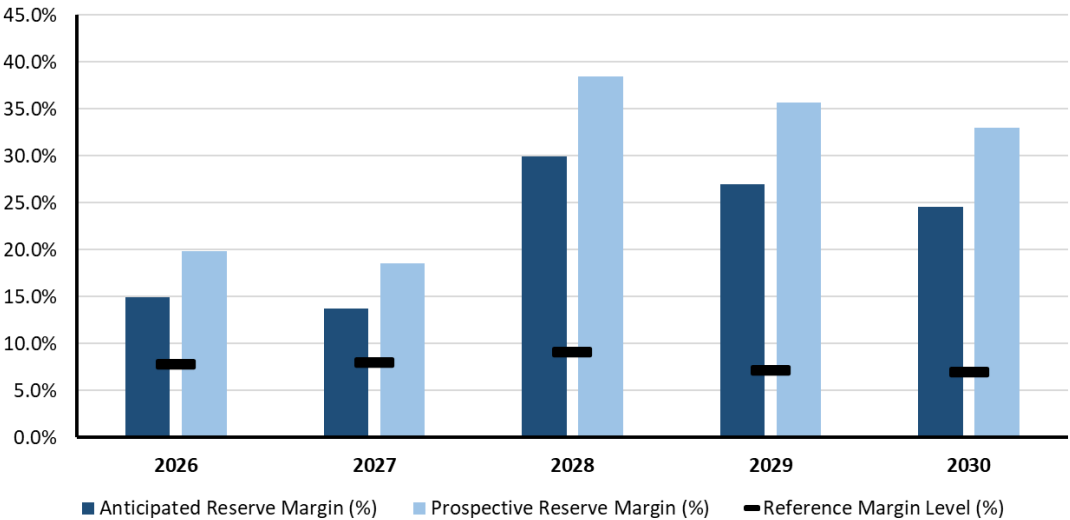


WECC-Mexico

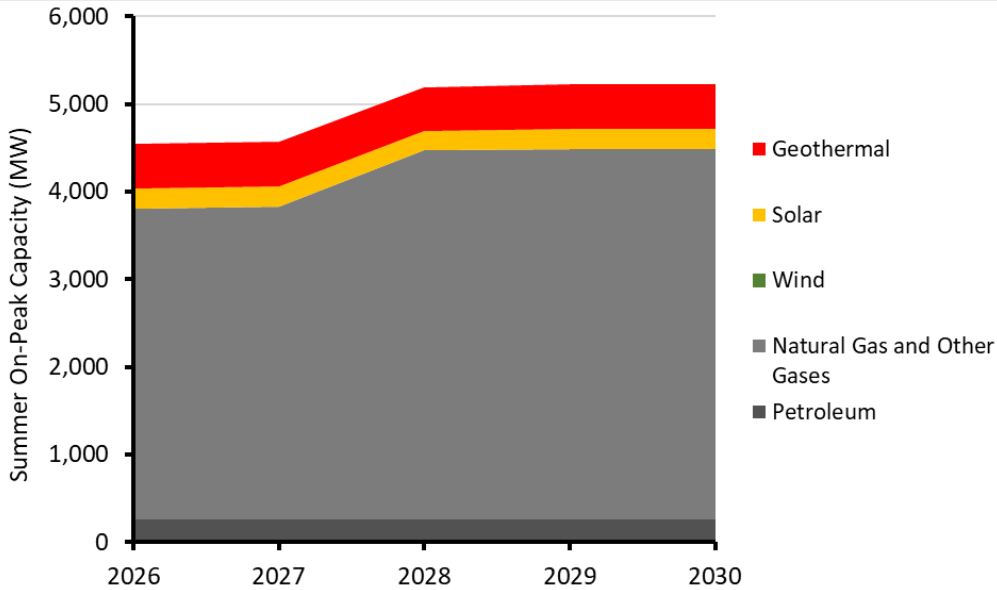
WECC-Mexico is a summer-peaking assessment area in the Western Interconnection that includes the northern portion of the Mexican state of Baja California, which has a population of 3.8 million people and includes CENACE. It has 1,568 miles of transmission. WECC is responsible for coordinating and promoting BES reliability in the Western Interconnection. WECC’s 329 members include 40 BAs, representing a wide spectrum of organizations with an interest in the BES. Serving an area of nearly 1.8 million square miles and more than 84.5 million customers, it is geographically the largest and most diverse Regional Entity. *Note: The 2025 LTRA includes a new assessment area map for the U.S. Western Interconnection. The new assessment area boundaries provide more geographic detail of reliability risk information. WECC-Mexico is a new assessment area in 2025 that was part of WECC-CA/MX in the 2024 LTRA.*

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	3,953	4,135	4,315	4,495	4,675	4,855	5,035	5,215	5,395	5,575
Demand Response	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Internal Demand	3,953	4,135	4,315	4,495	4,675	4,855	5,035	5,215	5,395	5,575
Additions: Tier 1	717	722	1,396	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Additions: Tier 2	196	198	367	392	392	392	392	367	392	392
Additions: Tier 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Capacity Transfers (WECC Model)	0	131	410	482	600	600	600	600	600	600
Existing-Certain and Net Transfers	3,825	3,982	4,209	4,307	4,425	4,425	4,425	4,409	4,425	4,425
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	14.9%	13.8%	29.9%	27.0%	24.6%	20.0%	15.7%	11.4%	8.0%	4.5%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	19.9%	18.6%	38.4%	35.7%	33.0%	28.1%	23.5%	18.4%	15.2%	11.5%
Reference Margin Level (%)	7.8%	8.0%	9.1%	7.2%	7.0%	6.8%	6.7%	7.4%	6.4%	6.3%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

WECC-Mexico Highlights

- Centro Nacional de Control de Energía (CENACE) is adding three natural-gas-fired combustion turbine generators (totaling 780 MW in summer capacity) by Summer 2026, increasing planned reserves to above RMLs. An additional 740 MW of natural-gas-fired capacity is in development between 2026 and 2027.

WECC-Mexico Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	0	0	0	0	0
Petroleum	259	261	258	259	259
Natural Gas	3,540	3,566	4,212	4,224	4,224
Biomass	0	0	0	0	0
Solar	229	231	214	229	229
Wind	7	5	6	7	7
Geothermal	506	510	505	506	506
Conventional Hydro	0	0	0	0	0
Nuclear	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Battery	0	0	0	0	0
Total MW	4,542	4,573	5,195	5,225	5,225

WECC-Mexico Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

The ARM is above the RML until 2035, the last year of the assessment period.

Non-Peak Hour Risk, Energy Assurance, Probabilistic-Based Assessments

WECC performs a probabilistic resource adequacy analysis using the MAVRIC model. MAVRIC is WECC’s internally developed modeling tool that performs energy based probabilistic assessments that support NERC’s LTRA and seasonal assessments, as well as WECC’s WARA.

The ProbA found that planned resources meet demand and reliability margins for all hours (no EUE or LOLH).

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	N/A	0	0
NEUE (ppm)	N/A	0.00	0.00
LOLH (hours per Year)	N/A	0.00	0.00
* No prior results as the assessment area is new for the 2025 LTRA.			

Demand

Average annual demand growth rate for WECC-Mexico is 4.3%. Large-load additions in the forecast are 161 MW through 2035.

Generation

Operational and planning issues related to generation in WECC-Mexico include the following:

- Unplanned Outages of Thermal Sites: High loading on Path 45 (See: [WECC Path Rating Catalog](#)) coupled with outages or derates to large thermal assets in this assessment area can result in the declaration of an EAA and a request for assistance from RC West. This risk is amplified in the summer when demand is highest.
- Electric-Gas Coordination: Electric-gas coordination is considered in long-term planning studies for the WECC-Mexico area. Current and future gas projects and constraints that could compromise supply to generators are incorporated in planning studies. Constant gas supply monitoring is conducted to ensure generating assets remain reliable throughout the year. Multiple suppliers are also available to generators in WECC-Mexico. This allows for supply redundancy if one supplier is experiencing limitations. Communication between gas suppliers and system operators includes the sharing of gas infrastructure maintenance information and consumption forecasts which are provided on a weekly, monthly, and annual cadence.

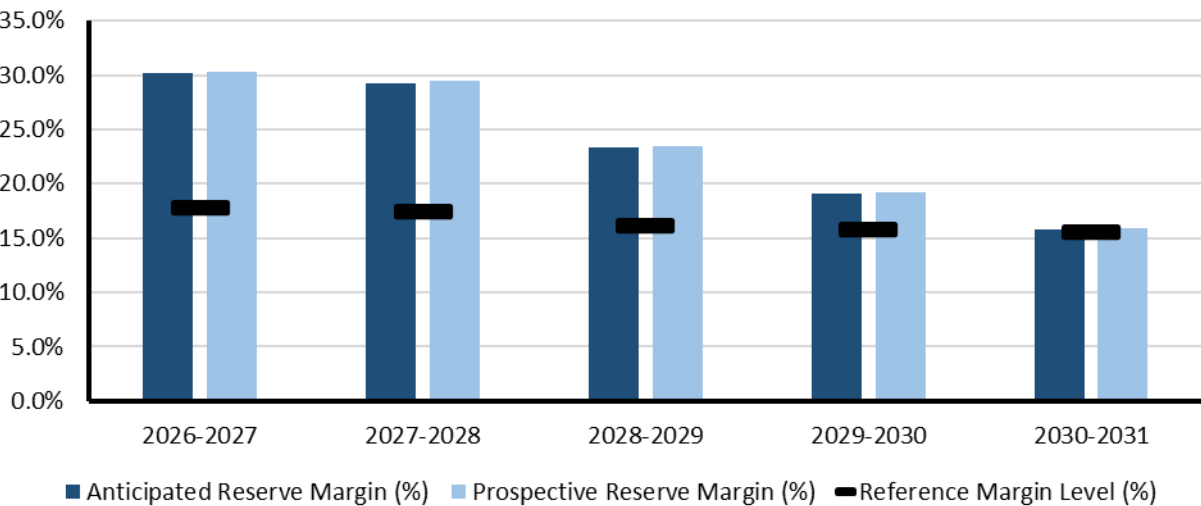


WECC-Northwest

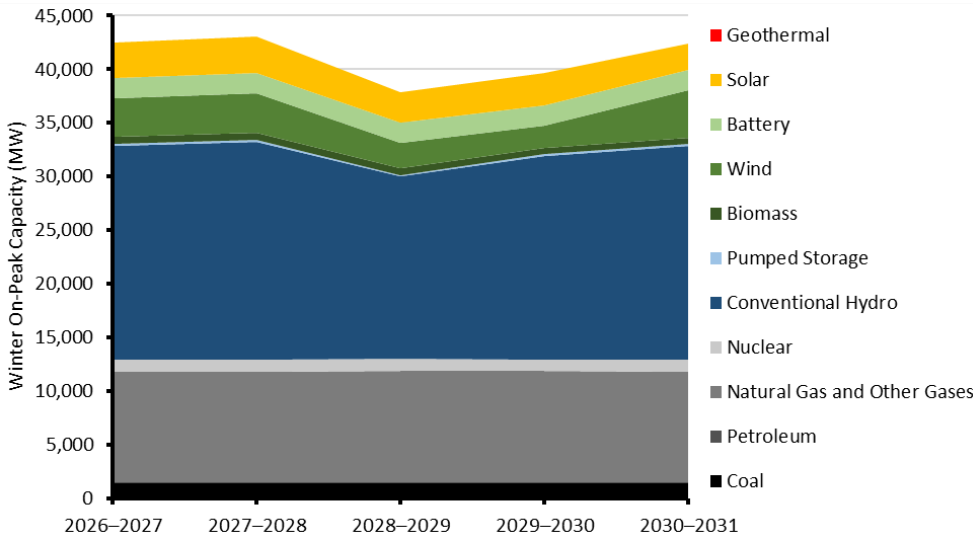
WECC-Northwest is a winter-peaking assessment area in the WECC Regional Entity. The area includes Montana, Oregon, and Washington and parts of northern California and northern Idaho. The population of the area is approximately 13.6 million. It has 32,751 miles of transmission. WECC is responsible for coordinating and promoting BES reliability in the Western Interconnection. WECC’s 329 members include 40 BAs, representing a wide spectrum of organizations with an interest in the BES. Serving an area of nearly 1.8 million square miles and more than 84.5 million customers, it is geographically the largest and most diverse Regional Entity. *Note: The 2025 LTRA includes a new assessment area map for the U.S. Western Interconnection. The new assessment area boundaries provide more geographic detail of reliability risk information. WECC-Northwest is a new assessment area in 2025 that was part of a larger WECC-NW footprint in the 2024 LTRA.*

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031	2031–2032	2032–2033	2033–2034	2034–2035	2035–2036
Total Internal Demand	34,426	34,930	36,038	37,017	37,939	38,821	39,455	40,083	40,563	41,064
Demand Response	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Net Internal Demand	34,396	34,900	36,008	36,987	37,909	38,791	39,425	40,053	40,533	41,034
Additions: Tier 1	3,463	3,463	3,219	3,219	3,219	3,219	3,463	3,232	3,221	3,217
Additions: Tier 2	10	49	56	56	56	56	49	56	56	56
Additions: Tier 3	697	830	939	4,958	5,389	5,605	6,267	5,963	5,921	5,903
Net Capacity Transfers (WECC Model)	7,242	7,630	7,316	7,066	6,896	6,825	6,825	6,825	6,630	5,841
Existing-Certain and Net Transfers	41,332	41,653	41,169	40,828	40,652	40,564	40,724	40,558	40,360	39,573
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	30.2%	29.3%	23.3%	19.1%	15.7%	12.9%	12.1%	9.3%	7.5%	4.3%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	30.3%	29.4%	23.4%	19.2%	15.9%	13.0%	12.2%	9.5%	7.7%	4.4%
Reference Margin Level (%)	17.8%	17.4%	16.1%	15.8%	15.5%	15.3%	15.9%	15.0%	14.9%	14.8%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

WECC-Northwest Highlights

- The ARM falls below the RML starting in Winter 2031–2032. The assessment area would need additional resources to meet resource adequacy criteria. More details on members participating in the WRAP can be found on the [WRAP Area Map](#).
- For 2027 and 2029, the peak hour is projected to occur in January at hour beginning 10:00.
- Resource adequacy risk is not significant in the Northwest for 2027.
- In 2029, the Northwest subregion shows 8,080 MWh of EUE, with approximately 85% of that occurring between hours beginning 14:00–19:00 in August. Though the magnitude of EUE is greatest in the summer months, LOLH occurs at a greater frequency in the winter months, particularly in January.
- The majority of EUE occurs during the summer from hours beginning 17:00–19:00, during which period demand is elevated but solar output is dissipating.

WECC-Northwest Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026–2027	2027–2028	2028–2029	2029–2030	2030–2031
Coal	1,516	1,516	1,475	1,475	1,475
Petroleum	97	97	95	95	95
Natural Gas	10,539	10,533	10,480	10,480	10,480
Biomass	657	617	615	536	536
Solar	1,545	1,544	1,622	1,622	1,622
Wind	2,149	2,149	1,319	1,311	1,311
Geothermal	4	4	4	4	4
Conventional Hydro	17,855	17,835	18,279	18,275	18,270
Pumped Storage	146	146	149	149	149
Nuclear	1,112	1,112	1,108	1,108	1,108
Battery	1,934	1,934	1,927	1,927	1,927
Total MW	37,553	37,486	37,072	36,981	36,976

WECC-Northwest Assessment

Planning Reserve Margins

The ARM falls below the RML starting in Winter 2031–2032. Additional resources will be needed to avoid shortfalls in planning reserves and prevent energy risks from emerging.

Non-Peak Hour Risk and Energy Assurance

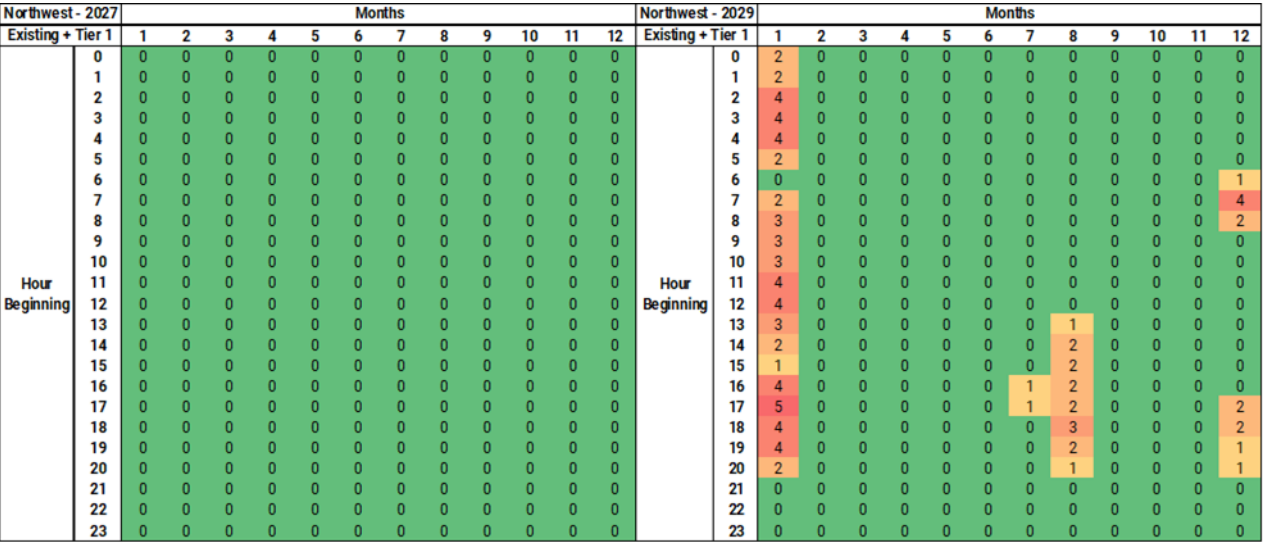
WECC performs a probabilistic resource adequacy analysis using the MAVRIC model. MAVRIC is WECC’s internally developed modeling tool that performs energy based probabilistic assessments that support NERC’s LTRA and seasonal assessments, as well as WECC’s WARA.

ProbA Results

While the ARM does not fall below the RML during the 2026–2030 time frame, the ProbA results based on current resource projections and demand forecasts indicate significant EUE and LOLH by 2029. As resource additions struggle to keep up with rising demand and expected generator retirements, reflected in falling ARMs over the assessment period, unserved energy and load-loss hours increase in the ProbA results.

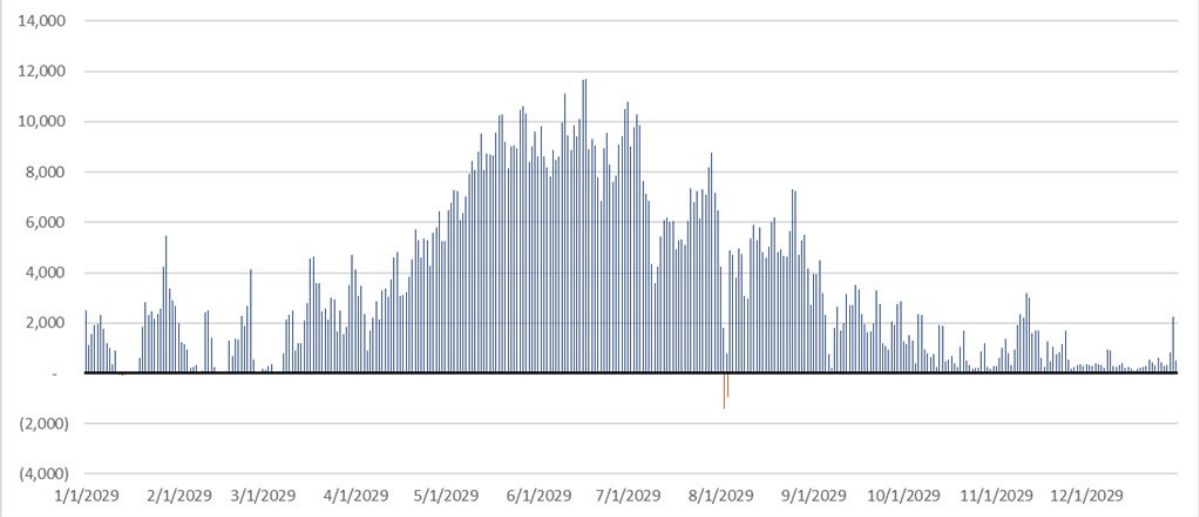
Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	N/A	0	8,080
NEUE (ppm)	N/A	0	36.64
LOLH (hours per Year)	N/A	0	85.00
* No prior results as the assessment area is new for the 2025 LTRA.			

Resource adequacy concerns in the U.S. Northwest can arise in the summer and winter seasons. Peak demand occurs in the winter months. In the ProbA results illustrated in the following heat map figure, load-loss hours occur at a greater frequency during winter high-demand periods. The summer months also have an emerging risk of shortfalls according to the ProbA: The 2029 study year had approximately 85% of identified unserved energy occurring between the afternoon-to-evening hours of mid to late summer. The values in the heat map are the number of hours from the MAVRIC simulations that resources fall short of demand and reliability margins in the study year.



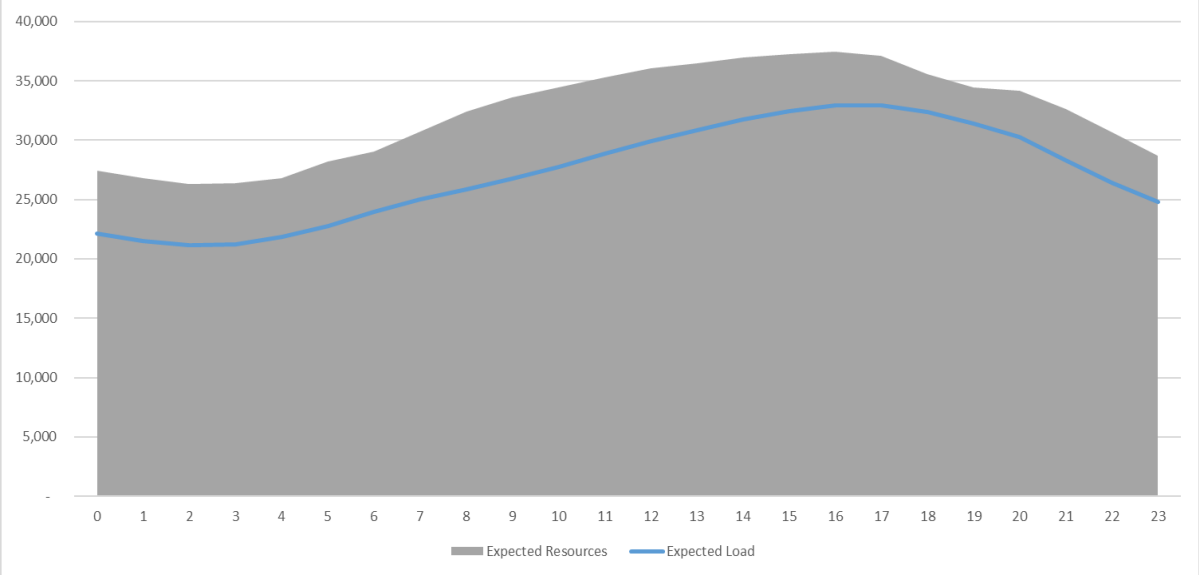
Heat Map Showing Months and Hours Where LOLH is Projected for the WECC-Northwest Assessment Area in 2027 and 2029

In WECC’s ProbA modeling, energy transfers from neighboring areas are helping WECC-Northwest meet supply deficits, but at times they are insufficient, resulting in the unserved energy and load-loss hours. The chart below shows energy surplus and deficit results from the ProbA 2029 study year. For most of the year, WECC-Northwest has excess energy that can be transferred to neighboring areas. Winter months are when WECC-Northwest’s excess energy is at its lowest, and at times in the 2029 study year internal resources are not sufficient for demand. In summer months, WECC-Northwest is projected to have its highest amount of excess energy, though these supplies can still be insufficient for modeled demand during extreme heat events. Such occurrences can cause deficits represented in the figure below, and energy can go unserved when neighboring areas do not have surplus energy to transfer.



Hourly Energy Surplus and Deficits in MW for ProbA 2029 Study Year

The chart below shows a 24-hour look at expected resources and imports versus expected load for ProbA days with the greatest amount of EUE in 2029. For the Northwest, this occurs in mid-to-late summer. LOLH occurs from hours beginning 14:00 through 19:00. The majority of EUE during these hours occurs from hours beginning 17:00–19:00, during which period demand remains elevated whereas solar output dissipates. There is no LOLH in 2027. It should be noted that it is possible for a day to not show the expected load greater than expected resources on an area-wide basis and still have LOLH. This is because the WECC-Northwest assessment area includes a conglomerate of BAs, and one of the BAs within the subregion can encounter energy shortfalls in the ProbA that could not be satisfied by imports due to nearby entities not having sufficient surplus energy to transfer.



Load and Resource Profile in MW on an Unserved Energy Day for ProbA 2029 Study Year

Demand

Average annual demand growth rate for WECC-Northwest is 2.7%. The primary drivers are data centers, residential electrification, residential customer growth, transportation electrification, and semiconductor manufacturing. Large-load additions in the forecast are 7,652 MW through 2035.

Distributed Energy Resources

In the Northwest, Oregon IOUs continue to offer net metering with carryover credits within a calendar year and annual excess credits going to low-income programs. However, the state’s largest IOU has proposed a change that largely mirrors California’s revised lower credits; if adopted, this would slow the rate of installations in Oregon as well (where the latitude and climate already lengthen the customer’s payback period relative to California).

In Washington, utilities have the option to propose a BTM PV credit that is less than the retail rate once they reach a threshold of 4% of their 1996 peak load. The current program is in effect until at least 2029. However, given the progress toward the 4% penetration rate (below), that year may trigger a slowdown in new installations of BTM PV.

Generation

Operational and planning issues related to generation in WECC-Northwest include the following:

- **Aging Thermal Resource Fleet:** A year-round concern for this subregion is an aging thermal resource fleet. Older resources require additional maintenance and can be prone to forced outages or partial derates. Necessary maintenance and capital expenditures are made to ensure these generators provide reasonable performance when called upon. Planned maintenance outages for these resources may be done at a higher frequency during the shoulder months to avoid unplanned outages during the summer months. However, major upgrades to aging infrastructure reduce system capability for extended periods of time, increasing reliance on imports. Supply chain delays and staffing issues can cause planned outages to extend well beyond their anticipated end date. Staffing shortages have been noted by multiple entities in the Northwest.
- **Hydro Variability:** The Northwest has a large share of hydro resources in its portfolio making hydro generating capability a concern year-round. Seasonal hydro variability and below average inflows observed by some entities in this region from April through November of last year resulted in projects being ran at minimum flow. Underperforming hydro resources can result in entities relying heavily on imports to meet peak load hours. During extreme cold conditions, run of river hydro sites can also be derated due to icing. Performing maintenance during shoulder seasons can help keep hydro on-line during the winter and summer seasons. Improving hydro forecasting for short- and long-term planning models can assist system dispatchers with daily operating plans and resource planners in completing accurate resource adequacy studies.
- **Solar Variability:** Solar output variability due to cloud coverage can be a minor concern year-round in this subregion. Entities in this subregion state there are sufficient flexible resources in their portfolio to address solar output uncertainty.
- **Wind Variability:** Wind variability is of particular concern for this subregion during the winter. Cold weather mixed with moisture can cause icing conditions on wind turbine blades, which can severely derate a wind site. Entities in this subregion state that there are sufficient flexible resources in their portfolio to address wind output uncertainty in the winter.
- **Electric-Gas Coordination:** The Northwest subregion contains entities that consider electric-gas coordination in long-term planning studies, as well as entities that do not. Several gas supply options for future generating assets are evaluated to ensure alternatives exist if one supply point is curtailed. Price certainty from suppliers is also a major consideration in

planning studies. Annual natural-gas-load studies are conducted to help identify parts of the gas distribution system that may experience low pressure during peak cold conditions. These areas of the gas system are identified, and recommendations to address this issue are prioritized and completed. If an issue cannot be addressed within a short period of time, contingency plans are developed for these areas during high gas demand or peak cold conditions. Entities in the Northwest subregion are participants in the NWMMA mentioned earlier in the Basin subregion. Status reports and planned resource output forecasts are communicated between electric and gas teams daily to ensure operational needs are met.

- **Renewable Portfolio, Clean Electricity, and Emissions Standards:** Washington is required to have zero coal generation by 2025, be greenhouse gas neutral by 2030 (can use offsets), and be 100% non-emitting by 2045 without using offsets. Oregon passed a requirement for its investor-owned utilities to be 80% below their 2005 emissions baseline by 2030, 90% below by 2035, and 100% below (zero emissions) by 2040. Montana has a 15% renewables target that has been met, with no incremental increases in the out-years.

Transmission: PacifiCorp’s [Blueprint transmission project](#) will connect major resource and load areas in central and eastern Oregon through construction of approximately 320 miles of new 500 kV transmission line and associated 500 kV and 230 kV system upgrades, in three primary segments planned to be fully in-service in 2028 and 2032. The Blueprint project will largely parallel the existing Northwest AC Intertie 500 kV system, interconnecting at various points and requiring significant coordination with ac Intertie owners and other affected systems. Affected paths include WECC Paths 14, 66 and 75.

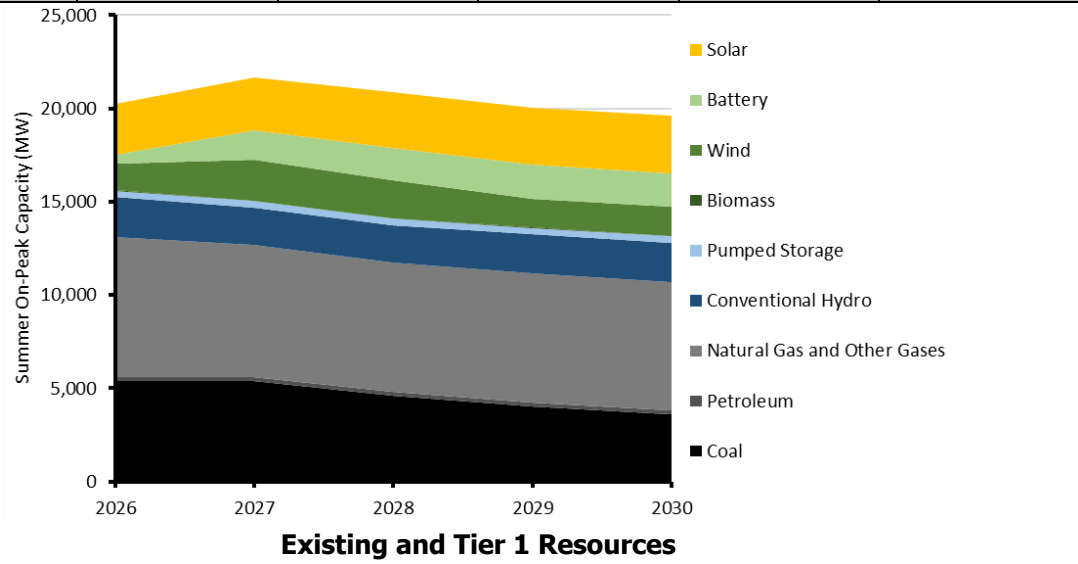
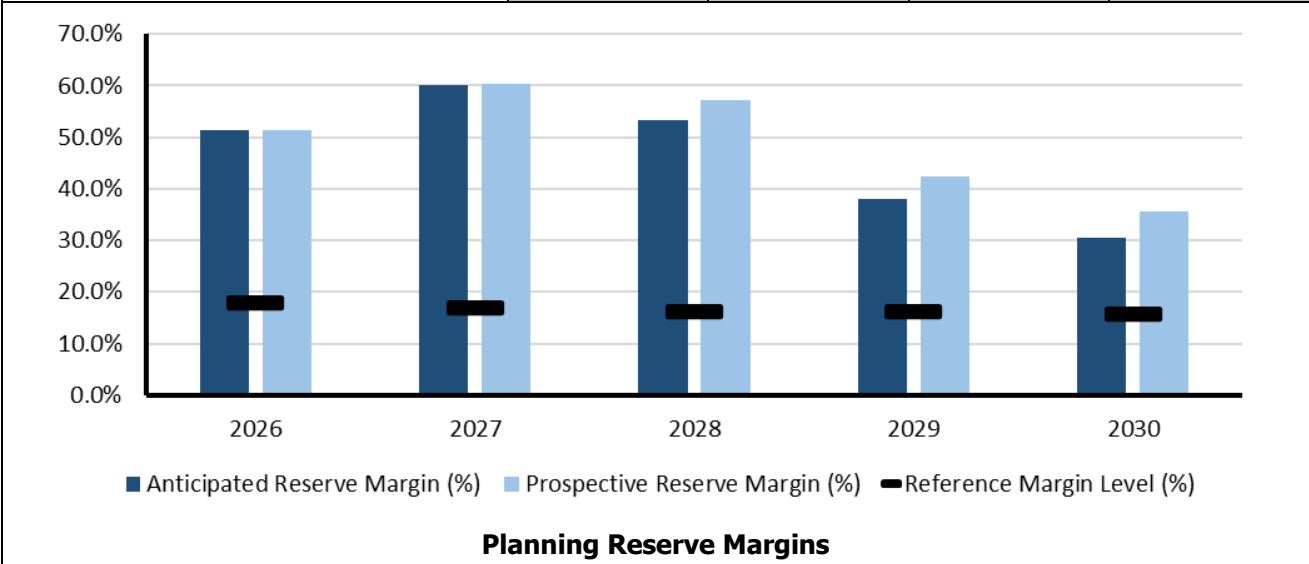


WECC-Rocky Mountain

WECC-Rocky Mountain is a summer-peaking assessment area in the Western Interconnection that includes Colorado, most of Wyoming, and parts of Nebraska and South Dakota. The population of the area is approximately 6.7 million. It covers the balancing areas of the Public Service Company of Colorado and the Western Area Power Administration’s Rocky Mountain Region. It has 18,797 miles of transmission. WECC is responsible for coordinating and promoting BES reliability in the Western Interconnection. WECC’s 329 members include 40 BAs, representing a wide spectrum of organizations with an interest in the BES. Serving an area of nearly 1.8 million square miles and more than 84.5 million customers, it is geographically the largest and most diverse Regional Entity. *Note: The 2025 LTRA includes a new assessment area map for the U.S. Western Interconnection. The new assessment area boundaries provide more geographic detail of reliability risk information. WECC-Rocky Mountain is a new assessment area in 2025 that was part of WECC-NW in the 2024 LTRA.*

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	14,004	14,338	14,565	15,021	15,442	15,873	16,306	16,764	17,207	17,297
Demand Response	287	290	293	285	287	290	293	296	298	301
Net Internal Demand	13,717	14,048	14,272	14,736	15,154	15,583	16,013	16,468	16,909	16,997
Additions: Tier 1	1,771	3,486	3,979	4,079	4,079	4,079	4,355	4,299	4,079	4,079
Additions: Tier 2	0	45	585	640	761	761	810	810	761	761
Additions: Tier 3	17	178	925	1,160	1,373	3,207	3,276	4,188	4,274	4,370
Net Capacity Transfers (WECC Model)	391	661	852	179	50	23	0	0	0	0
Existing-Certain and Net Transfers	18,979	18,995	17,884	16,278	15,696	14,882	14,721	14,329	14,143	14,098
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	51.3%	60.0%	53.2%	38.1%	30.5%	21.7%	19.1%	13.1%	7.8%	6.9%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	51.3%	60.3%	57.3%	42.5%	35.5%	26.6%	24.2%	18.0%	12.3%	11.4%
Reference Margin Level (%)	17.8%	17.0%	16.2%	16.1%	15.7%	15.2%	13.5%	11.9%	14.1%	13.9%



WECC-Rocky Mountain Highlights

- ARM remains above the RML through 2033. Furthermore, ProbA results indicate that planned resources can reliably meet demand during the studied years of 2027 and 2029.
- The ARM and PRM fall below the RML in Summer 2034 and 2035 and Winter 2034–35, indicating that not enough resources have progressed into the interconnection queue for these later years in the assessment period.

WECC-Rocky Mountain Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	5,383	5,376	4,623	4,034	3,585
Coal*	5,053	5,376	4,429	3,379	2,180
Petroleum	204	204	204	204	204
Natural Gas	7,522	7,083	6,897	6,902	6,902
Biomass	6	6	6	3	3
Solar	2,695	2,873	3,002	3,071	3,071
Wind	1,437	2,218	2,054	1,555	1,550
Conventional Hydro	2,139	2,043	2,029	2,116	2,116
Pumped Storage	346	340	340	346	346
Other	126	126	126	126	126
Battery	496	1,547	1,726	1,817	1,817
Unknown	6	5	5	6	6
Total MW	20,359	21,820	21,011	20,178	19,725
Total MW*	20,029	21,820	20,817	19,523	18,320
*Capacity with additional generator retirements. Generators that have announced plans to retire but have yet to be included in system plans are removed from the resource projection where marked.					

WECC-Rocky Mountain

Planning Reserve Margins

The ARM and PRM fall below the RML in Summer 2034 and 2035 and Winter 2034–35, indicating that not enough resources have progressed into the interconnection queue for these later years in the assessment period. In Winter 2033–34, the ARM falls below the RML, but the prospective resources are expected to sufficiently cover a shortfall. No BAs in this region are WRAP participants.

The Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy, has used a 16.3% long-term PRM requirement in its Electric Resource Plan (2021), based on a loss of load probability of 1-day every 10 years. PSCo’s reserve margin is not used in WECC’s methodology for the LTRA.

Non-Peak Hour Risk, Energy Assurance, Probabilistic-Based Assessments

WECC performs a probabilistic resource adequacy analysis using the MAVRIC model. MAVRIC is WECC’s internally developed modeling tool that performs energy based probabilistic assessments that support NERC’s LTRA and seasonal assessments, as well as WECC’s WARA.

ProbA Results

The ProbA found that planned resources meet demand and reliability margins for all hours (no EUE or LOLH).

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	N/A	0	0
NEUE (ppm)	N/A	0.00	0.00
LOLH (hours per Year)	N/A	0.00	0.00
*No prior results as the assessment area is new for the 2025 LTRA.			

Since WECC-Rocky Mountain does not show any LOLH or EUE in 2027 or 2029, no additional reporting of results or visualizations are provided.

Demand

Average annual demand growth rate for WECC-Rocky Mountain is 2.5%. The primary drivers are data centers, commercial customer growth, and industrial customer growth. Large-load additions in the forecast are 574 MW through 2035.

Demand-Side Management

PSCo offers a wide array of DR programs. Total summer demand-reduction estimates for controllable programs for can be found in its [Demand Side Management & Beneficial Electrification Plan](#).

Distributed Energy Resources

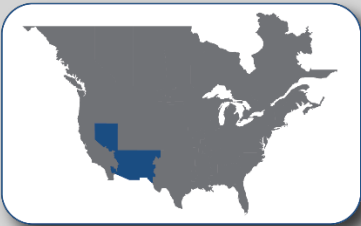
BAs did not report a forecast for BTM resources. Some information is available through the EIA on both historical and forecast data. BTM DER impacts are reflected in the demand data (net of the DERs).

Generation

Operational and planning issues related to generation in WECC-Rocky Mountain include the following:

- Unplanned Outage Extensions:** Supply chain issues, unplanned discovery work, and vendor availability have driven unplanned extensions of resource outages in the Rocky Mountain area. Difficulty in boiler feed pump procurement has resulted in at least one generating asset being unavailable for over nine months. Another thermal site was undergoing a rotor swap and piping inspection, which revealed significant weld defects and pipe cracks. This resulted in a two-month outage being extended into the following year. A hydro site has been unavailable for much of 2024 due to a penstock leak which has been unable to be repaired due to vendor unavailability. Alternative vendors are being sought after for hydro repair work, and contracts to expedite the procurement of equipment will be in place going forward to mitigate these issues.
- Solar and Wind Variability:** Smaller entities in the Rocky Mountain area have stated that wind and solar variability is a concern year-round due to a lack of geographic diversity. These entities are pursuing advancement into RTOs to leverage the advantages of a wider footprint and additional resources.
- Electric-Gas Coordination:** The Rocky Mountain area contains entities that consider electric-gas coordination in long-term planning studies as well as entities that do not. For entities that do consider electric-gas coordination, peak capacity requirements for the local distribution company (LDC) and generating assets are inputs into long term planning models. Peak capacity requirements define the pipeline capacity and contractual volumes needed to fulfill LDC and electric needs. In addition, known and historical constraints on pipelines are considered in resource planning studies. Gas suppliers in this subregion have multiple delivery points to resources. This allows for an alternative location for delivery if one delivery point is inaccessible. In addition, gas supply teams provide an email with natural gas price information and constraints to generation dispatchers and marketers daily. During times of cold weather, this communication stream can be expanded to include interstate gas control and commercial operations.

- **Renewable Portfolio, Clean Electricity, and Emissions Standards:** Colorado requires investor-owned utilities to adopt plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2030, using a 2005 baseline. While the state is on track to achieve this, the additional goal of being 100% carbon free by 2040 is being discussed by utilities, regulators, and legislators, with a proposal to extend the out-year to 2050 in light of the upward pressure on the cost of renewables caused by potential repeal of tax credits and higher tariffs on imports.

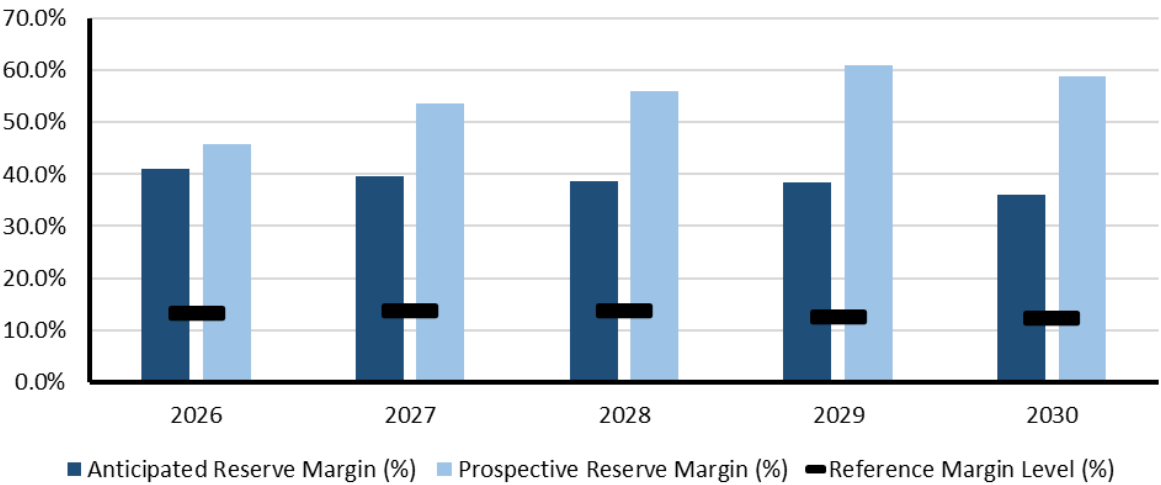


WECC-Southwest

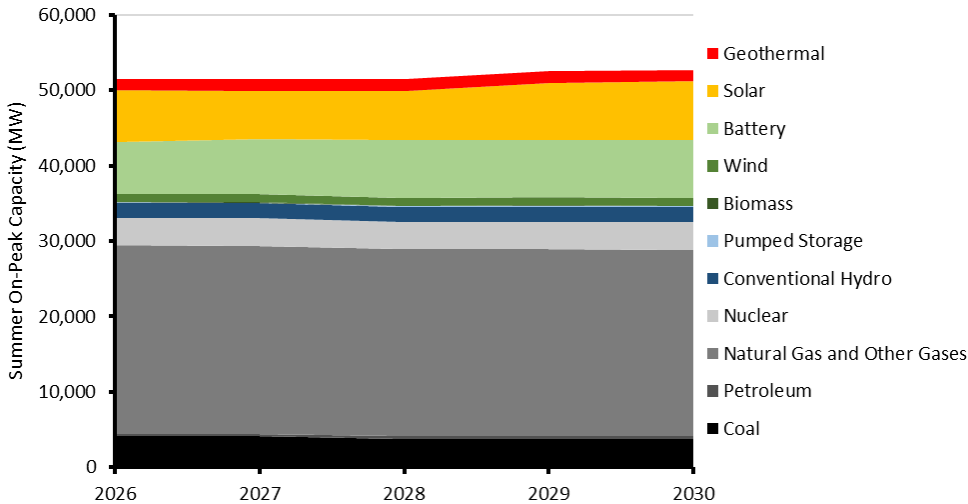
WECC-Southwest is a summer-peaking assessment area in the Western Interconnection that includes all of Arizona and New Mexico, most of Nevada, and small parts of California and Texas. The area has a population of approximately 13.6 million. It has 23,084 miles of transmission. WECC is responsible for coordinating and promoting BES reliability in the Western Interconnection. WECC’s 329 members include 40 BAs, representing a wide spectrum of organizations with an interest in the BES. Serving an area of nearly 1.8 million square miles and more than 84.5 million customers, it is geographically the largest and most diverse Regional Entity. *Note: The 2025 LTRA includes a new assessment area map for the U.S. Western Interconnection. The new assessment area boundaries provide more geographic detail of reliability information. WECC-Southwest is a new, larger assessment area in 2025 that now includes a portion of WECC-NW in the 2024 LTRA.*

Demand, Resources, and Reserve Margins

Quantity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Internal Demand	37,407	38,911	40,429	41,887	43,551	44,772	45,664	46,317	47,226	47,988
Demand Response	237	258	264	272	282	237	258	264	272	282
Net Internal Demand	37,169	38,653	40,165	41,615	43,269	44,535	45,405	46,053	46,953	47,706
Additions: Tier 1	6,639	7,501	8,155	8,562	8,914	8,914	8,914	8,396	8,852	8,852
Additions: Tier 2	1,771	5,410	6,994	9,369	9,872	11,263	11,286	10,468	11,286	11,252
Additions: Tier 3	2,502	3,899	5,242	7,562	9,710	12,409	14,804	14,801	24,521	24,571
Net Capacity Transfers (WECC Model)	902	2,544	4,162	5,101	6,301	5,895	5,570	4,880	5,030	4,715
Existing-Certain and Net Transfers	45,794	46,457	47,523	49,023	49,986	49,308	47,432	44,294	44,948	43,944
Anticipated Reserve Margin (%)	41.1%	39.6%	38.6%	38.4%	36.1%	30.7%	24.1%	14.4%	14.6%	10.7%
Prospective Reserve Margin (%)	45.8%	53.6%	56.0%	60.9%	58.9%	56.0%	49.0%	37.1%	38.6%	34.3%
Reference Margin Level (%)	13.3%	13.7%	13.6%	12.6%	12.2%	12.0%	11.7%	12.3%	11.3%	11.1%



Planning Reserve Margins



Existing and Tier 1 Resources

WECC-Southwest Highlights

- ARM remains above the RML through 2034. Furthermore, ProbA results indicate that planned resources can reliably meet demand during the studied years of 2027 and 2029.
- The ARM falls below the RML in Summer 2034. With the addition of Prospective Resources, the area can remain above RML.

WECC-Southwest Projected Generating Capacity by Energy Source in Megawatts (MW)					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Coal	4,121	4,116	3,749	3,754	3,754
Coal*	3,761	4,116	3,749	3,754	2,576
Petroleum	341	340	340	336	336
Natural Gas	24,978	24,887	24,817	24,837	24,750
Biomass	46	46	46	46	46
Solar	6,867	6,349	6,503	7,474	7,804
Wind	1,059	1,055	1,055	1,059	1,050
Geothermal	1,555	1,555	1,607	1,572	1,454
Conventional Hydro	1,984	1,989	1,989	1,982	1,981
Pumped Storage	113	113	113	113	113
Nuclear	3,641	3,640	3,640	3,641	3,641
Battery	6,824	7,325	7,657	7,671	7,671
Total MW	51,530	51,414	51,516	52,484	52,598
Total MW*	51,170	51,414	51,516	52,484	51,421
*Capacity with additional generator retirements. Generators that have announced plans to retire but have yet to be included in system plans are removed from the resource projection where marked.					

WECC-Southwest

Planning Reserve Margins

The ARM falls below the RML in Summer 2034 but is covered by the PRM. Arizona Public Service and Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) are participants in the WRAP.

Energy Assessment, Including Non-Peak Hour Risk

WECC performs a probabilistic resource adequacy analysis using the MAVRIC model. MAVRIC is WECC’s internally developed modeling tool that performs energy based probabilistic assessments that support NERC’s LTRA and seasonal assessments, as well as WECC’s WARA.

ProbA Results

The ProbA found that planned resources meet demand and reliability margins for all hours (no EUE or LOLH).

Base-Case Summary of Results			
	2026*	2027	2029
EUE (MWh)	N/A	0	0
NEUE (ppm)	N/A	0.00	0.00
LOLH (hours per Year)	N/A	0.00	0.00
* No prior results as the assessment area is new for the 2025 LTRA.			

WECC-Southwest does not show any LOLH or EUE in 2027 or 2029; therefore, no additional visualizations are provided.

Demand

The average annual demand growth rate for WECC-Southwest is 3.9%. The primary drivers are data centers, industrial electrification, residential electrification, and residential customer growth. Large-load additions in the forecast are 9,422 MW through 2035.

Demand-Side Management

In the Southwest, Arizona Public Service is in the process of implementing numerous DSM pilots and programs such as the Residential Energy Storage Pilot and Commercial Advanced Rooftop Controls. The Residential Energy Storage Pilot enables the company to dispatch a small battery energy storage system up to 20% of the system’s capacity.

Salt River Project (SRP) continues to leverage approximately 87 MW of DR capability through more than 75,000 residential smart thermostats, and 41 MW from over 500 businesses enrolled as interruptible customers. SRP intends to achieve 300 MW of dispatchable DR capability by 2035.

PNM programs reduce peak demand by an average of 45 MW per summer event from its two primary programs enrolling the ability to call on commercial customers and residential air conditioners up to 100 hours with a four-hour limit per curtailment.

Distributed Energy Resources

BAs did not report a forecast for BTM resources. Some information is available through the EIA on both historical and forecast data. BTM DER impacts are reflected in the demand data (net of the DER).

Generation

Operational and planning issues related to generation in WECC-Southwest include the following:

- **Aging Thermal Resource Fleet:** A year-round concern for this subregion is an aging thermal resource fleet. Hundreds of MW of capacity in this region have been operational for over 60 years. During the winter, certain thermal resources are unable to cycle below 40°F due to freezing issues. Older sites also require extensive overhauls such as generator rewinds that can keep resources out of service for extended periods of time and potentially longer than planned as discovery work manifests into additional maintenance. To reduce the risk of age-related forced outages, plant staff adhere to a strict maintenance schedule with frequent inspections, and unit performance is routinely monitored.
- **Behind-the-Meter Variability:** BTM output variability can be an operational concern for this subregion year-round as BTM solar can supply a large amount of energy to the system. Unanticipated loss of BTM generation is addressed through activation of DR programs, peaking power plants, and maintaining sufficient BESS charge. Near-term forecasts for BTM output are also made available to system operators so they can pre-emptively dispatch the system as needed.
- **Coal Inventory Shortages:** In-progress fuel conversions of coal to gas create a balancing act of maintaining coal on-site to operate resources while also avoiding excess coal post conversion. This can limit coal resources to minimum output prior to the fuel conversion outage. In addition, site-specific challenges at coal mines have delayed coal deliveries to resources in this subregion. Active management of on-site inventory and procurement of fuel from other sources can mitigate these issues.

- **Gas Fleet Derates:** Gas resources in this subregion can be derated during hot weather in the summer due to ambient conditions. During the winter, gas supply has been cut to plants in this subregion during cold snaps. Near-term monitoring of gas availability along with additional market purchases or fuel switching for capable resources can assist in mitigating supply issues.
- **Solar Variability:** Solar output variability is a concern year-round for this subregion. It is a primary concern on summer evenings as solar output rapidly declines whereas load increases or remains elevated. Activation of DR programs, peaking/flexible power plants, and maintaining sufficient BESS charge are all potential strategies to mitigate this issue. Large changes in solar output can also cause extreme ACE fluctuations, which are addressed using BESS.
- **Electric-Gas Coordination:** Most entities in the area consider electric-gas coordination in long-term planning studies. Resource planning models compare forecasted gas usage on both daily and hourly intervals to firm contractual rights. Gas usage exceeding firm obligations results in unserved energy, which can then be addressed via spot market purchases, short-term gas transport capacity purchases, or the dispatching of other resources. Entities also account for forecasted LDC usage and reduce the available natural gas for electric use by this amount. Resource adequacy models do not yet incorporate gas pipeline constraints, but consideration is being given to how to incorporate these into modeling efforts.

Procedures to mitigate gas supply issues include anticipating losses of scheduled gas from the supply side, ensuring scheduled pipeline maintenance is accounted for in operations, and

maximizing the availability of dual fuel resources. Planning teams also coordinate with operations teams for gas supply issues on a season-ahead basis, and operations can re-dispatch the system as needed to manage fuel shortages. During times of potential freeze-offs, trading practices may also be changed to not overextended firm load requirements. Entities maintain winter and summer readiness plans that are shared between electric system operators and gas pipeline operators to ensure maintenance schedules are aligned. Gas system limitations are made known to electric system operators through routine meetings between system operators and pipeline operators.

- **Renewable Portfolio, Clean Electricity & Emissions Standards:** In the Southwest region, Arizona has an RPS mandate for its electric supply to be 15% renewable by 2025. Separately, [APS](#) has committed to ending the use of coal-fired generation after 2031, and the company set a 100% carbon free by 2050 goal. SRP has goals to reduce CO2 emissions per MWh by 62% from 2005 levels by 2035 and 90% by 2050; TEP will stop using coal by 2032 and plans to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2035. New Mexico has set more aggressive mandates, requiring 50% renewable by 2030, 80% by 2040, and 100% by 2045.

Demand Assumptions and Resource Categories

Demand (Load Forecast)	
Total Internal Demand	This is the peak hourly load ⁴⁹ for the summer and winter of each year. ⁵⁰ Projected total internal demand is based on normal weather (50/50 distribution) ⁵¹ and includes the impacts of distributed resources, EE, and conservation programs.
Net Internal Demand	This is the total internal demand reduced by the amount of controllable and dispatchable DR projected to be available during the peak hour. Net internal demand is used in all reserve margin calculations.

Load Forecasting Assumptions by Assessment Area			
Assessment Area	Peak Season	Coincident / Noncoincident ⁵²	Load Forecasting Entity
MISO	Summer	Coincident	MISO LSEs
MRO-Manitoba Hydro	Winter	Coincident	Manitoba Hydro
MRO-SaskPower	Winter	Coincident	SaskPower
MRO-SPP	Summer	Noncoincident	SPP LSEs
NPCC-Maritimes	Winter	Noncoincident	Maritimes sub-areas
NPCC-New England	Summer	Coincident	ISO-NE
NPCC-New York	Summer	Coincident	NYISO
NPCC-Ontario	Summer	Coincident	IESO
NPCC-Québec	Winter	Coincident	Hydro-Québec
PJM	Summer	Coincident	PJM
SERC-East	Summer	Noncoincident	SERC LSEs
SERC-Florida Peninsula	Summer	Noncoincident	
SERC-Central	Summer	Noncoincident	
SERC-Southeast	Summer	Noncoincident	
Texas RE-ERCOT	Summer	Coincident	ERCOT
WECC-Alberta	Winter	Noncoincident	WECC BAs, aggregated by WECC
WECC-Basin	Summer	Noncoincident	
WECC-British Columbia	Winter	Noncoincident	
WECC-California	Summer	Noncoincident	
WECC-Mexico	Summer	Noncoincident	

⁴⁹ [Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards](#).

⁵⁰ The summer season represents June–September and the winter season represents December–February. In this assessment, the year of a winter period is referred to by the year of the month of December (e.g., Winter 2025 is December 2025 – February 2026).

⁵¹ Essentially, this means that there is a 50% probability that actual peak demand will be higher and a 50% probability that actual peak demand will be lower than the value provided for a given season/year.

⁵² Coincident: This is the sum of two or more peak loads that occur in the same hour. Noncoincident: This is the sum of two or more peak loads on individual systems that do not occur in the same time interval. This is meaningful only when considering loads within a limited period of time, such as a day, a week, a month, a heating or cooling season, and usually for not more than one year.

Load Forecasting Assumptions by Assessment Area			
Assessment Area	Peak Season	Coincident / Noncoincident ⁵²	Load Forecasting Entity
WECC-Northwest	Winter	Noncoincident	
WECC-Rocky Mountain	Summer	Noncoincident	
WECC-SW	Summer	Noncoincident	
Resource Categories			
NERC collects projections for the amount of existing and planned capacity and net capacity transfers (between assessment areas) that will be available during the forecast hour of peak demand for the summer and winter seasons of each year. Resource planning methods vary throughout the North American BPS. NERC uses the following categories to provide a consistent approach for collecting and presenting resource adequacy.			
Anticipated Resources⁵³ - Existing-certain generating capacity: includes capacity to serve load during period of peak demand from commercially operable generating units with firm transmission or other qualifying provisions specified in the market construct. - Tier 1 capacity additions: includes capacity that is either under construction or has received approved planning requirements - Firm capacity transfers (Imports minus Exports): transfers with firm contracts - Less confirmed retirements⁵⁴			
Prospective Resources: Includes all “anticipated resources” plus the following: - Existing-other capacity: includes capacity to serve load during period of peak demand from commercially operable generating units without firm transmission or other qualifying provision specified in the market construct. Existing-other capacity could be unavailable during the peak for a number of reasons. - Tier 2 capacity additions: includes capacity that has been requested but not received approval for planning requirements - Expected (non-firm) capacity transfers (imports minus exports): transfers without firm contracts but a high probability of future implementation. - Less unconfirmed retirements.⁵⁵			

⁵³ Projected capacities are inputs to reserve margin calculations and probabilistic assessments. Projections are dependent on official retirement notices to system operators. If no notice is given, capacity projections assume no retirements, even if established trends for resource retirements show declines over past years

⁵⁴ Generators that have formally announced retirement plans. These units must have an approved generator deactivation request where applicable.

⁵⁵ Capacity that is expected to retire based on the result of an assessment area generator survey or analysis. This capacity is aggregated by fuel type.

Resource Categories

Generating Unit Status: Status at time of reporting:

- Existing: It is in commercial operation.
- Retired: It is permanently removed from commercial operation.
- Mothballed: It is currently inactive or on standby but capable for return to commercial operation. Units that meet this status must have a definite plan to return to service before changing the status to “Existing” with capacity contributions entered in “Expected-Other.” Once a “mothballed” unit is confirmed to be capable for commercial operation, capacity contributions should be entered in “Expected-Certain.”
- Cancelled: planned unit (previously reported as Tier 1, 2, or 3) that has been cancelled/removed from an interconnection queue.
- Tier 1: A unit that meets at least one of the following guidelines (with consideration for an area’s planning processes):⁵⁶
 - Construction complete (not in commercial operation)
 - Under construction
 - Signed/approved Interconnection Service Agreement (ISA)
 - Signed/approved Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) has been approved
 - Signed/approved Interconnection Construction Service Agreement (CSA)
 - Signed/approved Wholesale Market Participant Agreement (WMPA)
 - Included in an integrated resource plan or under a regulatory environment that mandates a resource adequacy requirement (Applies to Vertically Integrated Entities)
- Tier 2: A unit that meets at least one of the following guidelines (with consideration for an area’s planning processes):⁵⁷
 - Signed/approved Completion of a feasibility study
 - Signed/approved Completion of a system impact study
 - Signed/approved Completion of a facilities study
 - Requested Interconnection Service Agreement
 - Included in an integrated resource plan or under a regulatory environment that mandates a resource adequacy requirement (Applies to RTOs/ISOs)
- Tier 3: A units in an interconnection queue that do not meet the Tier 2 requirement.

⁵⁶ AESO: Project has completed Stage 4: the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) has issued a Permit and License (AESO-specific)

⁵⁷ AESO: Project has completed Stage 4: the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) has issued a Permit and License (AESO-specific)

Reserve Margin Descriptions
Planning Reserve Margins: The primary metric used to measure resource adequacy defined as the difference in resources (anticipated or prospective) and net internal demand divided by net internal demand, shown as a percentile
Anticipated Reserve Margin (ARM): The amount of anticipated resources less net internal demand calculated as a percentage of net internal demand
Prospective Reserve Margin (PRM): The amount of prospective resources less net internal demand calculated as a percentage of net internal demand
Reference Margin Level (RML): The assumptions and naming convention of this metric vary by assessment area. The RML can be determined using both deterministic and probabilistic (based on a 0.1/year loss-of-load study) approaches. In both cases, system planners use this metric is to quantify the amount of reserve capacity in the system above the forecasted peak demand that is needed to ensure sufficient supply to meet peak loads. Establishing an RML is necessary to account for long-term factors of uncertainty involved in system planning, such as unexpected generator outages and extreme weather impacts that could lead to increased demand beyond what was projected in the 50/50 load forecasted. In many assessment areas, an RML is established by a state, provincial authority, ISO/RTO, or other regulatory body. In some cases, the RML is a requirement. RMLs can fluctuate over the duration of this assessment period or may be different for the summer and winter seasons. If an RML is not provided by a given assessment area, NERC applies 15% for predominately thermal systems and 10% for predominately hydro systems.

Methods and Assumptions

How NERC Defines BPS Reliability

NERC defines the reliability of the interconnected BPS in terms of two basic and functional aspects:

- **Adequacy:** The ability of the electric system to supply the aggregate electric power and energy requirements of the electricity consumers at all times, taking into account scheduled and expected unscheduled outages of system components
- **Operating Reliability:** The ability of the electric system to withstand sudden disturbances, such as electric short circuits or unanticipated loss of system components

When extreme or otherwise unanticipated conditions result in a resource shortfall, system operators take controlling actions or implement procedures to maintain a continual balance between supply and demand within a balancing area (formerly control area); these actions include the following:

- Public appeals
- Interruptible demand that the end-use customer makes available to its LSEs via contract or agreement for curtailment⁵⁸
- Voltage reductions (sometimes referred to as “brownouts” because incandescent lights will dim as voltage is lowered, sometimes as much as 5%)
- Rotating blackouts (The term “rotating” is used because each set of distribution feeders is interrupted for a limited time, typically 20–30 minutes, and then those feeders are put back in service and another set is interrupted, rotating the outages among individual feeders.)

System disturbances affect operating reliability when they cause the unplanned and/or uncontrolled interruption of customer demand. When these interruptions are contained within a localized area, they are considered unplanned interruptions or disturbances. When interruptions spread over a wide area of the grid, they are referred to as “cascading blackouts,” the uncontrolled successive loss of system elements triggered by an incident at any location.

The BES is a defined subset of the BPS that includes all facilities necessary for the reliable operation and planning of the BPS.⁵⁹ NERC Reliability Standards are intended to establish requirements for BPS owners and operators so that the BES delivers an adequate level of reliability (ALR),⁶⁰ which is defined by the following characteristics.

- **Adequate Level of Reliability:** It is the state that the design, planning, and operation of the BES will achieve when the following reliability performance objectives are met:
 - The BES does not experience instability, uncontrolled separation, cascading,⁶¹ and/or voltage collapse under normal operating conditions or when subject to predefined disturbances.⁶²
 - BES frequency is maintained within defined parameters under normal operating conditions and when subject to predefined disturbances.
 - BES voltage is maintained within defined parameters under normal operating conditions and when subject to predefined disturbances.

⁵⁸ Interruptible demand (or interruptible load) is a term used in NERC Reliability Standards. See Glossary of Terms used in Reliability Standards: [NERC Glossary of Terms](#)

⁵⁹ [BES Definition](#)

⁶⁰ NERC Informational Filing (to FERC) on the Definition of Adequate Level of Reliability, Docket Number RR06-1, May 10, 2013.

⁶¹ NERC’s Glossary of Terms defines Cascading: “Cascading results in widespread electric service interruption that cannot be restrained from sequentially spreading beyond an area predetermined by studies.”

⁶² NERC’s Glossary of Terms defines Disturbance: “1. An unplanned event that produces an abnormal system condition. 2. Any perturbation to the electric system. 3. The unexpected change in ACE that is caused by the sudden failure of generation or interruption of load.”

- Adverse reliability impacts on the BES following low-probability disturbances (e.g., multiple BES contingences, unplanned/uncontrolled equipment outages, cyber security events, malicious acts) are managed.

Restoration of the BES after major system disturbances that result in blackouts and widespread outages of BES elements is performed in a coordinated and controlled manner.

How NERC Evaluates Reserve Margins in Assessing Resource Adequacy

PRMs are calculated by finding the difference between the amount of projected on-peak capacity and the forecasted peak demand and then dividing this difference by the forecasted peak demand. Each assessment area has a peak season, summer or winter, for which its peak demand is higher. PRMs used throughout this LTRA are for each assessment area’s peak season listed in the load forecasting table of the [Demand Assumptions and Resource Categories](#).

NERC assesses resource adequacy by evaluating each assessment area’s PRMs relative to its RML—a “target” or requirement based on traditional capacity planning criteria. The projected resource capacity used in the evaluations is reduced by known operating limitations (e.g., fuel availability, transmission limitations, environmental limitations) and compared to the RML, which represents the desired level of risk based on a probability-based loss-of-load analysis. On-peak resource capacity reflects expected output at the hour of peak demand. Because the electrical output of VERs (e.g., wind and solar) depend on weather conditions, on-peak capacity contributions are less than nameplate capacity. Based on the five-year projected reserves compared to the established RMLs, NERC determines the risk associated with the projected level of reserve and concludes in terms of the following:

- **Adequate:** The ARM is greater than RML.
- **Marginal:** The ARM is lower than the RML and the PRM is higher than RML.
- **Inadequate:** The ARM and PRMs are less than the RML and Tier 3 resources are unlikely to advance.

Metrics for Probabilistic Evaluation Used in this Assessment

Probabilistic Assessment: Biennially, NERC conducts a probabilistic evaluation as part of its resource adequacy assessment and publishes results in the LTRA.

Loss-of-Load Hours: LOLH is generally defined as the expected number of hours per time period (often one year) when a system’s hourly demand is projected to exceed the generating capacity. This metric is calculated by using each hourly load in the given period (or the load duration curve).

LOLH is evaluated using all hours rather than just peak periods. It can be evaluated over seasonal, monthly, or weekly study periods. LOLH does not inform of the magnitude or the frequency of loss-of-load events, but it is used as a measure of their combined duration. LOLH is applicable to both small and large systems and is relevant for assessments covering all hours (compared to only the peak demand hour of each season). LOLH provides insight to the impact of energy limited resources on a system’s reliability, particularly in systems with growing penetration of such resources. Examples of such energy limited resources include the following:

- DR programs that can be modeled as resources with specific contract limits, including hours per year, days per week, and hours per day constraints
- EE programs that can be modeled as reductions to load with an hourly load shape impact
- Distributed resources (e.g., BTM solar PV) that can be modeled as reductions to load with an hourly load shape impact
- VERs can be modeled probabilistically with multiple hourly profiles

Expected Unserved Energy: EUE is the summation of the expected number of megawatt hours of demand that will not be served in a given time period as a result of demand exceeding the available capacity across all hours. EUE is an energy-centric metric that considers the magnitude and duration for all hours of the time period and is calculated in MWhs. This measure can be normalized based on various components of an assessment area (e.g., total of peak demand, net energy for load). Normalizing the EUE provides a measure relative to the size of a given assessment area (generally in terms of parts per million or ppm).

EUE is the only metric that considers magnitude of loss-of-load events. With the changing generation mix, to make EUE a more effective metric, hourly EUE for each month provides insights on potential adequacy risk during shoulder and nonpeak hours. EUE is useful for estimating the size of loss-of-load events so the planners can estimate the cost and impact. EUE can be used as a basis for reference reserve margin to determine capacity credits for VERs. In addition, EUE can be used to quantify the impacts of extreme weather, common mode failure, etc.

NERC is not aware of any planning criteria in North America based on EUE; however, in Australia, the Australian Energy Market Operator is responsible for planning using 0.002% (20 ppm) EUE as their energy adequacy requirement.⁶³ This requirement incorporates economic factors based on the risk of load shedding and the value of load loss along with the load-loss reliability component.

On the basis of the two years of the ProbA results, NERC determines the risk in terms of the following:

- **Normal Risk:** Negligible amounts of LOLH and EUE.
- **Periods of Risk:** LOLH < 2 Hours and EUE < 0.002% of total annual net energy.
- **Significant Risk:** LOLH > 2 Hours and EUE > 0.002% of total annual net energy.

Understanding Demand Forecasts

Future electricity requirements cannot be predicted precisely. Peak demand and annual energy use are reflections of the ways in which customers use electricity in their domestic, commercial, and industrial activities. Therefore, the electric industry continues to monitor electricity use and generally revise its forecasts on an annual basis or as its resource planning requires. In recent years, the difference between forecast and actual peak demands have decreased, reflecting a trend toward improving forecasting accuracy.

The peak demand and annual net energy for load projections are aggregates of the forecasts of the individual planning entities and LSEs. These resulting forecasts reported in this LTRA are typically “equal probability” forecasts. That is, there is a 50% chance that the forecast will be exceeded and a 50% chance that the forecast will not be reached.

Forecast peak demands, or total internal demand, are electricity demands that have already been reduced to reflect the effects of DSM programs, such as conservation, EE, and time-of-use rates; it is equal to the sum of metered (net) power outputs of all generators within a system and the metered line flows into the system less the metered line flows out of the system. Thus, total internal demand is the maximum (hourly integrated) demand of all customer demands plus losses. The effects of DR resources that are dispatchable and controllable by the system operator, such as utility-controlled water heaters and contractually interruptible customers, are not included in total internal demand. Rather, the effects of dispatchable and controllable DR are included in net internal demand.

Future Transmission Project Categories

- **Under Construction:** Construction of the line has begun.
 - Planned (any of the following):
 - Permits have been approved to proceed

⁶³ https://wa.aemo.com.au/-/media/Files/Electricity/NEM/Planning_and_Forecasting/NEM_ESOO/2018/2018-Electricity-Statement-of-Opportunities.pdf

- Design is complete
- Needed in order to meet a regulatory requirement
- **Conceptual** (any of the following):
 - A line projected in the transmission plan
 - A line that is required to meet a NERC TPL standard or power-flow model and cannot be categorized as “Under Construction” or “Planned”
 - Other projected lines that do not meet requirements of “Under Construction” or “Planned”

Summary of Planning Reserve Margins and Reference Margin Levels by Assessment Area

Reference Margin Levels for Each Assessment Area (2026–2030)					
Assessment Area	Reference Margin Level	Assessment Area Terminology	Requirement?	Methodology	Reviewing or Approving Body
MISO	2025-2026 Summer: 8.1% Fall: 14.9% Winter: 19.1% Spring (2027): 26.2%	Planning Reserve Margin	Yes: Established Annually ⁶⁴	0.1 day/Year Loss of Load Expectation (LOLE)	MISO
MRO-Manitoba Hydro	12.0%	Reference Margin Level	No	0.1 day/Year LOLE	Reviewed by the Manitoba Public Utilities Board
MRO-SaskPower	15.0%	Reference Margin Level	No	EUE and Deterministic Criteria	SaskPower
MRO-SPP	19.0%	Resource Adequacy Requirement	Yes: studied on Biennial Basis	0.1 day/Year LOLE	SPP Staff, Stakeholders, SPP Regional State Committee.
NPCC-Maritimes	20.0% ⁶⁵	Reference Margin Level	No	0.1 day/Year LOLE	Maritimes Sub-areas; NPCC
NPCC-New England	13.0–13.4%	Installed Capacity Requirement	Yes: three year requirement established annually	0.1 day/Year LOLE	ISO-NE, NPCC Criteria
NPCC-New York	15.0% ⁶⁶	Installed Reserve Margin	Yes: one year requirement, established annually by NYSRC based on full installed capacity values of resources	0.1 day/Year LOLE	NYSRC, NPCC Criteria
NPCC-Ontario	15.8–22.6%	Reserve Margin Requirement	Yes: established annually for all years	0.1 day/Year LOLE	IESO, NPCC Criteria
NPCC-Québec	11.9–12.2%	Reference Margin Level	No: established Annually	0.1 day/Year LOLE	Hydro-Québec, NPCC Reliability Coordinating Committee
PJM	18.6–26.3%	Installed Reserve Margin	Yes: established Annually for each of three future years	0.1 day/Year LOLE	PJM Board of Managers, ReliabilityFirst BAL-502-RFC-02 Standard
SERC-Central	15.0% ⁶⁷	Reference Margin Level	No: NERC-Applied 15%	SERC Performs 0.1 day/Year LOLE	Reviewed by Member Utilities

⁶⁴ In MISO, the states can override the MISO PRM.

⁶⁵ The 20% RML is used by the individual jurisdictions in the Maritimes area with the exception of Prince Edward Island, which uses a margin of 15%. Accordingly, 20% is applied for the entire area.

⁶⁶ The NERC LTRA RML for NY is 15%; however, there is no PRM criteria in New York. Wind, grid-connected solar, and run-of-river totals were derated for this calculation. Additionally, the NYISO uses probabilistic assessments to evaluate its system’s resource adequacy against the LOLE resource adequacy criterion of 0.1 days/year. However, New York requires LSEs to procure capacity for their loads equal to their peak demand plus an IRM. The IRM requirement represents a percentage of capacity above peak load forecast and is approved annually by the New York State Reliability Council (NYSRC). NYSRC approved the 2025/2026 IRM at 24.4%. All values in the IRM calculation are based upon full installed capacity (ICAP) MW values of resources, and it is identified based on annual probabilistic assessments and models for the upcoming capability year.

⁶⁷ SERC does not provide RMLs or resource requirements for its sub-areas. However, SERC members perform individual assessments to comply with any state requirements.

Reference Margin Levels for Each Assessment Area (2026–2030)					
Assessment Area	Reference Margin Level	Assessment Area Terminology	Requirement?	Methodology	Reviewing or Approving Body
SERC-East	15.0% ⁶⁸	Reference Margin Level	No: NERC-Applied 15%	SERC Performs 0.1 day/Year LOLE	Reviewed by Member Utilities
SERC-Florida Peninsula	15.0% ⁶⁹	Reliability Criterion	No: Guideline	0.1 day/Year LOLP	Florida Public Service Commission
SERC-Southeast	15.0% ⁷⁰	Reference Margin Level	No: NERC-Applied 15%	SERC Performs 0.1 day/Year LOLE	Reviewed by Member Utilities
Texas RE-ERCOT	13.75%	Target Reserve Margin	No	0.1 day/Year LOLE plus adjustent for non-modeled market considerations	ERCOT Board of Directors
WECC-Alberta	11.6–17.6%	Reference Margin Level	No: Guideline	Based on a conservative .02% threshold	WECC ⁷¹
WECC-Basin	12.3–14.0%	Reference Margin Level	No: Guideline	Based on a conservative .02% threshold	WECC ⁵⁸
WECC-British Columbia	11.6–12.1%	Reference Margin Level	No: Guideline	Based on a conservative .02% threshold	WECC ⁵⁸
WECC-California ⁷²	19.2–20.3%	Reference Margin Level	No: Guideline	Based on a conservative .02% threshold	WECC ⁵⁸
WECC-Mexico	7.0–9.1%	Reference Margin Level	No: Guideline	Based on a conservative .02% threshold	WECC ⁵⁸
WECC-Northwest	15.5–17.8%	Reference Margin Level	No: Guideline	Based on a conservative .02% threshold	WECC ⁵⁸
WECC-Rocky Mountain	15.7–17.8%	Reference Margin Level	No: Guideline	Based on a conservative .02% threshold	WECC ⁵⁸
WECC-Southwest	12.2–13.7%	Reference Margin Level	No: Guideline	Based on a conservative .02% threshold	WECC ⁵⁸

⁶⁸ SERC does not provide RMLs or resource requirements for its sub-areas. However, SERC members perform individual assessments to comply with any state requirements.

⁶⁹ SERC-FP uses a 15% reference reserve margin as approved by the Florida Public Service Commission for non-IOUs and recognized as a voluntary 20% reserve margin criteria for IOUs; individual utilities may also use additional reliability criteria.

⁷⁰ SERC does not provide RMLs or resource requirements for its sub-areas. However, SERC members perform individual assessments to comply with any state requirements.

⁷¹ WECC’s RML in this table is for the hour of peak demand. Some hours in the year require a higher reserve margin to meet the 0.02% reliability criteria due to the variability in resource availability and resource performance characteristics.

⁷² California is the only state in the Western Interconnection that has a wide-area RML, currently 17.5%: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/electric-power-procurement/resource-adequacy-homepage>.

Recommendations and ERO Actions Summary

In addition to the recommendations in the Executive Summary, NERC recommends continued progress in areas identified previously in NERC’s LTRA and other assessment reports. The ERO, industry, vendors/manufacturers, and stakeholders should continue acting on the following recommendations to inform system and operations planning, develop the transmission network, and address resource performance issues attributed to IBR characteristics, cold weather, and fuel supply limitations. The ERO has a range of activities underway to monitor, assess, and reduce long-term BPS reliability risks. The selected ERO activities summarized below will result in new or enhanced Reliability Standards requirements, reliability guidelines, resources, or significant findings and actionable steps for stakeholders to address reliability risks.

LTRA Recommendations and Ongoing ERO Actions

Add new resources with needed reliability attributes and make existing resources more dependable.

- 1. Use enhanced resource adequacy and energy risk assessments for determining resource needs:** PRMs are not sufficient for measuring resource adequacy for most areas because VERs and generator fuel supply issues expose additional energy risks. Resource Planners and wholesale markets need to use enhanced modeling that accounts for energy risks, such as all-hours probabilistic assessments. Multi-metric criteria applied to results from probabilistic studies that include load loss, unserved energy, event magnitude, and event duration will support achieving the levels of reliability that are required for modern society.
- 2. Address performance deficiencies with existing and future inverter-based resources:** Reliably integrating IBRs onto the grid is paramount, and evidence indicates that the risk of grid vulnerabilities from interconnection practices and IBR performance issues are growing. IBRs include most solar and wind generation as well as new BESS or hybrid generation and account for 85% of the new generation in development for connecting to the BPS. IBRs respond to disturbances and dynamic conditions based on programmed logic and inverter controls. The tripping of BPS-connected solar PV generating units and other control system behavior during grid faults has caused sudden loss of generation resources (over wide areas in some cases). Industry experience with unexpected tripping of BPS-connected solar PV generation units can be traced back to the 2016 Blue Cut fire in California, and similar events have occurred in new geographic areas as recently as the summer of 2023.⁷³ A common thread with these events is the lack of IBR ride-through capability that causes a minor system disturbance to become a major disturbance. Based on the findings of a recent NERC alert, more ride-through and ERS capabilities can be enabled within existing solar PV resources to improve performance and support the reliable operation of the BPS.⁷⁴ Industry adoption of the recommended practices set forth in NERC reliability guidelines and the NERC alert will reduce risks from IBR performance issues to the grid as NERC also develops mandatory Reliability Standards based on those reliability guidelines. It is also critically important for interconnection processes to include accurate modeling and studies requirements.⁷⁵ Guided by NERC’s comprehensive Inverter-Based Resources Strategy and in response to FERC Order No. 901, the ERO, industry, and manufacturers should take additional steps to ensure that IBRs operate reliably and that the system is planned with due consideration for their characteristics.^{76,77}
- 3. Improve the performance of the generating fleet in extreme cold temperatures:** The ERO and industry need to complete enhanced requirements for generator cold weather performance to address reliability related findings from the FERC, NERC, and Regional Entity joint staff inquiry into the February 2021 cold weather grid outages.⁷⁸ Revisions to Reliability Standard EOP-012-2 will improve the effectiveness of the standard and speed the implementation of corrective actions necessary to address unacceptable freezing issues. Findings of the inquiry into Winter Storm Elliott (December 2022) reinforce the urgency of this effort.⁷⁹

⁷³ See the ERO’s extensive IBR event reporting here: [NERC Major Event Reports](#)

⁷⁴ The NERC Level 2 alert to gather data from solar PV resource owners and issue recommendations can be found here: [Industry Recommendation: Inverter-Based Resource Performance Issues](#).

⁷⁵ NERC’s comprehensive initiatives to reduce IBR risks are detailed here: [IBR Quick Reference Guide](#)

⁷⁶ [NERC IBR Activities](#)

⁷⁷ [Order No. 901 Work Plan](#)

⁷⁸ [The February 2021 Cold Weather Outages in Texas and the South Central United States | FERC, NERC and Regional Entity Staff Report](#)

⁷⁹ [Inquiry into Bulk-Power System Operations During December 2022 Winter Storm Elliott](#)

LTRA Recommendations and Ongoing ERO Actions

4. Mitigate fuel-related risks to electricity generation (fuel assurance): In addition to serving as base and intermediate-load plants, natural-gas-fired generation has become a necessary balancing resource that enables reliable integration of VERs into the dispatch. As a result, the BES has never been more dependent upon the round-the-clock continuity of just-in-time natural gas delivery. The past two winters have seen interruptions of natural gas delivery to generators that resulted in energy deficiencies. Collaborative assessments involving NERC, the Regional Entities, the National Labs, and natural gas and electric power industry participants are needed to identify natural gas fuel supply needs for reliable operation of the BPS. NERC strongly endorses actions to establish reliability rules for the natural gas infrastructure necessary to support the grid as recommended in the Winter Storm Elliott report. Additionally, as part of future transmission and resource planning studies, planning entities will need to more fully understand how impacts to the natural gas transportation system can impact electricity reliability. The NERC reliability guideline, *Fuel Assurance and Fuel-Related Reliability Risk Analysis for the Bulk Power System*, provides planning guidance.⁸⁰

Initiative	Description	Product/Reliability Solution
Cold Weather Reliability Standards and Activities	Cold weather Reliability Standards adopted by the NERC Board of Trustees in June 2021 went into effect in the United States in 2023. Generator Owners and Generator Operators are required to implement plans for cold weather preparedness and provide cold weather operating parameters to their Reliability Coordinators, Transmission Operators, and BAs for use in operating plans. Additional Reliability Standard requirements were developed by NERC and industry to address further recommendations of the <i>FERC-NERC-Regional Entity Staff Report—The February 2021 Cold Weather Outages in Texas and the South Central United States</i> and respond to FERC directives.⁸¹ In September 2025, FERC approved EOP-012-3 with an effective date of October 1, 2025. The revised standard strengthens generator preparedness by providing clearer and more effective requirements. In the approval order, FERC also directed NERC to make information filings to FERC every two years beginning in October 2026 and continuing through October 2034, to assess the adequacy of the standard’s ability to address reliability concerns and inform potential future modifications.	Reliability Standards NERC Alerts Event Analysis Reports Lessons Learned
Inverter-Based Resources Strategy	NERC’s IBR strategy includes four key focus areas: Risk Analysis, Interconnection Process Improvements, Sharing Best Practices and Industry Education, and Regulatory Enhancements. The statuses of NERC’s extensive activities in each area are described in detail in the <i>IBR Activities Reference Guide</i>.⁸² NERC has investigated and analyzed IBR performance issues during grid disturbances dating back to 2016. Since that time, NERC and its technical groups have published a range of reliability guidelines for studying, modeling, controlling, and interconnecting IBRs. In partnership with many experts from across the industry, NERC maintains an active campaign of education, awareness, and outreach to support its strategy and reduce IBR performance risks. NERC and the RSTC recognized that Reliability Standard requirements would be needed as part of a comprehensive approach to reliability and undertook a full review of existing standards to identify gaps. Several reliability standards projects were initiated following this review. In October 2023, FERC issued Order No. 991, which provided clear direction for the industry to develop requirements that address reliability gaps related to IBR in data sharing, model validation, planning and operational studies, and performance requirements.	Reliability Standards NERC Alerts Reliability Guidelines Event Analysis Reports Lessons Learned Educational Webinars

⁸⁰ Informed by severe weather events of the past two winters, the 2023 triennial review of the NERC reliability guideline, *Fuel Assurance and Fuel-Related Reliability Risk Analysis for the Bulk Power System*, incorporated the *Design Basis for Natural Gas Study* developed by the ERO in 2022. The revised Guideline also identifies as fuel risks requiring evaluation many of the scenarios industry has encountered during recent periods of extreme cold weather and high demand for natural gas. The revised guideline is under review with the Reliability and Security Technical Committee. The approved and revised draft guideline can be found on the RSTC website: [NERC Reliability and Security Guidelines](#)

⁸¹ Refer to [Project 2021-07 Extreme Cold Weather Grid Operations, Preparedness, and Coordination](#) and [Project 2024-03 Revisions to EOP-012-2](#) on NERC’s standards development page. [Project 2021-07 IBR Activities](#)

⁸² [IBR Activities](#)

LTRA Recommendations and Ongoing ERO Actions

	FERC issued an order in 2022 directing NERC to identify and register owners and operators of currently unregistered BPS-connected IBRs. ⁸³ Working closely with industry and stakeholders, NERC is executing a FERC-approved work plan to achieve the identification and registration directive by 2026. Resources are also posted on the Registration page of the NERC website.	
Natural Gas-Electric Interdependence Initiatives	Informed by severe weather events of the past two winters, the 2023 triennial review of the NERC reliability guideline, <i>Fuel Assurance and Fuel-Related Reliability Risk Analysis for the Bulk Power System</i> , incorporated the <i>Design Basis for Natural Gas Study</i> developed by the ERO in 2022. The revised guideline also identifies the fuel risks encountered by industry during recent periods of extreme cold weather and high demand for natural gas. These natural gas supply risks can inform industry’s development of planning scenarios. The revised guideline is under review with the RSTC. Refer to the RSTC-Approved Documents page. ⁸⁴	Reliability Guideline
Expand the transmission network to deliver supplies from new resources and locations to serve changing loads.		
1. Develop the transmission network: ISOs and RTOs should continue looking for opportunities to streamline transmission planning processes and reduce the time required for transmission development. However, addressing the siting and permitting challenges that are the most common cause for delayed transmission projects will require regulators and policymakers at the federal, state, and provincial levels to focus attention and provide support.		
Initiative	Description	Product/Reliability Solution
<i>Interregional Transfer Capability Study (ITCS)</i>	NERC completed the ITCS required by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and filed the final report with FERC on November 19, 2024 ⁸⁵ . The ITCS is the first-of-its-kind assessment of transmission transfer capability under a common set of assumptions. However, the ITCS is not a transmission plan or blueprint. Transmission expansion analysis, resource plans, and other inputs must be considered in effective system planning. The ITCS is designed to provide foundational insights that facilitate stakeholder analysis and actions. Due to the interconnected nature of the BPS, NERC extended the study beyond the congressional mandate to identify and make recommendations for transfer capabilities from the United States to Canada and among Canadian provinces. The Canadian analysis was published in 2025. ⁸⁶ See Interregional Transfer Capability Study (ITCS) Canadian Analysis .	ERO Study and Recommendations

⁸³ [FERC Order Issued November 17, 2022](#)

⁸⁴ [RSTC Approved Documents](#)

⁸⁵ NERC’s [Interregional Transfer Capability Study \(ITCS\) Final Report](#)

⁸⁶ [NERC’s Interregional Transfer Capability Study \(ITCS\) Canadian Analysis Final Report](#)

LTRA Recommendations and Ongoing ERO Actions

Adapt BPS planning, operations, and resource procurement markets and processes to the realities of a more complex power system.

- 1. Use enhanced resource adequacy and energy risk assessments for determining resource needs:** PRMs are not sufficient for measuring resource adequacy for most areas because VERs and generator fuel supply issues expose additional energy risks. Resource Planners and wholesale markets need to use enhanced modeling that accounts for energy risks, such as all-hours probabilistic assessments. Multi-metric approaches to resource adequacy using load loss, unserved energy, and event magnitude and duration criteria and results from probabilistic studies will support achieving the levels of reliability that are required for modern society.
- 2. Resource contributions must be accurately represented in resource planning, wholesale electricity markets, and operating models:** Resource Planners and wholesale market designers must use appropriate methods for determining the contribution of resources to meeting demand. Weather-dependent resources, fuel supplies, and demand profiles result in seasonal risks. This can be seen in the increasing winter resource adequacy risks observed in the 2024 ProbA for many traditionally summer-peaking areas. ISO/RTOs can help reduce seasonal risks by implementing seasonal resource adequacy procurement (e.g., spring, summer, fall, winter) based on reserve requirements and resource performance that are tailored to each season. The explosive growth of BESS and hybrid resources seen in most areas requires additional details to be incorporated into operating and planning models, such as state of charge, BESS duration, and BESS operating mode.
- 3. Maintain sufficient amounts of flexible resources and essential reliability services:** To maintain load-and-supply balance in real-time with higher penetrations of variable supply and less-predictable demand, dispatchable generators must be available and capable of following changing electricity demand. Retirements of fossil-fired generators are reducing the amounts of dispatchable generation in many areas. As more solar PV and wind generation is added, additional flexible resources are needed to offset these resources’ variability, such as supporting solar down ramps when the sun goes down and complementing wind pattern changes. Natural-gas-fired generators and hydro generators have traditionally provided this ERS. Battery resources can provide flexibility during short durations, while new wind and solar PV have minimal assured flexibility. Maintaining ERSs is critically important. Resource Planners and wholesale electricity market operators should ensure resources are procured and made available in the long-range resource portfolio as part of the planning process; markets and other mechanisms need to be in place to deliver weather-ready resources with sufficient energy and ERS capabilities to the operators.⁸⁷
- 4. Include energy risks and extreme weather scenarios in resource and system planning:** Industry and regulators need to conduct all-hours analyses for evaluating and establishing resource adequacy and include extreme conditions in integrated resource planning and wholesale market designs. While more sophisticated capabilities for assessing extreme event risk are being developed, scenario planning can be more readily incorporated in resource and system planning. Scenarios should consider the potential effects of wide-area, long-duration extreme weather events, including the impact they can have on natural gas fuel supplies and on the interconnected energy system. NERC and the industry should continue to prioritize completion of new reliability standards supporting energy assurance in operating and planning time horizons, and for the assessment of extreme heat and cold weather events in transmission system planning.
- 5. Accommodate the growth of DERs:** Preparing the grid to operate with increasing levels of distributed resources is a priority for most areas. Data sharing, models, and information protocols are needed to support BPS planners and operators. Industry must continue to evaluate potential reliability concerns associated with increasing DER penetration and DER performance and, when necessary, develop reliability standards requirements to address identified gaps. DER aggregators will also play an increasingly important role for BPS reliability in the coming years. ISO/RTOs must consider how the implementation of DER aggregators in the wholesale market will affect BPS planning and operations.⁸⁸

⁸⁷ [NERC ERS Measure 6 Forward Tech Brief](#)

⁸⁸ A comprehensive guide to ERO activities on DERs can be found here: [DER Activities](#)

LTRA Recommendations and Ongoing ERO Actions

Initiative	Description	Product/Reliability Solution
Energy Assessments Initiatives	NERC conducts seasonal long-term and probabilistic reliability assessments and issues reports like this <i>2025 LTRA</i> to advise industry and stakeholders of findings on BPS adequacy, including energy adequacy. In recent years, NERC has enhanced the energy risk analysis in seasonal assessments by incorporating deterministic energy risk scenarios and introducing probability-based assessments. NERC’s ProbA uses hourly simulations to examine the ability of resources to meet demand over the entire study year, helping to identify energy risks that could otherwise go unaddressed by peak hour reserve margin resource adequacy analysis. NERC reliability assessments continue to evolve as more sophisticated energy assessment tools, models, and capabilities are developed. The RSTC created the Energy Reliability Assessment Working Group (ERAWG) to support wide adoption of technically sound approaches to energy assessments by BPS planners and operators. Working group projects and activities are described on the ERAWG page.⁸⁹ The working group is developing a technical reference document to inform registered entities on approaches and considerations for assessing and reducing the risk of energy shortfalls. New and revised Reliability Standards requirements for BPS planners and operators to address energy risks are in development in Project 2022-03 <i>Energy Assurance with Energy Constrained Resources</i>.⁹⁰ In other Reliability Standard development work, Project 2023-07 <i>Transmission System Planning Performance Requirements for Extreme Weather</i> requirements are being developed that will ensure entities consider extreme heat and cold weather scenarios in BPS planning, including the expected availability of the future resource mix.⁹¹	Reliability Assessments Reliability Standards
Distributed Energy Resources Strategy	NERC has proactively worked with industry stakeholders to identify BPS reliability risks associated with the increasing DER levels and has initiated actions to support broad awareness and education as well as to provide guidance for industry and enhance Reliability Standards where gaps exist. The statuses of NERC’s extensive activities in each area are described in detail in the <i>DER Activities Reference Guide</i> . ⁹²	Reliability Standards Reliability Guidelines Educational Webinars
Strengthen relationships among reliability stakeholders.		
Initiative	Description	Product/Reliability Solution
Ongoing Strategic Engagements	NERC and the Regional Entities engage in frequent dialogue and conduct outreach with regulators and policymakers at the state/provincial, regional, and federal/national levels.	Constructive Partnerships

⁸⁹ [ERAWG](#)

⁹⁰ [Project 2022-03](#)

⁹¹ [Project 2023-07](#)

⁹² [DER Activities](#)

Errata

February 2026

- Resource mix changes: Corrected natural gas, solar, wind, conventional hydro, battery, and total resource capacity for 2025 in Table 16. Corrected the caption of Figure 16 (p. 30).
- WECC British Columbia: Corrected highlights for BC Hydro’s most recent 10-year capital plan (p. 144 and 146), corrected the WRAP participation description (p. 145), corrected the DER programs (p. 145), and included a more current drought outlook from October 2025 in the Generation section (p.145)

2025 LTRA Sensitivity Case:

Addition of ERAS Resources in the MISO Assessment Area

April 2026

Table of Contents

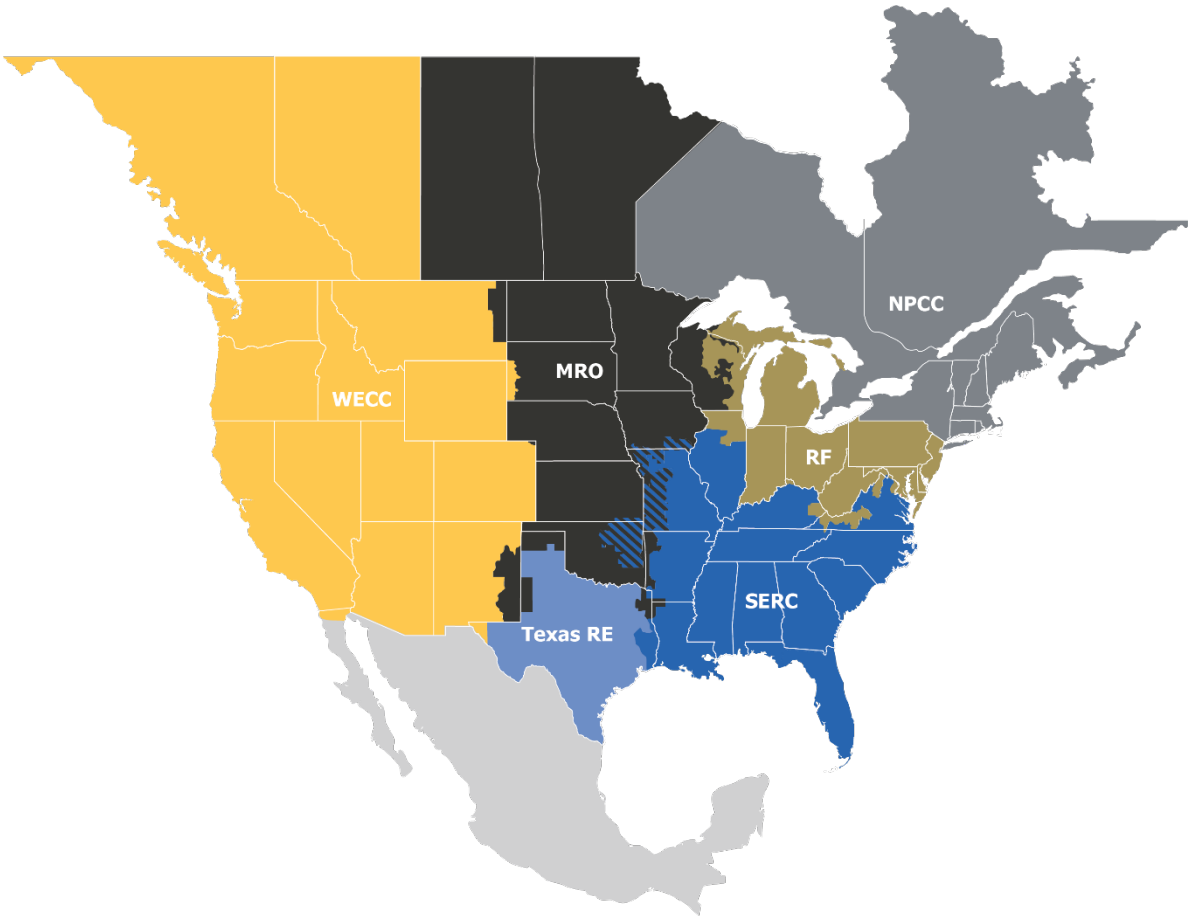
Preface	iii
Purpose	iv
Chapter 1: Summary Findings.....	1
Chapter 2: Sensitivity Analysis Scope and Approach	2
Analysis Approach	2
Risk Categories	2
Chapter 3: Capacity and Energy Risk Analysis for MISO with ERAS.....	4
Chapter 4: Grounded Expectations	6
Realistic Projections for Resource Additions	6
Risk of Project Delays	7
Risk of Project Cancellations	7
Trends in Load Forecasts are Rising	8
Natural Gas Infrastructure Needs	8
Chapter 5: Recommendations	10

Preface

Electricity powers our modern life and is the bedrock of our economic wellbeing. The Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Enterprise—comprised of NERC and the six Regional Entities—is firmly committed to assuring a highly reliable, resilient, and secure bulk power system (BPS) in North America. The ERO Enterprise enables collaborative engagement with industry, regulators, and stakeholders, embracing innovation and supporting the needs of nearly 400 million people.

RELIABILITY | RESILIENCE | SECURITY POWERING TODAY. PROTECTING TOMORROW.

The North American BPS is made up of six Regional Entities as shown on the map and in the corresponding table below. The multicolored area denotes overlap as some load-serving entities participate in one Regional Entity while associated Transmission Owners/Operators participate in another.



MRO	Midwest Reliability Organization
NPCC	Northeast Power Coordinating Council
RF	ReliabilityFirst
SERC	SERC Reliability Corporation
Texas RE	Texas Reliability Entity
WECC	WECC

Purpose

This sensitivity case analysis of the *2025 Long-Term Reliability Assessment (2025 LTRA)* provides industry, regulators, and policymakers with insights on the effect that recent resource additions, approved under Midcontinent Independent System Operator's (MISO) Expedited Resource Addition Study (ERAS) process, may have on the resource adequacy projections reported in the LTRA. The analysis is prepared by NERC and applicable Regional Entities in the Eastern Interconnection¹ from MISO data and input. Results include a probabilistic analysis performed by MISO after the publication of the *2025 LTRA*. NERC initiated this limited-scope, out-of-cycle analysis in response to federal regulator feedback to provide an independent analysis into the potential effect of the substantive initiatives and regulatory actions taken in 2025 to address mounting resource adequacy concerns in the MISO area. Though this sensitivity case analysis is based on the addition of recent MISO ERAS projects, the findings and recommendations are applicable to resource planners and market operators as they confront the resource adequacy challenges described in the *2025 LTRA*.

¹ Regional Entities involved in reviewing this report are Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO), ReliabilityFirst (RF), and SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC).

Chapter 1: Summary Findings

The limited-scope sensitivity analysis confirmed 2025 LTRA findings: Timely implementation of ERAS resources would eliminate reserve margin shortfalls in MISO and improve expected unserved energy metrics. Based on MISO’s updated probabilistic analysis, the MISO assessment area was found to remain at **elevated risk** to system reliability for the 2027 year and fall to **normal risk** for the 2028–2030 period with the on-time addition of all ERAS projects (see [Table 1.1](#)). Furthermore, the probabilistic analysis shows that the risk of load loss and unserved energy in 2027 is reduced with the addition and operation of these projects. The results are discussed in [Chapter 3](#).

Table 1.1: MISO Capacity and Energy Risk Summary									
2025 LTRA					2025 LTRA with MISO ERAS Additions				
Risk Level (High, Elevated, or Normal)					Risk Level (High, Elevated, or Normal)				
2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030

The foundational assumption to this analysis is that all the ERAS projects and other approved resource additions from the 2025 LTRA will be commercially operational in MISO as currently projected by the end of 2028. Such a rapid expansion, amounting to the addition of 50 GW in accredited capacity in under 3 years, will require overcoming obstacles to development that increasingly cause project delays and cancellations in MISO and other areas. Already, two battery projects with a combined 650 MW in capacity that were included in this sensitivity case have withdrawn. Project development and timing, transmission development, and natural gas fuel issues can all affect the future capacity and energy outlook. Their potential impacts on this sensitivity analysis case are discussed in [Chapter 4](#).

The ERAS process developed by MISO and approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in July 2025 is a strong initiative to shorten the timeline for generator interconnection study and approvals and help speed resources to the grid in response to mounting resource adequacy challenges identified by MISO, its member states, and the ERO.² Faster processing for new generators is critical to meeting demand growth, but other factors are also contributing to slower-than-anticipated BPS resource growth, including energy infrastructure needs, supply chain delays, and siting and permitting difficulties. Consistent with findings in the 2025 LTRA, NERC continues to recommend that Independent System Operator/Regional Transmission Organizations (ISO/RTO) and stakeholders in market areas maintain necessary flexibility in their resource plans and market procurement processes. NERC’s recommendations from this sensitivity case analysis are discussed in [Chapter 5](#).

NERC initiated the next annual LTRA cycle in February 2026 and is planning to publish its LTRA report in early 2027. The annual LTRA covers the entire North American BPS and is based on the latest BPS resource, demand, and transmission development projections. The MISO ERAS units with their updated statuses will be reflected in the 2026 LTRA.

² The [ERAS](#) process aims to respond to generation needs and provide a framework for an accelerated study of generation projects that address urgent resource adequacy and reliability needs. MISO requires that ERAS projects be accompanied by a written verification of reliability need from the Relevant Electric Retail Rate Authority (RERRA), or a documented representative, where the load to be served by the generating facility is located.

Chapter 2: Sensitivity Analysis Scope and Approach

This sensitivity case analysis provides insights into the potential effect that the ERAS process resources may have on resource adequacy in the MISO assessment area if they are able to meet all commercialization targets. Changes to the analysis are limited to the inclusion of the ERAS resources, which were not included in the 2025 LTRA. Load forecasts and other resource projections were not updated in the probabilistic analysis conducted by MISO.

Analysis Approach

NERC evaluates industry-provided resource adequacy data and credible studies to assess risks of future energy shortfalls as the system is currently planned. Probabilistic and deterministic analyses provide forward-looking snapshots of resource adequacy tied to industry forecasts of electricity supplies, demand, and transmission development. The risk analysis entails these components:

- **Assessing load-loss metrics determined from probability-based simulation of projected demand and resource availability across all hours:** This approach identifies high-risk periods and potential energy constraints resulting in load-loss events. MISO updated the 2025 Probabilistic Assessment (ProbA) to examine the system as planned for the years 2027 and 2029. Loss-of-load hours (LOLH) and expected normalized unserved energy (NEUE) from the probabilistic analysis were used to identify risk levels.
- **Comparing the margin between projected resources and peak net demand, or Anticipated Reserve Margin (ARM), to a reserve margin target:** This reserve margin target is known as the Reference Margin Level (RML), and it represents the accepted level of risk based on a probability-based loss-of-load analysis.

The risk determination is based on data and information provided to NERC and represents a snapshot in time.

Risk Categories

NERC uses the following three levels of risk category determination for each assessment area and associated years for which there is a risk of energy shortfall during the first five years of the LTRA period. An assessment area is determined as **High Risk** when established resource adequacy targets or requirements are not met or when probabilistic or deterministic energy analyses find that planned resources produce shortfalls resulting in unserved energy or load loss exceeding criteria for the baseline resource adequacy specified as follows:

- Annual LOLH exceeds 2 hours/year for one or more years in the ProbA.
- Annual normalized expected unserved energy (EUE) exceeds 0.002% (20 ppm) for one or more years in the ProbA.
- Resource adequacy target(s) established by the regulatory authority or system operator are not met.

An assessment area is determined to have **Elevated Risk** when it meets the established resource adequacy targets and baseline criteria but does not meet more stringent thresholds of unserved energy and load loss that provide for reliability in more extreme weather conditions.

- Annual LOLH is between 0.1 and 2 hours/year for one or more years in the ProbA.
- Annual normalized EUE is less than 0.002% (20 ppm) but greater than or equal to 0.0002% (2 ppm) for one or more years in the ProbA.

- Resource adequacy target(s) established by the regulatory authority or system operator are met but plausible scenarios of above-normal demand and/or low-resource conditions indicate risk of load loss.

An assessment area is determined to have **Normal Risk** if resource adequacy criteria are met and there is a low likelihood of electricity supply shortfall even when demand is above forecasts or resource performance is abnormally low.

- Annual LOLH is below 0.1 hours/year in the ProbA.
- Annual normalized EUE is below 0.0002% (2 ppm).
- Resource adequacy target(s) established by regulatory authority or system operator are met and reserves are expected to be available in plausible scenarios of above-normal demand and/or low-resource conditions associated with a once-per-decade event.

Chapter 3: Capacity and Energy Risk Analysis for MISO with ERAS

The probabilistic analysis done in March 2026 for this sensitivity case found that the MISO assessment area had improved resource adequacy metrics compared to the 2025 *LTRA*. With ERAS additions, MISO would be in the **elevated risk** category for year 2027. From 2028 and beyond, the risk threshold has shifted to **normal risk** with the addition of ERAS projects and the assumption that these will become commercially operational by the end of 2028 (see [Table 3.1](#)).

Year	EUE (MWh)	NEUE (ppm)	LOLH (hours per year)	Anticipated Reserve Margin (ARM)		Reference Margin	
				Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter
2026				11.8%	27.2%	8.1%	19.1%
2027	430.62	0.61	0.11	12.5%	26.0%	8.3%	19.8%
2028				19.5%	37.1%	8.5%	20.5%
2029	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.5%	31.8%	8.5%	20.9%
2030				24.0%	27.0%	8.5%	21.2%

Most of the MISO ERAS resource capacity is projected to come from natural-gas-fired generators, which are generally dispatchable and help reduce energy shortfall risks throughout the year. When analyzing results from the updated probabilistic analysis, risk of load loss was seen to remain in 2027 and resided within the summer season, while risk of load loss within the winter season was mitigated. Both the 2027 and 2029 updated results displayed an overall reduction in the annual unserved energy metrics compared to the 2025 *LTRA* results.

Figure 3.1 details the capacity additions that were included within each season and year of this analysis.³

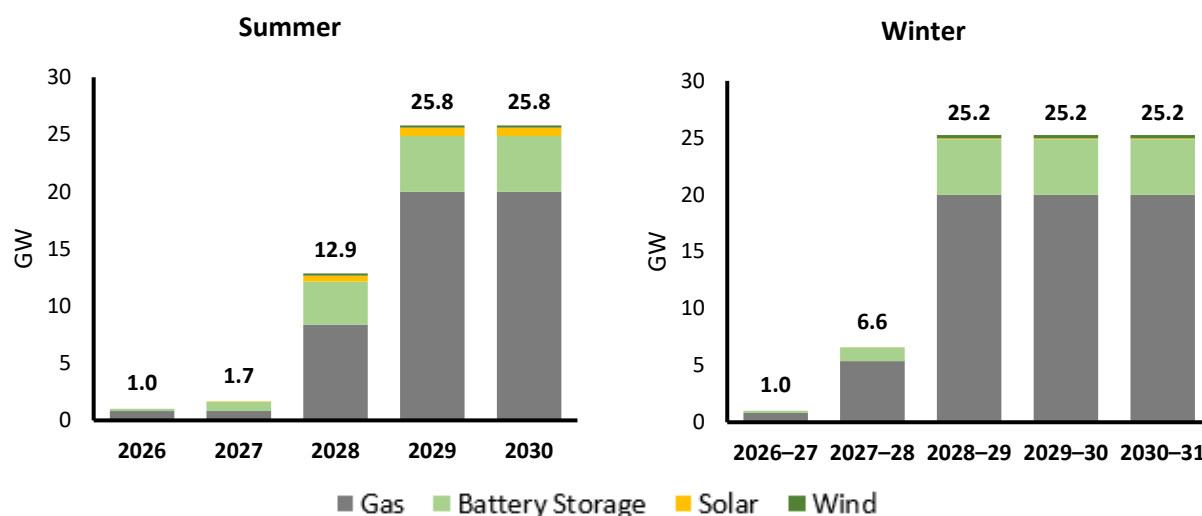


Figure 3.1: ERAS Project Cumulative Capacity Addition Summary 2026–2030³

³ Values are unforced capacity (or certain capacity) additions as reported by MISO. In general, unforced capacity refers to the expected capability of the resource to provide energy to serve expected demand. Thermal generating capacity is adjusted to account for outages or derates. Solar, wind, and batteries are derated due to their variability.

Analysis of anticipated resources (existing + Tier 1) when compared with 2025 load forecast projections display adequate capacity for both the summer and winter seasons and may be seen in **Figure 3.2**. These results offer a point-in-time snapshot of risk based on the data available during the time of this analysis and provide additional insights from a deterministic approach.

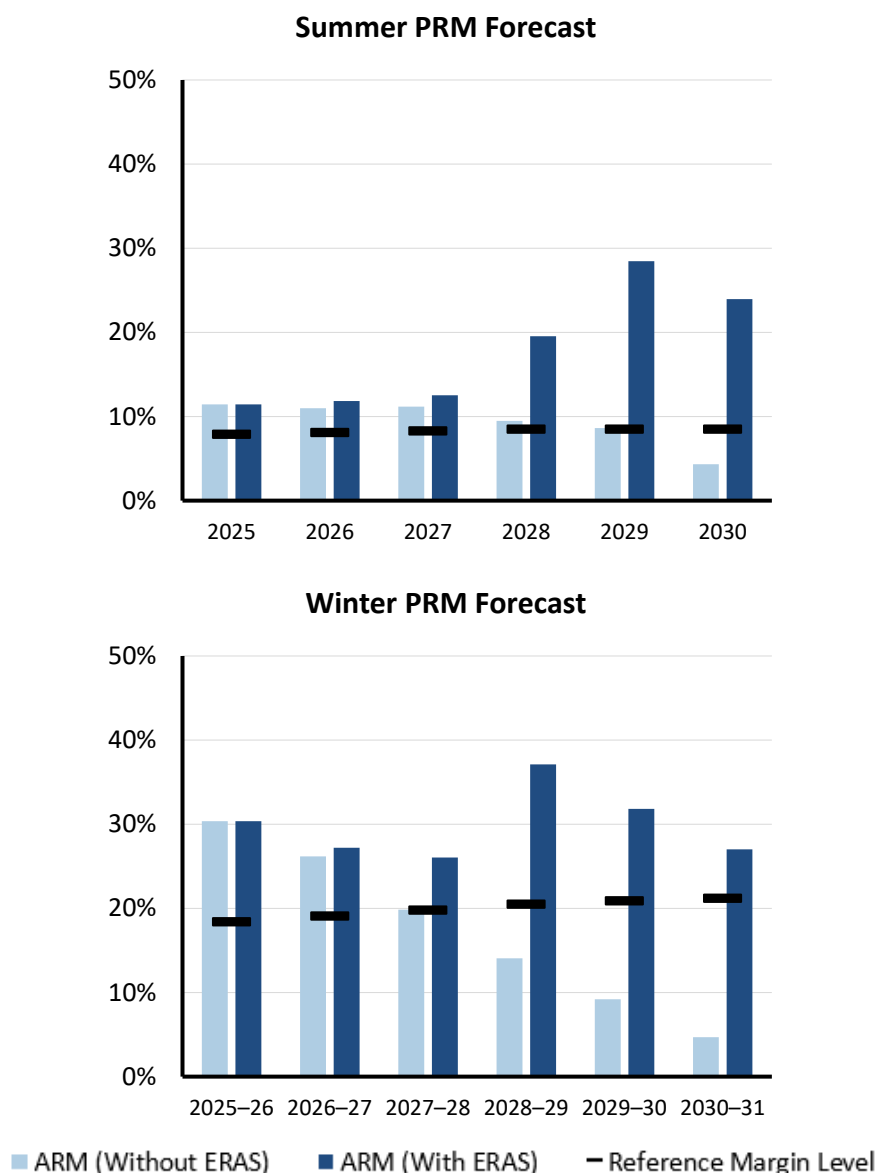


Figure 3.2: MISO Planning Reserve Margins with and Without ERAS Additions

The foundational assumption to this analysis is that all the ERAS projects will be commercially operational as currently projected by the end of 2028. The included ERAS resources meet the criteria that NERC uses for counting capacity in the LTRA energy and capacity risk assessment, but the pace of resource additions in MISO with ERAS far exceeds recent historical levels. In the 2025 LTRA and 2025 ProbA MISO factored in potential delays and withdrawals to resource additions based on historical information from the interconnection process. The following chapter discusses project timing and completion concerns and other issues that would affect the capacity and energy risk results presented in this chapter.

Chapter 4: Grounded Expectations

The ERAS process can enable rapid interconnection study and approvals, but industry still faces persistent headwinds to develop energy infrastructure. Familiar obstacles to realizing the speed and scale of resource additions in MISO remain, including development of the transmission network and fuel infrastructure needed to support the new generation. MISO, utilities, and regulators will need to carefully monitor the ERAS and interconnection queue progress, development of related transmission and energy infrastructure, and load forecast projections. Areas of concern are highlighted in this chapter.

Realistic Projections for Resource Additions

The approval of new ERAS projects in late 2025 provides a sizable increase to the projected resource additions in MISO at a time when MISO and other areas are straining to build out new generation and transmission. MISO is projecting strong growth in resources—exceeding 50 GW of accredited capacity by 2029 Summer (50% from ERAS projects)—to meet growing demand (see [Figure 4.1](#)). In the next three years alone, MISO is projecting to add over 34 GW of accredited capacity to its system, which is three times more accredited capacity than has come on-line in the last three years within the MISO area. For such an acceleration in resource development, challenges should be anticipated.

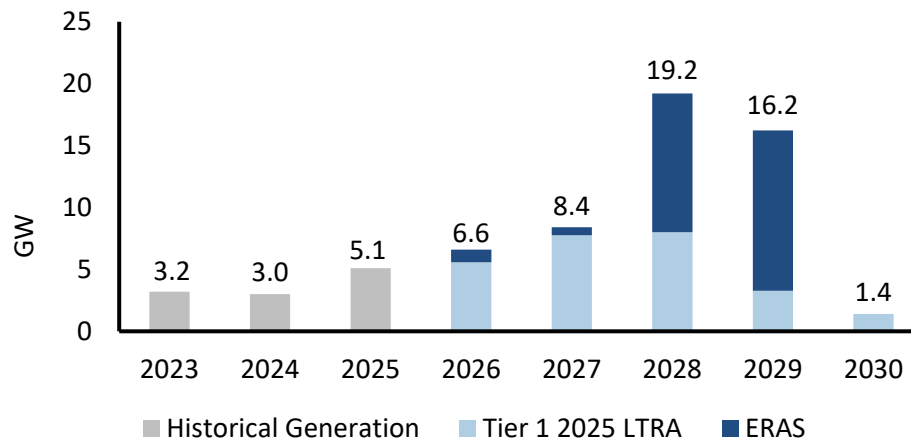


Figure 4.1: Historical and Projected Accredited Capacity Additions in MISO⁴

Over the past two years, NERC’s LTRA has shown that industry resource growth projections can outpace actual completion rates. Industry efforts to interconnect new resources and develop energy infrastructure are hampered by unresponsive supply chains, permitting delays, and project owner decisions that contribute to an uncertain pace of resource growth. Reviews of interconnection progress find that many resources do not come in as expected. Analysis performed by WECC for the Western Interconnection found that, on average from 2022 to 2024, 67% of the planned resources in the West were added on time.⁵ Lawrence Berkeley National Labs analysis finds that the median time for generators to go from having a signed interconnection agreement to commercial operation is 33 months and has been growing.⁶

⁴ Historical accredited generation came on-line by the end of the calendar year while projected capacity is assumed to be on-line by the summer season of the year referenced.

Historical accredited generation came online by the end of the calendar year while projected capacity is assumed to be online by the summer season of the year referenced.

⁵ WECC [2025 Western Assessment of Resource Adequacy](#)

⁶ Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory [Queued Up 2025 Edition](#)

Risk of Project Delays

ERAS projects have priority for study and processing stages of interconnection but are not insulated from other project development hurdles, like slow supply chains or issues with siting and permitting. ERAS generator projects may also require transmission or natural gas infrastructure upgrades that can also be subject to the same development challenges. Equipment delays and shortages in materials and skilled workers are affecting generator and transmission projects broadly. The industry is experiencing delays due to low availability of long-lead equipment including gas turbines and power transformers, and issues are expected to become more acute as demand for grid equipment escalates globally.⁷ Permitting challenges are also on the rise. It is increasingly common for new generation and energy infrastructure projects to face opposition at local government levels, though some states in MISO now prohibit local laws from being more restrictive than state laws for some resource types.⁸

MISO interconnection queue timelines for past (non-ERAS) projects indicate that delays can reach one and a half years for natural gas resources, two years for battery storage resources, and over two and a half years for wind and solar resources from the completion dates in original interconnection agreements. The ERAS process allows project developers to delay their commercial operation date (COD) by up to three years from the COD on its approved interconnection agreement.

Risk of Project Cancellations

System planners can anticipate that some resource project developers will cancel their projects despite the expedited interconnection processing. The Texas Energy Fund (TEF) is an example of an initiative to spur resource growth in Texas that is underutilized and suffered from 5 GW in project withdrawals since it was established in 2023. The TEF program currently has 3.5 GW in approved projects and has produced few resource additions toward the program's goal of 10 GW.⁹

MISO's ERAS program carries penalties for project owners that cancel their project after receiving a signed interconnection agreement. Projects totaling 5.3 GW of installed capacity (18% of current ERAS projects) have executed interconnection agreements. Projects can be withdrawn from the ERAS queue prior to having an interconnection agreement without penalty. As of March 2026, 36 GW of projects entered the ERAS queue and 18% of that total (or 6.6 GW) have been withdrawn from the ERAS queue (see [Figure 4.2](#)). Two of the withdrawn projects are battery resources with a combined 650 MW capacity that were included as additions in this sensitivity analysis.

⁷ WECC reports in the [2025 Western Assessment of Resource Adequacy](#) that wait times for transformers and circuit breakers is between two and four years.

⁸ Matthew Eisenson, Jacob Elkin, Ivonne Norman, Rebecca Coombs, Chadol Kim, Rex Koenig, Suzan Michalski, Eric Quiroz, Josepi Scariano, Ava Teasdale, Victor Tong, and Annabel Williams, *Opposition to Renewable Energy Facilities in the United States: June 2025 Edition*, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, June 2025 Available at: https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/sabin_climate_change/251

⁹ See Texas Energy Fund [online](#) for listing of awards and links to filings.

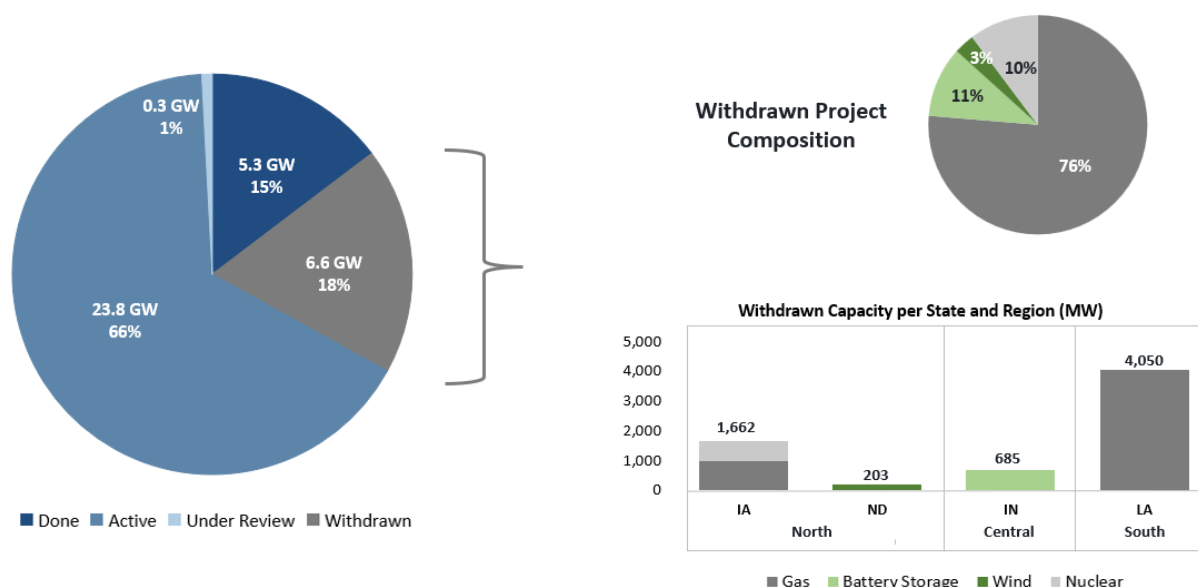


Figure 4.2: Total ERAS Project Summary and Withdrawn Composition (Max Installed Capacity)

Trends in Load Forecasts are Rising

In updating resource projections with late 2025 additions but not including the new load forecasts that MISO is processing for this same point in time, the limited-scope analysis ignores the effect that past trends in load growth could have on the results. NERC's 2025 LTRA observed that BPS electricity demand forecasts continue to rise over prior-year assessments. In 2025, MISO reported higher demand forecasts than the prior year and expected that increases would continue.

As noted in the 2025 LTRA, MISO's forecasted peak total internal demand is expected to reach 127 GW during the 2026 Summer season (up over 2.6 GW since the same year's projection in the 2024 LTRA) and is expected to grow to 143.7 GW by 2035. Much of MISO's load growth forecast comes from the addition of large computational loads whose operational characteristics are still being evaluated to better understand the impact that these loads will have during low margin or critical hours where system risk may occur. Over the past several years, load forecasts have changed year over year to include higher peak demands with varying expectations for when these loads will materialize across the MISO system. All assessment areas, including MISO, will provide new load forecast projections for the 2026 LTRA in July 2026.

Natural Gas Infrastructure Needs

The addition of ERAS natural-gas-fired generation in the next four years can provide important reliability benefits provided that the fuel infrastructure can support MISO's growing reliance on natural gas fuel. However, the current natural gas system can become constrained during extreme cold weather resulting in operational flow orders and fuel supply curtailments to electric generators.¹⁰

Over 75% (exceeding 20 GW) of ERAS projects in this analysis are natural-gas-supplied and are concentrated in Louisiana, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Iowa. The ability of current natural gas transportation capacity to meet increasing generation needs is in question, and newly planned natural gas infrastructure is at risk of delays

¹⁰ Winter storms Uri in 2021 and Elliott in 2022 revealed vulnerabilities within the interdependent natural gas and electric systems through major gas supply disruptions. More recently, MISO noted generator unplanned outages and derates due to fuel related issues in [Winter Storm Fern](#).

due to regulatory and commercial challenges, as well as supply chain congestion. In addition, there is potential for misalignment between the locations of new pipeline projects and the areas of greatest need. The stress on the natural gas pipeline grid makes clear the need for careful analysis of generator fuel assurance plans and backup fuel capability.

Chapter 5: Recommendations

The limited-scope analysis confirmed 2025 LTRA findings: Timely implementation of ERAS resources would eliminate reserve margin shortfalls in MISO and improve EUE metrics. This is a significant and important takeaway. By streamlining the study and interconnection process for resource additions that address identified reliability needs and are approved by regulators, MISO is removing an obstacle that has become increasingly prevalent in the ISO/RTO areas. The ERAS program is a strong response by MISO, its utility members, and state regulators to address serious resource adequacy challenges from load growth, generator retirements, and a transforming resource mix. **As MISO and other ISO/RTOs analyze their interconnection queue performance, NERC recommends that they share findings and best practices to promote broad application of enhancements that reduce backlogs in interconnection queues and support adding resources that are needed for reliability.**

As more ERAS projects reach the stage of having signed interconnection agreements and begin siting, permitting, and construction, it is crucial for MISO, Generator Owners, and regulators to carefully track their progress and be prepared to adjust resource and system plans. Industry has reported delays for energy infrastructure projects that stem from a variety of sources.

NERC recommends that ISO/RTOs and stakeholders in market areas maintain necessary flexibility in their resource plans and market procurement processes. Monitoring the development of projects in the expedited interconnection processes and feedback loops are needed so that adjustments can be made when resource buildout is not on track to meet intended targets. Factors that can affect resource development timelines that need to be monitored include the following:

- **Siting and permitting:** Project developers should provide early indication of permitting challenges to regulators and ISO/RTOs.
- **Supply chain issues:** An up-to-date project status will help maintain a realistic outlook for commercial operation.
- **Fuel infrastructure development:** To support substantial additions in natural-gas-fired generation and accurately assess their contribution to reliability, system planners need to have insights into fuel arrangements and should monitor natural gas industry plans for infrastructure development.
- **Project cancellations:** Stakeholders in expedited interconnection processes should maintain flexibility in resource plans while project owner plans progress toward commercial operation.

Planners will need to balance the pace of resource additions against future shifts in demand forecasts. Escalating load forecasts have been the trend for the North American BPS for the past three years with several areas expecting peak demand to grow by over 2% per year for the next 10 years. Because of the size and construction speed of new data center projects, demand forecasts can change substantially each year. Expedited resource programs such as ERAS are providing a crucial boost to meet needs as anticipated today; however, flexibility in resource plans and interconnection processes will still be needed to meet shifting demand forecasts and development timelines.

NERC's 2026 LTRA will provide a more complete snapshot of future resource adequacy risks for MISO and the rest of the North American BPS. The next LTRA will be published in early 2027.

2026 Summer Reliability Assessment

May 2026

RELIABILITY | RESILIENCE | SECURITY

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Table of Contents

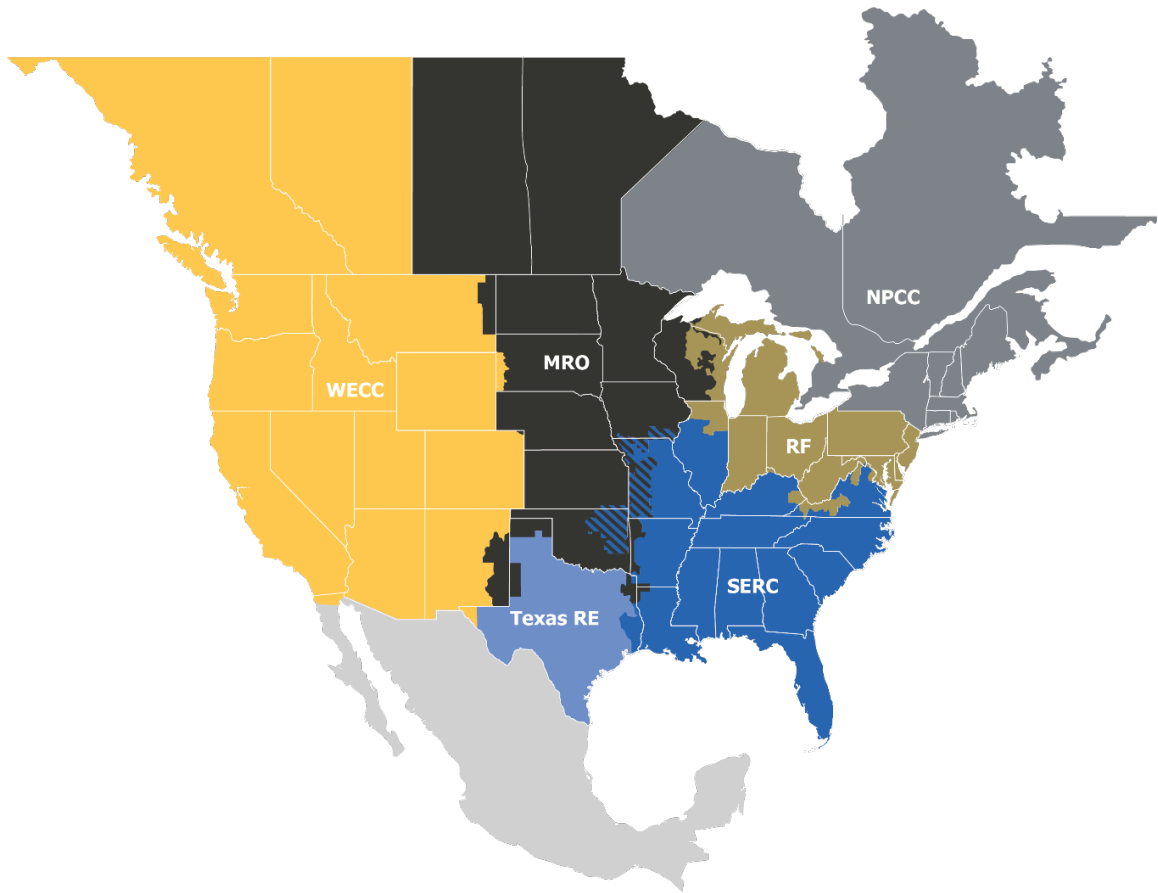
Preface.....	iii	SERC-Florida Peninsula	28
About This Assessment.....	iv	SERC-Southeast.....	29
Key Findings.....	1	Texas RE-ERCOT.....	30
Resource Adequacy Assessment and Energy Risk Analysis	2	WECC-Alberta	31
Other Key Reliability Highlights.....	4	WECC-Basin.....	32
Recommendations	6	WECC-British Columbia.....	33
Risk Highlights.....	7	WECC-California.....	34
Summer Temperature and Drought Forecasts.....	7	WECC-Mexico	35
Demand and Resource Trends	8	WECC-Northwest	36
Risk Assessment Discussion	10	WECC-Rocky Mountain	37
Regional Assessments Dashboards.....	15	WECC-Southwest.....	38
MISO	16	Data Concepts and Assumptions.....	39
MRO-Manitoba Hydro.....	17	Resource Adequacy	42
MRO-SaskPower.....	18	Changes from Year to Year.....	43
MRO-SPP	19	Net Internal Demand.....	44
NPCC-Maritimes.....	20	Demand and Resource Tables	45
NPCC-New England	21	Variable Energy Resource Contributions	51
NPCC-New York.....	22	Review of 2025 Capacity and Energy Performance	52
NPCC-Ontario.....	23	Eastern Interconnection–Canada and Québec Interconnection.....	52
NPCC-Québec.....	24	Eastern Interconnection–United States	53
PJM.....	25	Texas Interconnection–ERCOT	53
SERC-Central	26	Western Interconnection	53
SERC-East	27		

Preface

Electricity powers our modern life and is the bedrock of our economic wellbeing. The Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Enterprise—comprised of NERC and the six Regional Entities—is firmly committed to assuring a highly reliable, resilient, and secure bulk power system (BPS) in North America. The ERO Enterprise enables collaborative engagement with industry, regulators, and stakeholders, embracing innovation and supporting the needs of nearly 400 million people.

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SERC	SERC Reliability Corporation
Texas RE	Texas Reliability Entity
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About This Assessment

NERC’s *2026 Summer Reliability Assessment* (SRA) identifies, assesses, and reports on areas of concern regarding the reliability of the North American BPS for the upcoming summer season. In addition, the SRA presents peak electricity demand and supply changes and highlights any unique regional challenges or expected conditions that might affect the reliability of the BPS. The reliability assessment process is a coordinated evaluation between the NERC Reliability Assessment Subcommittee, the Regional Entities, and NERC staff with demand and resource projections obtained from the assessment areas. This report reflects an independent assessment by NERC and the ERO Enterprise and is intended to inform industry leaders, planners, operators, and regulatory bodies so that they are better prepared to take necessary actions to ensure BPS reliability. This report also provides an opportunity for industry to discuss plans and preparations to ensure reliability for the upcoming summer period.

Key Findings

NERC’s annual SRA covers the upcoming four-month (June–September) summer period. This assessment evaluates generation resource and transmission system adequacy as well as energy sufficiency to meet projected summer peak demands and operating reserves. This includes a deterministic evaluation of data submitted for peak demand hour and risk hours as well as results from recently updated probabilistic analyses. Additionally, this assessment identifies potential reliability issues of interest and regional topics of concern. While the scope of this seasonal assessment is focused on the upcoming summer, the key findings are consistent with risks and issues that NERC highlighted in the *2025 Long-Term Reliability Assessment* (LTRA), which covers a 10-year horizon, and other earlier reliability assessments and reports.¹

The 2026 Summer risk profile is marked by rising demand, significant generation growth in many areas, the prospect of challenging hydrological conditions, and the unpredictability of large loads, from both a forecasting and operational perspective. Multiple assessment areas have revised load forecasts downward from mid-2025 projections to account for the observed rate of completion for large load interconnections and the slower-than-expected pace at which some of those loads are coming on-line. Still, aggregated peak demand across all assessment areas has increased by over 11 GW from Summer 2025 projections that were set earlier in 2025. That level of growth exceeds the year-on-year rise of 10 GW that preceded Summer 2025. As important as the demand growth itself is the timing of the demand. The early arrival of summer heat and high demand in March has highlighted the risks associated with potential overlaps between spring maintenance outages and high demand. The importance of shoulder season supply-demand analysis continues to grow. The BPS has added slightly more than 58 GW of new resources year on year heading into the coming summer. This large resource addition has partly contributed to the improved risk outlook for some areas. The resource additions continue to include a high proportion of variable energy resources, supporting the prioritization of low-wind event preparation and probabilistic analysis of available energy at peak and risk hours.

The following findings are derived from NERC and the ERO Enterprise’s independent evaluation of electricity generation and transmission capacity as well as potential operational concerns that may need to be addressed for Summer 2026.

¹ NERC’s long-term, seasonal, and special reliability assessments are published on the [Reliability Assessments webpage](#).

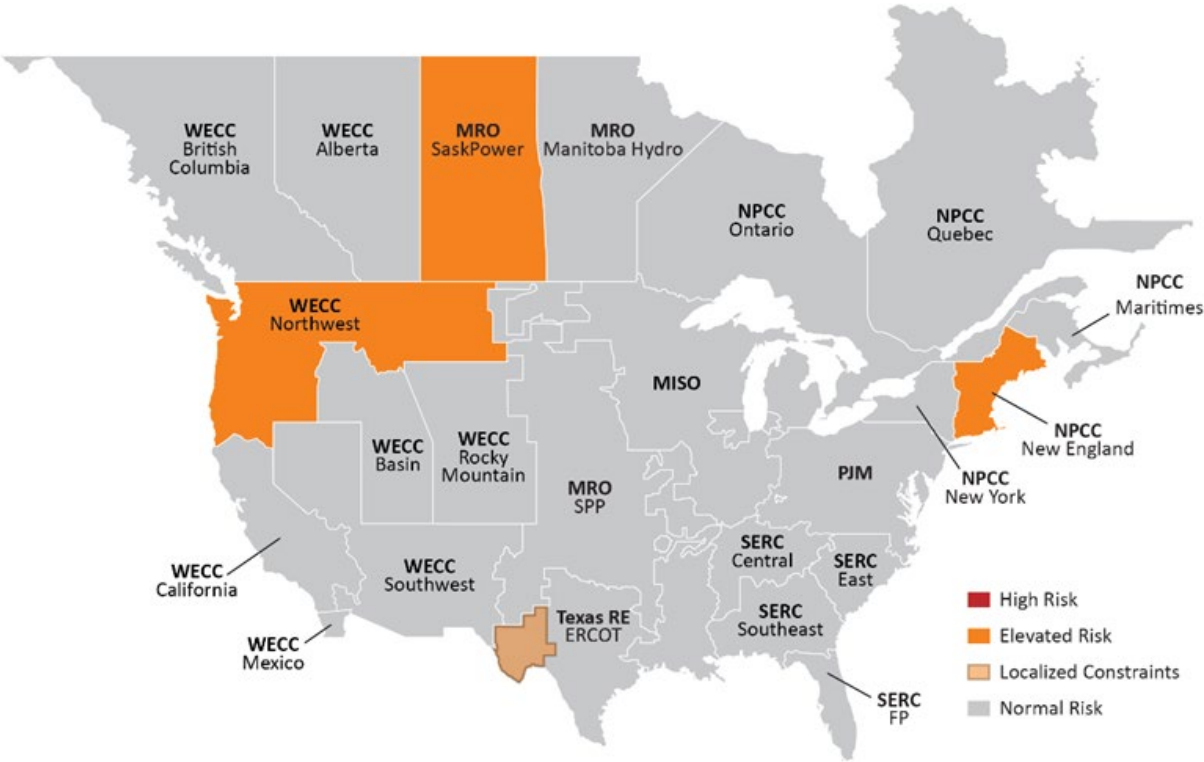
Resource Adequacy Assessment and Energy Risk Analysis

All areas are assessed as having adequate anticipated resources for normal summer peak load conditions (see [Figure 1](#)). However, the following areas face elevated risks of electricity supply shortfalls during periods of more extreme summer conditions or are subject to localized constraints that raise the risk levels of certain small areas within the broader system. This determination of elevated risk is based on analysis of plausible scenarios, including 90/10 demand forecasts and historical high outage rates as well as low wind or solar photovoltaic (PV) energy conditions:

- **NPCC-New England:** The New England area expects to have sufficient resources to meet the 2026 Summer peak demand forecast for normal conditions with an Anticipated Reserve Margin of 14%, just above the Reference Margin Level of 13%. New England may rely on non-firm imports to cover shortfalls even as the region has lowered its projected net firm imports by 836 MW from the previous year’s projections to just 409 MW for the coming summer season. The decline in firm transfers is the main driver of the 2.6% year-on-year drop in anticipated resources. Non-firm imports, however, received a boost in January with the addition of New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC), a symmetric monopole +/- 320 HVdc line from the Appalaches substation in Québec to a new substation in Lewiston, Maine. NECEC will be used as an “import-only” tie with Hydro Québec and can import up to 1,200 MW into New England. Total internal demand for the 50/50 peak summer demand forecast is 25,228 MW, up marginally from the demand projections in the 2025 SRA of 25,202 MW. Expected increases in electrification are the biggest driver in the region’s demand forecast as well as slight weather normalization changes. Other resource types have slightly increased from last year within the region. Based on NPCC’s most recent energy assessment, some use of New England’s operating procedures for mitigating resource shortages is anticipated during Summer 2026 for the base case (50/50 normal demand). For the scenario with the highest peak load and reduced resources, the results were a cumulative loss of load expectation (LOLE) of <0.35 days/period, loss of load hours (LOLH) of <1.2 hours and expected unserved energy (EUE) of 628 MWh/period.
- **MRO-SaskPower:** SaskPower was at elevated risk in the 2025 SRA, and resource adequacy metrics have declined slightly year on year for the upcoming summer period. Reserves have tightened from 34% to 29% due to a ~1.9% demand growth and no substantial change in resources. While SaskPower does not anticipate capacity constraints or reliability issues under normal conditions, extreme summer conditions may cause SaskPower to require maintenance rescheduling, short-term power transfers from neighboring utilities, and/or available demand-response programs. SaskPower’s probabilistic in-house model showed an LOLH for an elevated risk scenario for the 2026 Summer season to be 0.09 hours; the month with the highest LOLH is September (0.05 hours).
- **WECC-Northwest:** The coming summer brings challenging hydrological conditions for regions in which hydropower makes up half or more of the supply fleet. Almost the entire Western Interconnection is in the grips of a persistent drought or in an area where drought development has a greater likelihood through the end of July. In Washington, for example, the snow water equivalent was at 52% of normal levels as of April 1 this year,² when snowpack typically reaches its peak. While the total water year supply is forecast to be nearly average in the Columbia River Basin, snowpack peaked at low elevation and melted early in the year. This has implications for the expected resources available to the Northwest, the generation mix for which is 55% hydropower. The region is contending with a nearly 5% increase in net internal demand from the 2025 SRA and a nearly 2% drop in existing resources as well as a roughly 43% drop in expected Tier 1 resources. Though higher modeled net transfers are projected to contribute double what they were projected to last year (albeit with the increase largely attributable to a modeling change that accounts for economic transfers), this was not enough to prevent the drop in the Anticipated Reserve Margin from 32% last year to 27% this year. For this summer’s assessment, WECC’s study for the Northwest region resulted in small amounts of EUE, increasing from zero in the previous probabilistic assessment. The study also indicated an LOLH of >0.1 hours/period. The hour of greatest risk occurs around 6:00 p.m. in early September.
- **Texas RE:** The Texas Interconnection is widely at a normal risk level for Summer 2026 due to a 12% jump in anticipated resources for the summer period and a 4.5% decline in projected net internal demand. The lower demand forecast is the result of updated load modeling that reflects the observed behavior of load during peak periods and more demand response from large computational loads. The results of ERCOT’s Probabilistic Reserve Risk Model (PRRM) simulation indicate a low risk of declaring an energy emergency alert (EEA) during the risk hour (9:00 p.m. local time). However, the PRRM does not capture the pre-contingency load shedding risk in the Far West region of ERCOT’s footprint resulting from rapid growth in both load and resources in this zone. Operational

² [WSOR-WA](#)

challenges could arise in Far West Texas during periods of high demand combined with low wind output and absence of solar generation. Under these conditions, transmission constraints in the Far West Texas zone may become binding. Price-responsive demand is expected to help reduce transmission congestion and maintain balance with supply during tight conditions. In addition, ERCOT and transmission service providers have developed mitigation measures to address these constraints by incorporating dynamic line ratings that account for solar irradiance along with ambient temperatures. Operating procedures that include involuntary load curtailment are in place to maintain system operating limits when needed. In September 2025, two new thermal cascading Interconnection reliability operating limits (IROL) became effective in the Far West region of ERCOT’s footprint.



Seasonal Risk Assessment Summary	
High	Potential for insufficient operating reserves in normal peak conditions
Elevated	Potential for insufficient operating reserves in above-normal conditions
Normal	Sufficient operating reserves expected

Figure 1: Summer Reliability Risk Area Summary

Other Key Reliability Highlights

- **Weather services are expecting an El Niño weather pattern to influence the weather outlook for the 2026 Summer period.**³ El Niño weather patterns can suppress Atlantic hurricanes, which are a major reliability consideration for the Gulf Coast and Southeast United States. Temperature and precipitation forecasts for the coming summer show a higher likelihood of hotter-than-normal temperatures in the U.S. South and West and cooler-than-normal temperatures in the upper Midwest and parts of the Northeast (see [Figure 2](#)). Wetter-than-normal conditions could alleviate drought severity in the Gulf Coast, but the U.S. Northwest is still expected to see drier-than-normal conditions,⁴ starting with sub-average snowpack⁵ heading into spring that can impact the availability of hydropower units in a region that relies heavily on hydro-fueled electricity generation. In Canada, higher-than-normal temperatures are expected across the country, with the greatest likelihood residing in northeast and southwest Canada. Snowpack in Canada is generally in average conditions. British Columbia has experienced below-average snowpack in the southwest part of the province and above-average snowpack in the Columbia and Peace regions. The [Review of 2025 Capacity and Energy Performance](#) section describes actual demand and resource levels in comparison with NERC’s 2025 SRA and summarizes 2025 resource adequacy events.
- **A large influx of BPS resources over the past year has outpaced demand and is boosting reserves.** BPS resources for the upcoming summer have jumped by over 58.5 GW with the addition of substantial amounts of solar PV and battery resources and some new natural-gas-fired generators. Sixteen of the 23 assessment areas have increased available capacity ahead of summer. Solar PV is the leading type of new resource (+30.5 GW nameplate additions, contributing an additional 16.4 GW of capacity at peak demand). The addition of solar and batteries, which perform well under more hours of the day during summer than they do in winter, is helping to meet escalating demand and increase reserves in many assessment areas.
- **Strong load growth continues in nearly all assessment areas.** Load growth from data centers and large loads continues to propel North American electricity demand forecasts higher, with an increase in peak demand since Summer 2025 exceeding the change observed from the prior summer. Aggregated peak demand across all assessment areas

has increased by over 11 GW since 2025. The level of growth exceeds the year-on-year rise of 10 GW that preceded Summer 2025. The largest increases are in parts of the U.S. West. WECC-Southwest saw the largest year-on-year increase in net internal demand at +9.5%, followed by WECC-Northwest with +4.6% and WECC-Basin with 3.8%. Overall, 19 out of 23 assessment areas saw demand increases from the 2025 SRA projections.

- **Large computational and other large loads pose operational challenges for the upcoming summer.** Recent events of unexpected disconnections underscore the need for operational readiness for the upcoming summer. For example, the Eastern and ERCOT Interconnections have observed load-reduction events with each Interconnection experiencing approximately 1,500 MW of voltage-sensitive load reduction.⁶ The event in the Eastern Interconnection was primarily attributed to data centers and other power electronic loads (PEL) transferring load to backup generation, which caused frequency overshoot and high voltages. The ERCOT Interconnection event involved many different types of loads of varying sizes reducing consumption during an extended low-voltage period in West Texas due to a protection system misoperation. These load-reduction events highlight some of the potential risks posed by large loads utilizing the BPS and why NERC is closely examining this issue. NERC issued a Level 3 essential actions alert related to large loads⁷ as well as a reliability guideline regarding risk mitigation for emerging large loads.⁸
- **Battery resource additions help maintain stable frequency on the grid.** Since last summer, over 16 GW of nameplate battery storage capacity has been added to the grid. Texas and the Western Interconnection continue to have the strongest growth in these resources. The *2025 State of Reliability* report noted an upward trend in frequency response capability that can be attributed to the addition of battery storage resources.⁹ Charged battery storage resources can respond quickly to the abrupt decline in system frequency that occurs during disturbances and sudden imbalances, helping to maintain the nominal 60 Hz system frequency and prevent equipment damage and system instability. NERC’s *2026 State of Reliability* report, to be published in June, will report on this continuing trend of improved grid frequency response.

³ [Climate Prediction Center: ENSO Diagnostic Discussion](#)

⁴ [Climate Prediction Center: Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

⁵ [WSOR-WA](#)

⁶ *Incident Review: Considering Simultaneous Voltage-Sensitive Load Reductions*, NERC, January 2025. Available: https://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Documents/Incident_Review_Large_Load_Loss.pdf

⁷ [NERC Level 3 Alert: Computational Load Modeling, Studies, Instrumentation, Commissioning, Operations, Protection, and Control](#)

⁸ [Risk Mitigation for Emerging Large Loads](#)

⁹ [NERC State of Reliability reports](#)

- **The overlap of early summer heat and spring maintenance outages can lower operating reserves in the shoulder season and early summer.** March 2026 was the warmest March in the 132 years of recordkeeping in the contiguous United States.¹⁰ The average temperature across the country was 9.4°F above the 20th-century average. Raising the average were at least 10 states in the U.S. West that had their warmest March on record. The widespread heat-dome bled across the border and infused unseasonably warm temperatures into British Columbia as well, with at least five communities in the southern part of the province recording their warmest overnight low temperatures ever observed for the month of March.¹¹ Some assessment areas in the West have reported that extended lead times for hydro unit overhauls and the limited availability of engineering, procurement, and construction contractors are contributing to longer outage durations that complicate maintenance planning. Longer-than anticipated maintenance periods, in turn, can lead to higher-than-expected calls on electricity imports from neighboring regions. In other areas, there are older sites that may require extensive overhauls, such as

generator rewinds that can keep resources out of service for extended periods of time, potentially longer than planned, as discovery work manifests into additional maintenance.

- **Impacts of wind drought (i.e., low wind periods) pose a risk to reliability.** Areas of the North American electric grid continue to experience periods of wind drought or steep wind down-ramping, and installed wind capacity across the BPS is up by 3% year on year. It is critical that areas experiencing these events continue to maintain operational awareness, including accurate forecasts and appropriate operating procedures to mitigate these periods. Additionally, the impact of wind ramp events—particularly down ramp—must be anticipated and planned for such that appropriate resources are ready to replace the energy lost during these conditions. It is not uncommon for areas to experience several thousands of megawatts of wind energy coming off-line during these events. For example, in January 2025, MISO experienced a wind reduction event of 1,600 MW per hour, which also coincided with a solar ramping down and evening load ramp up.¹²

¹⁰ [Assessing the U.S. Temperature and Precipitation Analysis in March 2026 | News | National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](#)

¹¹ [Blazing hot: 1,000+ records fall in brutal March heat wave - The Weather Network](#)

¹² *Incident Review: Preparing the Grid for Wind Energy Droughts and Down-Ramps*, https://www.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/reports/event-reports/incident_review_low_wind_event.pdf

Recommendations

To reduce the risk of electricity shortfalls on the BPS this summer, NERC recommends the following:

- Reliability Coordinators (RC), Balancing Authorities (BA), and Transmission Operators (TOP) in the elevated-risk areas identified in the key findings should take the following actions:
 - Review seasonal operating plans and protocols for communicating and resolving potential supply shortfalls in anticipation of above-normal demand levels.
 - Consider the potential for higher-than-anticipated forced generator outage rates in operating plans due to plant age, operating patterns, or limited pre-seasonal maintenance availability.
 - Employ conservative generation and transmission outage coordination procedures and operate conservatively commensurate with long-range weather forecasts to ensure adequate resource availability. Past system performance reviews noted that early declaration of conservative operations in advance of extreme conditions helped reduce grid congestion and enhance transfer capability.¹³
 - Engage state or provincial regulators and policymakers to prepare for efficient implementation of demand-side management mechanisms called for in operating plans.
 - RCs, TOPs, and BAs should review outage coordination processes and policies and consider if adjustments are needed to account for potential above-normal temperatures to extend beyond the traditional summer season. Those same entities should also be prepared to adjust operating plans in early summer for delayed return-to-service of BPS generation and transmission elements.
- BAs should consider the following steps to reduce risks to system balance from conditions that could affect resources or demand for the upcoming summer:
 - **Wind energy:** In areas with ample wind resources, employ proactive operating plans for low-wind events and wind down-ramping events when weather conditions are developing or are uncertain.
 - **Hydro availability and output:** In areas with a predominance of hydro generation in the supply stack, consider in operating plans the potential for low water conditions to affect hydro generation. Coordinate a sufficient supply of alternative resource types and ready necessary demand-side management mechanisms if needed.
 - **Large computational load disconnects:** Be aware of the potential for load reductions from large computational loads in response to system conditions and include conservative practices in operating plans. Refer to NERC’s incident reviews for details of recent events involving voltage-sensitive data centers and cryptocurrency mining facilities.¹⁴

¹³ See notable operations practices in Appendix 2 of the [January 2025 Arctic Events System Performance Review / FERC, NERC, and its Regional Entities: A Joint Staff Report](#), April 2025.

¹⁴ See Incident Review section of [NERC Event Analysis](#) page.

Risk Highlights

Summer Temperature and Drought Forecasts

During the summer season, heat drives peak electricity demand as consumers use more electricity to cool their homes and businesses. March of this year brought record heat for the month and exacerbated concerns over persisting or worsening drought, concerns that gained even more traction following an underwhelming snowpack peak in the Pacific Northwest in April. Assessment area load forecasts account for many years of historical demand data, often up to 30 years, to predict summer peak demand and prepare for more extreme conditions. Peak demand hours may not coincide with the highest risk hours in the summer as the resource mix shifts during a 24-hour cycle, particularly when there are prolonged periods of above-normal temperatures. Coordinating pre-season preparations and maintenance remains critical to avoiding forced outages where possible and mitigating risks to BPS reliability.

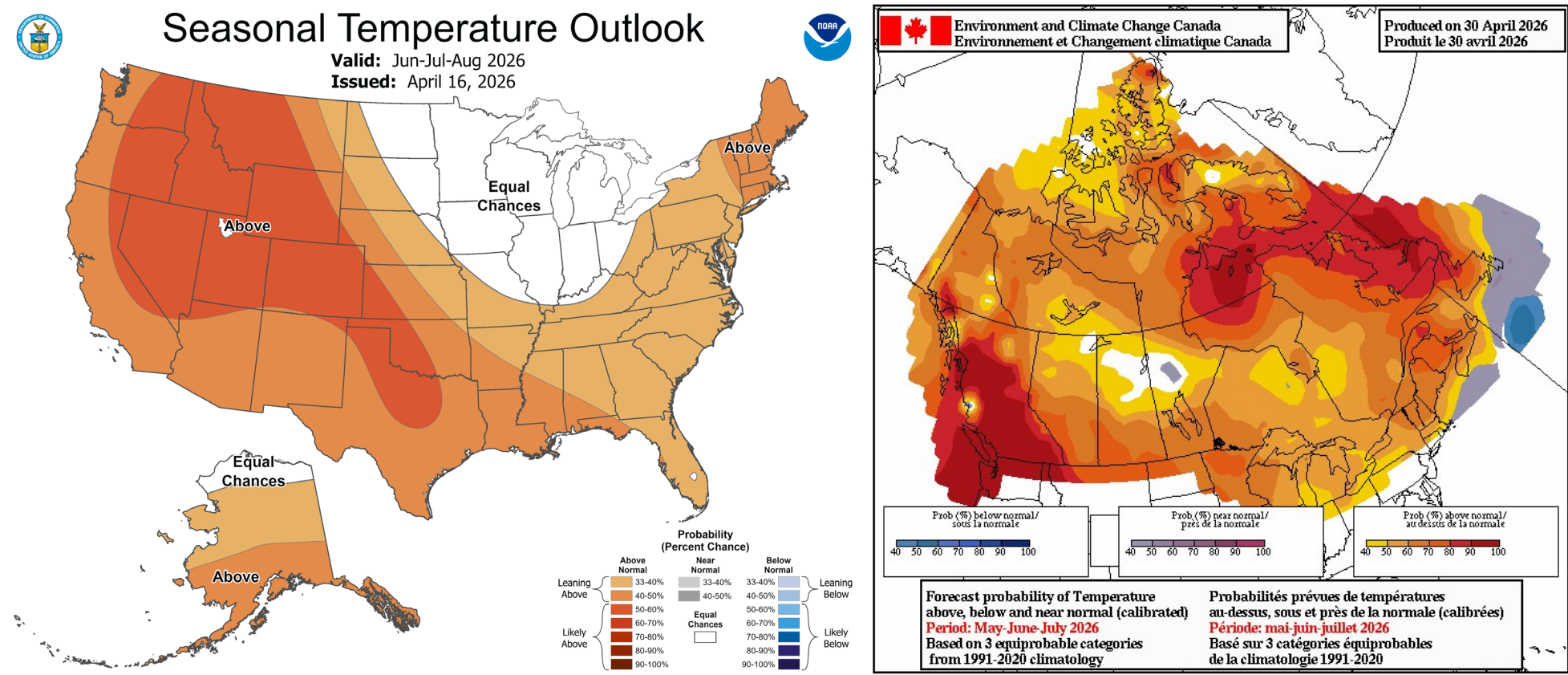


Figure 2: United States and Canada Summer Temperature Outlook¹⁵

¹⁵ Seasonal forecasts obtained from U.S. National Weather Service and Natural Resources Canada: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/ and https://weather.gc.ca/saisons/prob_e.html

Demand and Resource Trends

Strong load growth from data centers and large loads continues to propel North American electricity demand forecasts higher, with an increase in peak demand since Summer 2025 exceeding the change observed from the prior summer. Resource additions over the past year have outpaced demand growth, contributing to higher reserves.

Summer Electricity Demand Continues to Rise

Aggregated peak demand across all assessment areas has increased by over 11 GW since 2025, comparing forecasted net internal demand (NID). This measure of peak demand is inclusive of the benefits from demand response, which offset total internal demand (TID) (see Figure 3). NID continues to accelerate. The year-on-year increase in peak demand for Summer 2025 was 10 GW—more than double the increase in peak demand from 2023 to 2024.

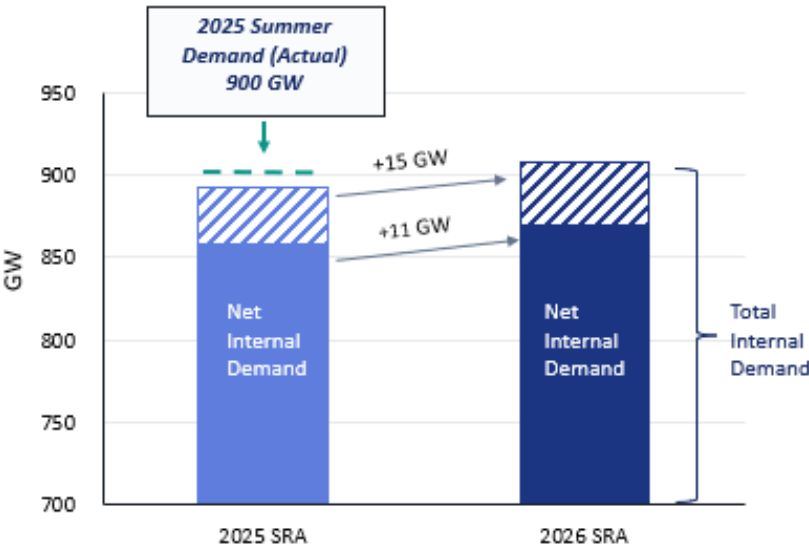


Figure 3: BPS Total and Net Internal Demand
Aggregated Peak Demand from All Assessment Areas

Nearly all assessment areas are experiencing demand growth. Peak demand forecasts have risen since 2025 in 19 of the 23 assessment areas. The largest increases are in parts of the U.S. West. In Canada, all provinces are forecasted to have increases of 2% or more except for Québec, which is

forecasting a 1% decline in peak demand. Texas RE-ERCOT is a notable exception to the growth trend this summer. TID in ERCOT declined by 1.9 GW (2.3%), largely driven by updated forecasting that accounts for observed behavior of large computational loads at peak demand. NID, which includes demand response, is 3.7 GW lower (4.6%) compared to last summer because more data centers can be curtailed by grid operators when needed to prevent grid emergencies. A summary of assessment area demand changes is provided in the [Net Internal Demand](#) section.

More Resources Available for Summer

BPS resources for the upcoming summer have jumped by over 58.5 GW with the addition of substantial amounts of solar PV and battery resources and some new natural gas-fired generators (see Figure 4). Sixteen of the 23 assessment areas have increased available capacity ahead of summer. Solar PV is the leading type of new resource (+30.5 GW nameplate additions, contributing an additional 16.4 GW of capacity at peak demand). Battery additions account for 14.7 GW in increased on-peak capacity. These resources also help balance variability in solar PV and wind resources, as well as demand fluctuations. Other capacity changes since 2025 amounting to 19 GW are attributed to resource additions of other types as well as changes to generator availability (e.g., completion of extended nuclear generator outages, changes to maintenance plans). The addition of solar and batteries, which perform well under more hours of the day during summer than they do in winter, is helping to meet escalating demand and increase reserves in many assessment areas.

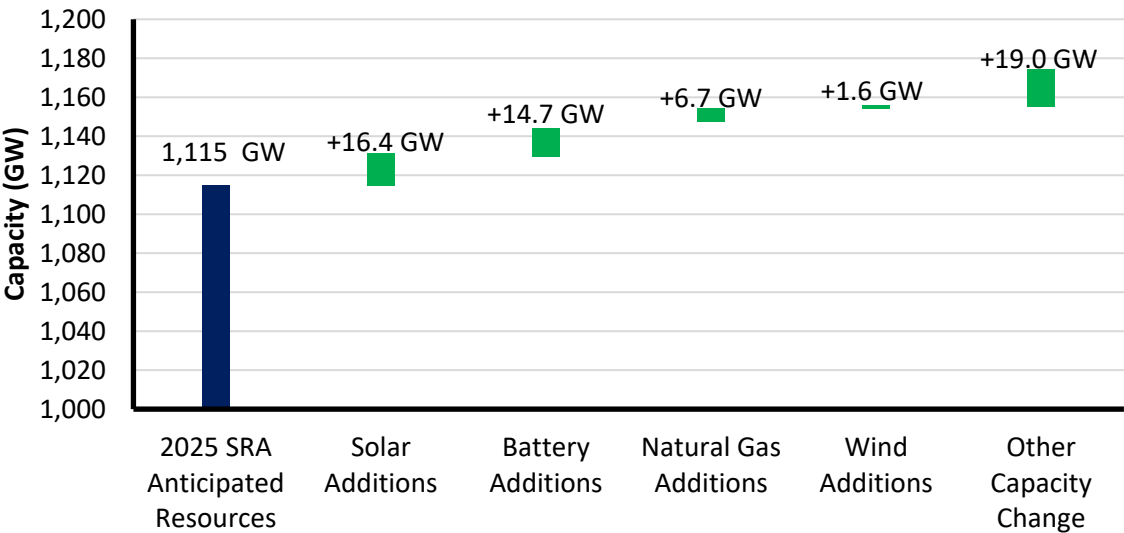


Figure 4: Summer BPS Resource Capacity Change Since 2025

Generators Extended by Federal Power Act Emergency Authority

Starting in 2025, the Department of Energy (DOE) issued emergency orders, pursuant to section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act, requiring that six different power plants maintain operational availability. Thermal generators with diverse fuel sources can be an important electricity resource, especially during winter when solar PV and battery resources are less capable compared to summer months. The DOE has since renewed those emergency orders, extending availability requirements into late May and early June (see [Table 1](#)). These plants and units were not incorporated into the anticipated resources of their corresponding assessment areas for Summer 2026 but may be called upon within the orders’ time frames.

Table 1: Power Plants Impacted by Department of Energy 202(c) Orders in 2025 and 2026				
Assessment Area	Plant Name	Nameplate Capacity (MW)	Summer Capacity (MW)	DOE 202(c) Order Expiration
MISO	J.H. Campbell	782	760	5/18/2026
MISO	F.B. Culley Generating Station	104	90	6/21/2026
MISO	Schahfer Generating Station	847	722	6/21/2026
PJM	Eddystone Generating Station	782	760	5/24/2026
WECC-NW	Centralia Generating Station	730	670	6/14/2026
WECC-RM	Craig Station	446	427	6/28/2026

Risk Assessment Discussion

NERC assesses the risk of electricity supply shortfall in each assessment area for the upcoming season by considering Planning Reserve Margins, seasonal risk scenarios, probability-based risk assessments, and other available risk information. NERC provides an independent assessment of the potential for each assessment area to have sufficient operating reserves under normal conditions as well as above-normal demand and low-resource output conditions selected for the assessment. A summary of the assessment approach is provided in [Table 2](#).

Table 2: Seasonal Risk Assessment Summary	
Category	Criteria ¹
High	- Planning Reserve Margins do not meet Reference Margin Levels - Probabilistic indices exceed benchmarks (e.g., LOLH of 2 hours or higher across the season) - Analysis of the risk hour(s) indicates resources will not be sufficient to meet operating reserves under normal peak-day demand with normal resource scenarios²
Potential for insufficient operating reserves in normal peak conditions	
Elevated	- Probabilistic indices are low but not negligible (e.g., LOLH above 0.1 hours across the season) - Analysis of the risk hour(s) indicates resources will not be sufficient to meet operating reserves under extreme peak-day demand with normal resource scenarios² (i.e., typical or expected outage and derate scenarios for conditions) - Analysis of the risk hour(s) indicates resources will not be sufficient to meet operating reserves under normal peak-day demand with reduced resource scenarios³ (i.e., extreme outage and derate scenarios)
Potential for insufficient operating reserves in above-normal conditions	
Normal	- Probabilistic indices are negligible (e.g., LOLH below 0.1 hours across the season) - Analysis of the risk hour(s) indicates resources will be sufficient to meet operating reserves under normal and extreme peak-day demand and outage scenarios⁴
Sufficient operating reserves expected	

Table Notes:

¹ The table provides general criteria. Other factors may influence a higher or lower risk assessment.

² **Normal resource scenarios** include planned and typical forced outages as well as outages and derates that are closely correlated to the peak demand.

³ **Reduced resource scenarios** include planned and typical forced outages and low-likelihood resource scenarios, such as extreme low-wind scenarios, low-hydro scenarios during drought years, or high thermal outages when such a scenario is warranted.

⁴ Even in normal risk assessment areas, extreme demand and extreme outage scenarios that are not closely linked may indicate risk of operating reserve shortfall.

Assessment of Planning Reserve Margins and Operational Risk Analysis

Anticipated Reserve Margins, which provide the Planning Reserve Margins for normal peak conditions, as well as reserve margins for seasonal risk scenarios of more extreme conditions are provided in [Table 3](#).

Table 3: Seasonal Risk Scenario On-Peak Reserve Margins			
Assessment Area	Anticipated Reserve Margin	Anticipated Reserve Margin with Typical Outages	Anticipated Reserve Margin with Higher Demand, Outages, Derates in Extreme Conditions
MISO	31.1%	21.6%	3.8%
MRO-Manitoba	13.2%	9.5%	4.3%
MRO-SaskPower	29.2%	23.2%	7.3%
MRO-SPP	26.8%	21.4%	3.8%
NPCC-Maritimes	83.8%	73.4%	53.3%
NPCC-New England	14.0%	4.0%	-0.9%
NPCC-New York	34.2%	15.0%	7.5%
NPCC-Ontario	32.4%	32.4%	12.3%
NPCC-Québec	34.5%	16.4%	7.3%
PJM	26.2%	16.1%	3.8%
SERC-C	18.9%	13.9%	5.6%
SERC-E	26.3%	17.4%	10.3%
SERC-FP	25.8%	20.7%	13.6%
SERC-SE	36.9%	33.1%	24.7%
TRE-ERCOT	67.9%	60.2%	20.4%
WECC-AB	32.3%	28.2%	9.1%
WECC-Basin	37.6%	34.9%	11.5%
WECC-BC	40.5%	40.0%	9.6%
WECC-Cal	55.6%	54.3%	17.0%
WECC-Mex	32.5%	25.5%	11.0%
WECC-NW	26.9%	25.2%	8.8%
WECC-RM	51.9%	49.2%	21.5%
WECC-SW	48.1%	44.7%	25.2%

Seasonal risk scenarios for each assessment area are presented in the [Regional Assessments Dashboards](#) section. The on-peak reserve margin and seasonal risk scenario charts in each

dashboards provide potential summer peak demand and resource condition information, as well as risk hour resource condition information for areas where the risk hour differs from the peak demand hour. The reserve margins on the right side of the dashboard pages provide a comparison to the previous year’s assessment. The seasonal risk scenario charts present deterministic scenarios for further analysis of different demand and resource levels with adjustments for normal and extreme conditions. The assessment areas determined the adjustments to capacity and peak demand based on methods or assumptions that are summarized in the seasonal risk scenario charts; more information about these dashboard charts is provided in the [Data Concepts and Assumptions](#) section.

The seasonal risk scenario charts can be expressed in terms of reserve margins: In [Table 3](#), each assessment area’s Anticipated Reserve Margins are shown alongside the reserve margins for a typical generation outage scenario (where applicable) and the extreme demand and resource conditions in their seasonal risk scenario.

Highlighted in [orange](#) are the areas identified as having resource adequacy or energy risks for the summer in the [Key Findings](#) section. The typical outage reserve margin includes anticipated resources minus the capacity that is likely to be on maintenance or forced outage during peak demand conditions. If the typical maintenance or forced outage margin is the same as the Anticipated Reserve Margin, it is because an assessment area has already factored typical outages into the anticipated resources. The extreme conditions margin includes all components of the scenario and represents the most severe operating conditions of an area’s summer risk scenario. Note that any reserve margin below zero indicates that the resources fall below demand in the scenario.

In addition to the peak demand and seasonal risk hour scenario charts, the assessment areas provided a resource adequacy risk assessment that was probability-based for the summer season. Results are summarized in [Table 4](#). The risk assessments account for the hour(s) of greatest risk of resource shortfall. For most areas, the hour(s) of risk coincides with the time of forecasted peak demand; however, some areas incur the greatest risk at other times based on the varying demand and resource profiles. Various risk metrics are provided and include LOLE, LOLH, EUE, and the probabilities of an EEA occurrence.

Energy Emergency Alerts

Extreme generation outages, low resource output, and peak loads similar to those experienced in wide-area heat events and the heat domes experienced in western parts of North America during the last three summers are ongoing reliability risks in certain areas for Summer 2026. When forecasted resources in an area fall below expected demand and operating reserve requirements, BAs may need to employ operating mitigations or EEAs to obtain the capacity and energy necessary for reliability. A description of each EEA level is provided below.

EEA Levels		
EEA Level	Description	Circumstances
EEA1	All available generation resources in use	- The BA is experiencing conditions in which all available generation resources are committed to meet firm load, firm transactions, and reserve commitments and is concerned about sustaining its required contingency reserves. - Non-firm wholesale energy sales (other than those that are recallable to meet reserve requirements) have been curtailed.
EEA2	Load management procedures in effect	- The BA is no longer able to provide its expected energy requirements and is an energy-deficient BA. - An energy-deficient BA has implemented its operating plan(s) to mitigate emergencies. - An energy-deficient BA is still able to maintain minimum contingency reserve requirements.
EEA3	Firm load interruption is imminent or in progress	The energy-deficient BA is unable to meet minimum contingency reserve requirements.

Table 4: Probability-Based Risk Assessment		
Assessment Area	Type of Assessment	Results and Insight from Assessment
MISO	Planning Year 2026–2027 LOLE Study Report	MISO’s values for LOLH and EUE are taken from the noted assessment report, where the annual LOLE was set at 1 day in 10 years or 0.1 LOLE but equated to 0.076 LOLE for the summer. For Summer 2026, LOLH is 0.235 hrs/year and EUE is 983.8 MWh/year for the Reference Margin Level. Expectations for load loss and unserved energy are less than these amounts because MISO’s resources are above the Reference Margin Level.
MRO-Manitoba	2024 and 2025 NERC Probabilistic Assessment (ProbA)	Manitoba Hydro’s probability-based resource adequacy risk assessments for the summer season display risk when hydro flow conditions are low and load is higher than expected. Based on the analysis that was conducted for the 2024 and 2025 ProbA, this risk was considered low as normalized EUE was less than 2 parts per million and LOLH was less than 0.2 hrs/year.
MRO-SaskPower	Probability-based capacity adequacy assessment Summer 2026	SaskPower conducted a probability-based capacity adequacy assessment for the 2026 Summer season. This assessment considered uncertainties in load forecasts, wind forecasts, and forced generation outages to calculate the expected number of hours with energy deficiencies (LOLH). LOLH equated to 0.09 hrs/season, and the month of highest risk has shifted from June to September, when the system experiences the largest uncertainties in load and generator availability forecasts. September risk makes up over 50% of summer season risk within this assessment area. SaskPower indicated that in extreme conditions, it may have to use short-term power transfers from neighboring utilities, maintenance rescheduling, and/or demand-response programs to prevent energy shortfall.
MRO-SPP	SPP East Assessment Area and 2024 NERC Probabilistic Assessment (ProbA)	Based on SPP East’s probabilistic assessment and the 2024 NERC ProbA, risk observed in summer 2026 was minimal. Risk hours that materialized during simulations occurred during late afternoon and early evening periods and were driven by high demand and low wind conditions.
NPCC	NPCC conducted an all-hour probabilistic assessment that consisted of a base case and several more severe scenarios examining low resources and higher loads. The highest peak load scenario has a 7% probability of occurring.	NPCC Regional Entity assesses that there will be an adequate supply of electricity across the Regional Entity this summer. Necessary strategies and procedures are in place to deal with operational challenges and emergencies as they may develop. Preliminary results of the probabilistic analysis by assessment area are below. NPCC anticipates releasing the assessment in May.
NPCC-Maritimes		The preliminary results of NPCC’s probabilistic assessment indicate that the Maritimes Area is not expected to require use of its established operating procedures designed to mitigate resource shortages during Summer 2026 based on a probabilistic-based assessment. The Maritimes Area did not demonstrate any measurable amounts of cumulative LOLE, LOLH, or EUE risks, and established operating procedures were sufficient to maintain a balance over the May–September summer period for all the scenarios modeled.
NPCC-New England		The preliminary results ¹⁶ of NPCC’s probabilistic assessment indicate that use of New England’s established operating procedures are sufficient to maintain a balance between electricity supply and expected 50/50 demand if needed to mitigate resource shortages. Preliminary cumulative LOLE (days/season), LOLH (hours/season), and EUE (MWh/season) risks were reported as negligible over the summer May to September period for the expected load with expected resources scenario. Under an extreme scenario, the estimated cumulative LOLE risk is 0.343 days/period, with associated LOLH of 1.178 hours/period and EUE of 628 MWh/period with the highest risk occurring in June, with some in July and August.

¹⁶ Based on preliminary runs from March 31, 2026

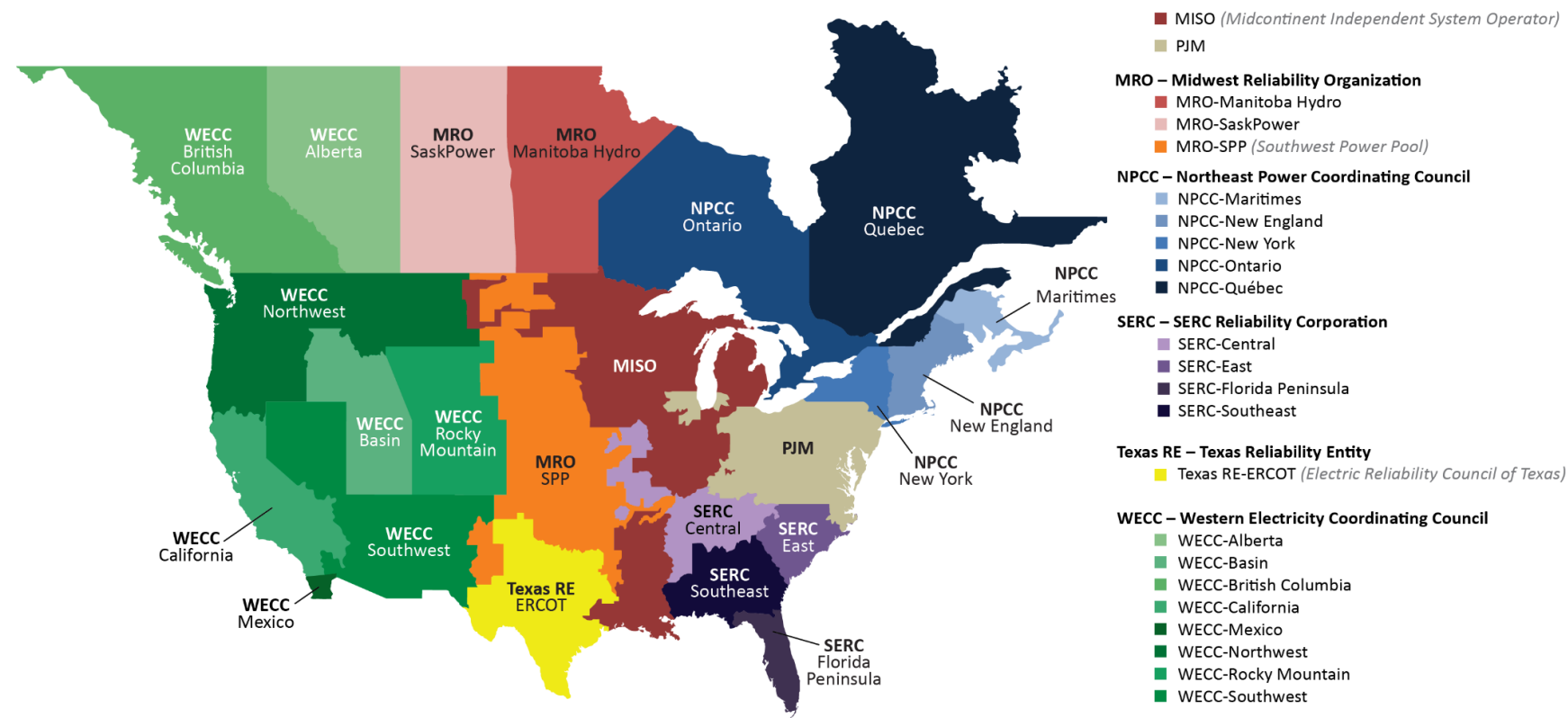
Table 4: Probability-Based Risk Assessment

Assessment Area	Type of Assessment	Results and Insight from Assessment
NPCC-New York		The preliminary results of NPCC's probabilistic assessment indicate that use of New York's established operating procedures are sufficient to maintain a balance between electricity supply and expected 50/50 demand if needed to mitigate resource shortages during Summer 2026 with less than 0.017 days of LOLE, 0.042 hours of LOLH, and 20 MWh of EUE, which is below elevated risk criteria under the scenario of highest peak load and reduced resource conditions; the estimated cumulative risk reached 0.655 days of LOLE, 2.004 hours of LOLH, and 1,262 MWh of EUE, with the greatest risks occurring in July and August.
NPCC-Ontario		The preliminary results of NPCC's probabilistic assessment indicate that operating procedures are not needed to maintain a balance between electricity supply and demand. Even under peak load and low-resource conditions, the risk of LOLE remained negligible. This stability is supported by nearly 1,100 MW of new capacity from recent gas facility upgrades and storage projects. Consequently, no emergency operating procedures were required to maintain the balance between supply and demand.
NPCC-Québec		The preliminary results of NPCC's probabilistic assessment indicate that Québec area is not expected to require use of its operating procedures designed to mitigate resource shortages during Summer 2026 based on a probabilistic-based assessment. Québec did not demonstrate any measurable amounts of cumulative LOLE, LOLH, or EUE risks over the May–September summer period for all the scenarios modeled since the system is winter peaking. The Québec area expects to be able to help other areas if needed.
PJM	2023 PJM Reserve Requirement Study (RRS)	The RRS analyzed a wide range of load scenarios (low, regular, and extreme) as well as multiple scenarios for system-wide unavailable capacity due to forced outages, maintenance outages, and ambient derations. During extreme high temperatures that can cause record demand, PJM anticipates the need for demand-response resources to help reduce load at times this summer. PJM is forecasting 26% installed reserves (including expected committed demand response), which is above the reserve requirement margin of 18.6% necessary to meet the 1-day-in-10-years LOLE criterion.
SERC	Probabilistic resource adequacy assessment for the 2026 Summer season	SERC performed a probabilistic resource adequacy assessment for the summer season (June–September) using the PowerGEM SERVM model. The analysis is based on an 8,760 hourly model with 5,375 Monte Carlo simulations per hour and incorporates data across 43 historical weather years (1980–2022), load forecast uncertainty, generator forced outages, power transfer between SERC assessment areas, and variable energy resource performance.
SERC-Central		Results from the summer 2026 probabilistic risk assessment indicate that resources will be sufficient to meet projected demand and do not exhibit any EUE or LOLH.
SERC-East		Simulations performed show that small amounts of EUE materialized in a single summer evening hour under a high-stress scenario involving elevated load, reduced solar output during the evening ramp, and coincident generator outages. The magnitude and frequency of the event are low and do not indicate a broader resource adequacy concern.
SERC-Florida Peninsula		No EUE or LOLH materialized within SERC-Florida Peninsula across all simulations, which resulted in an implied LOLE of approximately zero. These results indicate that available resources are sufficient to meet projected demand under modeled conditions.
SERC-Southeast		The probabilistic assessment did not identify any loss of load events for SERC-Southeast during the Summer 2026 season. EUE and LOLH were both zero across all simulation hours.
Texas RE-ERCOT	ERCOT probabilistic assessment using the PRRM	The simulation indicates low risk of having to declare an EEA for hour 21, the highest risk hour for the peak load day in August (which is also the expected summer peak load day) with a probability of declaring an EEA of 0.43%. This is categorized by ERCOT as “low risk” per its criteria of hourly EEA probability that is equal to or less than 10%. For the 2025 SRA, ERCOT reported EEA declaration probability for hour ending 21 of 3.1%. The large decrease in EEA probabilities is due to the addition of 8,780 MW of BESS capacity in 2025 and 2,677 MW more as of March 2026.

Table 4: Probability-Based Risk Assessment		
Assessment Area	Type of Assessment	Results and Insight from Assessment
WECC	Probabilistic resource adequacy assessment for the 2026 Summer season	For the 2026 SRA, WECC, for the first time, performed a probabilistic resource adequacy assessment using the PowerGEM SERVIM model based on an 8,760 hourly model that incorporates data across 43 historical weather years, load forecast uncertainty, generator forced outages, power transfers, and variable energy resources shapes. With this shift, WECC opted to default to the NERC defined Reference Margin Level and change its reporting to reflect the different data construct and reporting of results.
WECC-AB		WECC’s probabilistic analysis showed no LOLH or EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions.
WECC–Basin		WECC’s probabilistic analysis showed no LOLH or EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions.
WECC-BC		WECC’s probabilistic analysis showed no LOLH or EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions.
WECC-CA		WECC’s probabilistic analysis showed no LOLH or EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions.
WECC-Mex		WECC’s probabilistic analysis showed no LOLH or EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions.
WECC-RM		WECC’s probabilistic analysis showed no LOLH or EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions.
WECC-NW		WECC’s probabilistic analysis showed EUE at 2.7 MWh and LOLH of 0.1 hours weighted average under a range of weather scenarios for demand and energy availability conditions.
WECC-SW		WECC’s probabilistic analysis showed no LOLH or EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions.

Regional Assessments Dashboards

The following assessment area dashboards and summaries were developed based on data and narrative information collected by NERC from the six Regional Entities on an assessment area basis. Guidelines and definitions are in the [Data Concepts and Assumptions](#) table. On-peak reserve margin bar charts show the Anticipated Reserve Margin compared to a Reference Margin Level that is established for the areas to meet resource adequacy criteria. Prospective Reserve Margins can give an indication of additional on-peak capacity but are not used for assessing adequacy. The operational risk analysis shown in the following regional assessments dashboard pages provides a deterministic scenario for understanding how various factors that affect resources and demand can combine to impact overall resource adequacy. For each assessment area, there is a risk-period scenario graphic; the left **blue** column shows anticipated resources (from the [Demand and Resource Tables](#) section), and the **orange** column at the right shows the two demand scenarios of the normal peak net internal demand (from the [Demand and Resource Tables](#) section) and the extreme summer peak demand determined by the assessment area. The middle **red** or **green** bars show adjustments that are applied cumulatively to the anticipated resources. Adjustments may include reductions for typical generation outages (maintenance and forced not already accounted for in anticipated resources) and additions that represent the quantified capacity from operational tools (if any) that are available during scarcity conditions but have not been accounted for in the SRA reserve margins. Resources throughout the scenario are compared against expected operating reserve requirements that are based on peak load and normal weather. The cumulative effects from extreme events are also factored in through additional resource derates or low-output scenarios. In addition, results from a probability-based resource adequacy assessment are shown in the Highlights section of each dashboard. Methods varied by assessment area and provided further insights into the risk conditions forecasted for the summer period.





MISO

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) is a not-for-profit, member-based organization that administers wholesale electricity markets that provide customers with valued service; reliable, cost-effective systems and operations; dependable and transparent prices; open access to markets; and planning for long-term efficiency. MISO manages energy, reliability, and operating reserve markets that consist of 36 local Balancing Authority and 394 market participants, serving approximately 42 million customers. Although parts of MISO fall in three Regional Entities, MRO is responsible for coordinating data and information submitted for NERC’s reliability assessments.

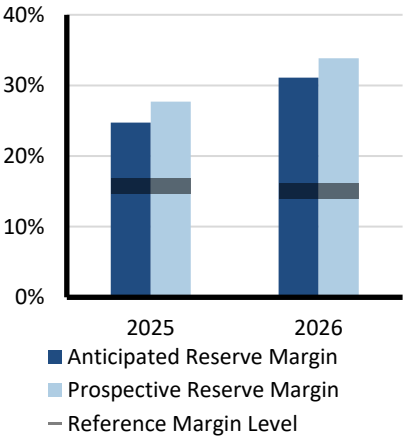
Highlights

- Although MISO’s peak load has increased by 2.5 GW from the 2025 SRA, MISO is not anticipating operational or reliability issues for the 2026 Summer season. Load growth is driven by increased projections of data center load and is expected to accelerate in 2027 and beyond, which may lead to increased reliability risk in the future if resource additions cannot keep pace with rising load forecasts.
- MISO’s capacity resources have improved since Summer 2025, and new additions are made up of predominantly solar resource installations, along with smaller amounts of natural gas, wind, and battery storage resources. Solar resources are helping the system serve peak load but are shifting risk hours to later in the day where intermittent resource capabilities are low and temperatures are above expected conditions.
- MISO benefits from transmission connections with neighbors to meet extreme weather conditions, and reliance may increase when extreme conditions arise.

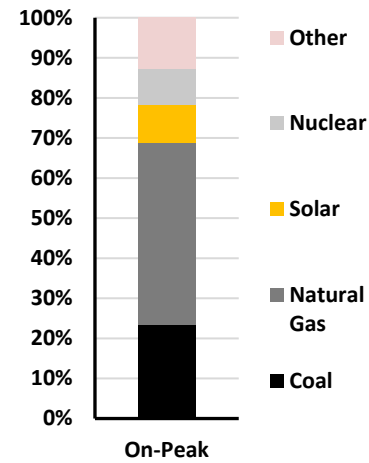
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements for assessed scenarios. Above-normal summer peak load combined with low resource conditions could result in the need to employ operating mitigations (e.g., load-modifying resources) and EEAs. Emergency declarations that can only be called upon when available generation is at maximum capability are necessary to access demand-response resources when operating reserve shortfalls are projected.

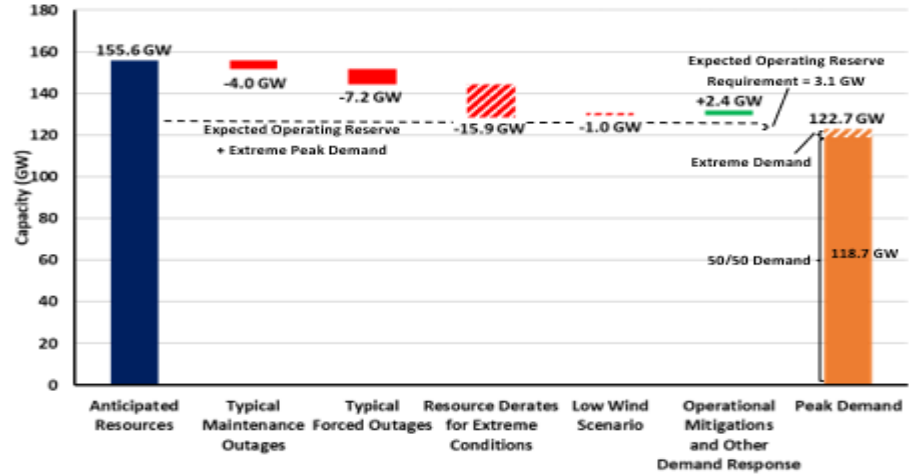
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

- Risk Period:** Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.
- Demand Scenarios:** Net internal demand forecast (50/50) plus transmission losses.
- Maintenance Outages:** Rolling three-year average of maintenance outages that occurred during the summer (June-September) peak hour.
- Forced Outages:** Rolling three-year average of forced outages that occurred during the summer (June-September) peak hour.
- Extreme Derates:** Rolling three-year average of maintenance and planned outages that occurred across thermal resources during the summer (June-September) peak hour, plus a reduction in solar resource performance during the risk hour.
- Operational Mitigations:** A total of 2.4 GW capacity resources available during extreme conditions.



MRO-Manitoba Hydro

Manitoba Hydro provides electricity to approximately 601,000 electric customers in Manitoba and provides approximately 291,000 customers with natural gas in Southern Manitoba. The service area is the province of Manitoba, which is 251,000 square miles. Manitoba Hydro is a provincial crown corporation and one of the largest integrated electricity and natural gas distribution utilities in Canada. Manitoba Hydro is winter peaking. Manitoba Hydro is its own Planning Coordinator (PC) and BA. Manitoba Hydro is a coordinating member of MISO. MISO is the RC for Manitoba Hydro.

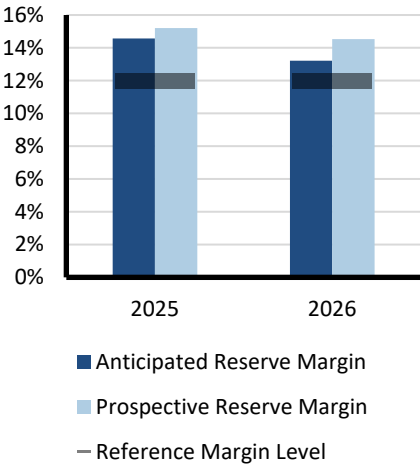
Highlights

- Manitoba Hydro is not anticipating any operational challenges or emerging reliability issues in its assessment area for Summer 2026.
- Manitoba Hydro’s demand increase of 2.5% is driven primarily by population and economic growth, including electrification of a large industrial customer to reduce carbon emissions. Currently, new cryptocurrency operations cannot connect in Manitoba due to a moratorium.
- The 2024 Proba for the 2026 load year shows an EUE of 4 MWh and an LOLH of 0.05 hours.
- Manitoba Hydro’s reservoir storage conditions are below average, but winter snowfall has been above average, which should favorably impact spring runoff. The Manitoba Hydro system is designed and operated such that reliable operations can be maintained under extreme drought. Manitoba Hydro expects to reliably supply its internal demand and export obligations, even if extreme drought develops through 2026–2027.
- Manitoba Hydro continues to monitor summer resource adequacy in the MISO area but does not believe that there are significant seasonal reliability issues in MISO or in other neighboring assessment areas that have potential to impact Manitoba Hydro operations for Summer 2026.
- The Anticipated Reserve Margin for Summer 2026 exceeds the 12% Reference Margin Level.

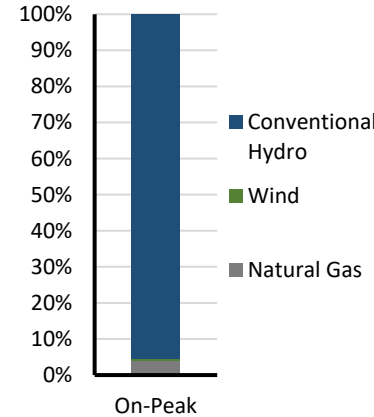
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

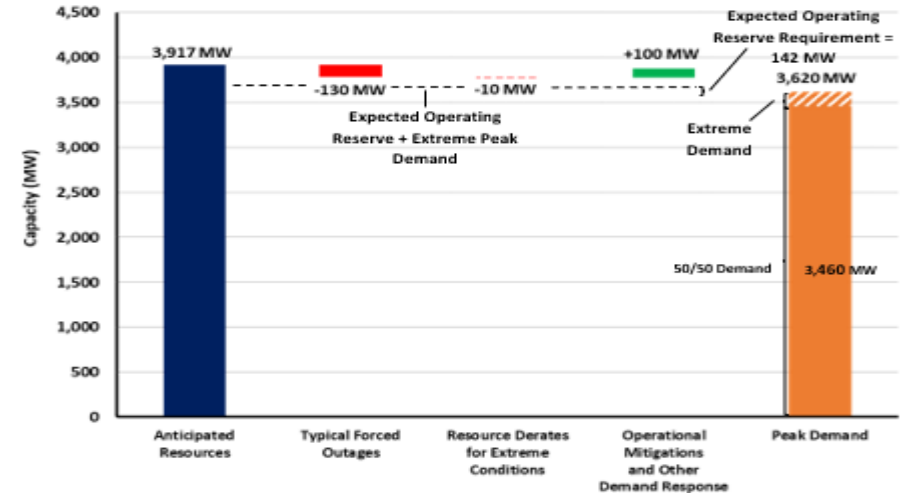
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

Risk Period: Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.

Demand Scenarios: 50/50 Demand with allowance for extreme demand based on a 90th percentile extreme weather scenario of 36.0 C (96.8 F).

Forced Outages: Typical forced outages.

Extreme Derates: Summer wind capacity accreditation of 18.2% of nameplate rating based on MISO seasonal analysis. No further wind output derates based on experience; wind farms constitute less than 1% of Manitoba Hydro’s available capacity.

Operational Mitigations: Utilize Curtailable Rate Program to manage peak demand; assume 100 MW of non-firm imports available.



MRO-SaskPower

MRO-SaskPower is an assessment area that covers the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. The province has a geographic area of 651,900 square kilometers (251,700 square miles) and a population of just over 1.1 million people. The Saskatchewan Power Corporation (SaskPower) is the PC and RC for the province of Saskatchewan and is the principal supplier of electricity in the province. SaskPower is a provincial Crown corporation and, under provincial legislation, is responsible for the reliability oversight of the Saskatchewan BES and its interconnections. Overall, SaskPower operates nearly 14,816 circuit-km of transmission lines, 65 high-voltage switching stations, and 191 distribution substations. Peak electricity demand on the SaskPower system currently occurs during the winter season.

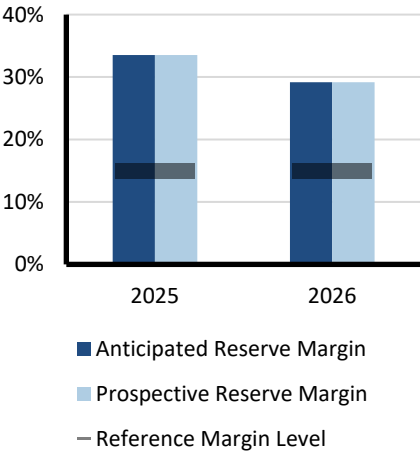
Highlights

- Although Saskatchewan is mainly a winter-peaking region, summer can also bring high electricity demand due to extreme heat.
- There is a 1.9% increase in TID from the 2025 SRA projection. This growth is mainly driven by population growth in the province, expansion projects, reduced self-generation in the industrial sector, and increased electrification.
- SaskPower conducted a probability-based capacity adequacy assessment for the 2026 Summer season. This assessment considered uncertainties in load forecasts, wind forecasts, and forced generation outages to calculate the expected number of hours with energy deficiencies (LOLH). According to probabilistic in-house model, the LOLH for an elevated risk scenario for the 2026 Summer season is 0.09 hours, which is nearly in line with the 0.1 LOLH risk criteria NERC sets for the elevated-risk level. The month with the highest LOLH is September (0.05 hours).
- Based on the planned maintenances, typical forced outages from historical data, and expected renewable generation under the normal and extreme demand conditions, SaskPower does not anticipate any reliability issues during Summer 2026. Under extreme conditions, however, SaskPower may have to use short-term power transfers from neighboring utilities, maintenance outage deferrals, and/or demand-response programs to maintain sufficient supplies.

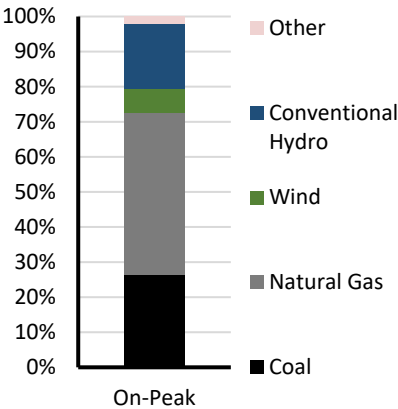
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under normal peak demand and outage conditions. During extreme summer conditions causing above-normal demand or generator outages, SaskPower can experience operating reserve shortfalls that it would mitigate using rescheduled planned maintenance, short-term power transfers from neighboring utilities, and/or available demand-response programs.

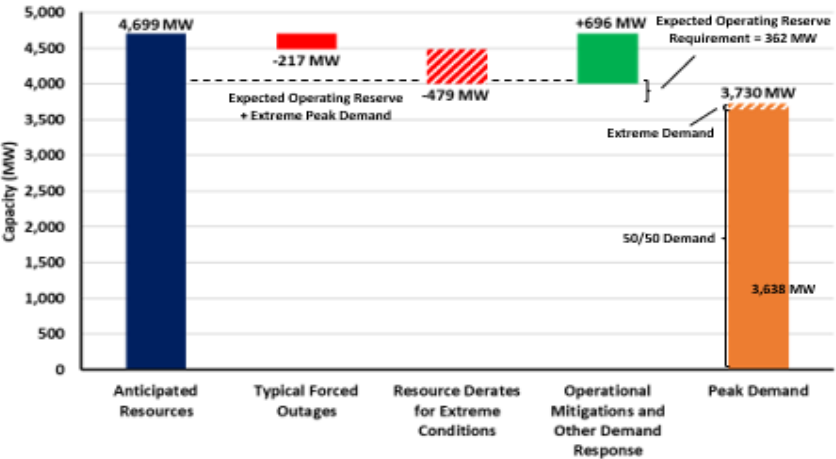
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

- Risk Period:** Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.
- Demand Scenarios:** Net internal demand (50/50) and above-normal scenario based on peak demand with lighting and all consumer loads.
- Forced Outages:** Based on historic generation stats and SaskPower’s forced outage rate models.
- Extreme Derates:** Based on the wind turbines datasheet and the percentage of the total available wind that will be cut off when the temperature is extremely high (40 degrees and higher).
- Operational Mitigations:** Estimated non-firm imports and standby generators on 2–7 days’ notice. In addition, 176 MWs of demand response can be called upon during operating emergencies.



MRO-SPP

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) PC footprint covers 546,000 square miles and encompasses all or parts of Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. The SPP long-term assessment is reported based on the PC footprint, which touches parts of the MRO Regional Entity and the WECC Regional Entity. The SPP assessment area footprint has approximately 61,000 miles of transmission lines, 756 generating plants, and 4,811 transmission-class substations, and it serves a population of more than 18 million.

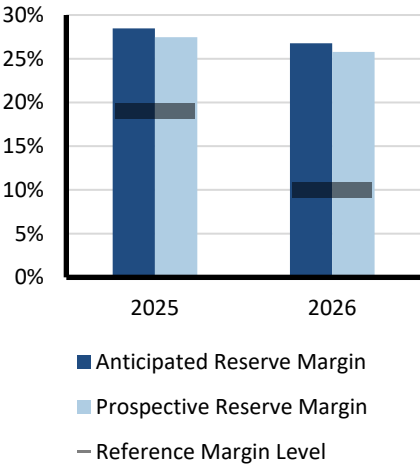
Highlights

- At this time, SPP does not anticipate any operational challenges that would result in reliability risk under normal conditions.
- SPP has operational procedures in place to manage generation outages taken over the summer to ensure appropriate generation is in place for high load. These procedures utilize probabilistic forecasts on factors such as load, generation, and outages to prepare for upcoming peak conditions.
- With heavy reliance on wind generation, SPP’s greatest summer risk periods are when wind availability is low. If these low wind periods correspond to peak load conditions, then the combination presents extra risk for the area.
- SPP is projecting a 1.5% increase in forecasted 2026 Summer peak load vs. 2025 Summer peak actuals. Solar PV and energy storage continue to grow rapidly.

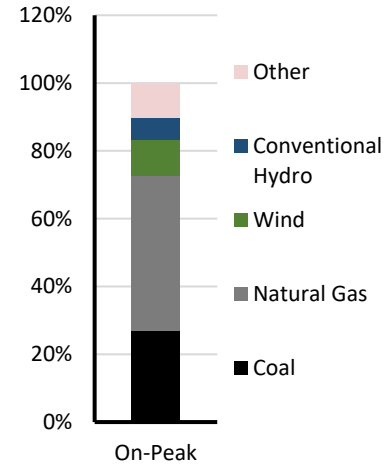
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources are sufficient to meet operating reserve requirements under normal peak-demand and outage scenarios. A combination of higher-than-average demand or lower-than-expected wind generation could result in the need for operating mitigations (e.g., demand response and transfers from neighboring systems), including resource advisories and EEAs, where appropriate.

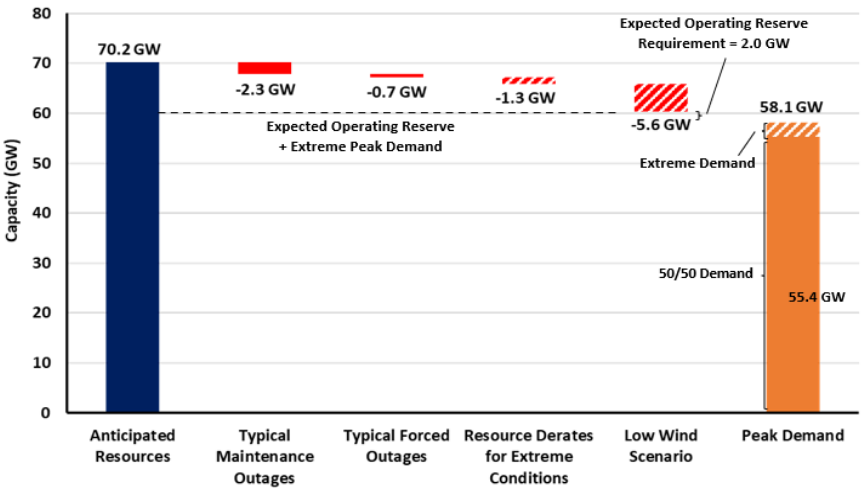
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

Risk Period: Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.

Demand Scenarios: Net internal demand (50/50) and extreme demand is a 4.9% increase from net internal demand.

Maintenance and Forced Outages: Represent five-year historical averages; calculated from SPP’s generation assessment process.

Extreme Derates: Additional unavailable capacity from operational data at high-demand periods.

Low Wind Scenario: Derates reflecting an average low-wind day in the summer.



NPCC-Maritimes

NPCC-Maritimes is an assessment area that covers the Canadian Maritime provinces—New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island—and the northernmost portion of the U.S. state of Maine. The area covers approximately 150,000 square kilometers (58,000 square miles) and has a total population of nearly 1.9 million people. The New Brunswick Power Corporation (NB Power) is the BA for New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and the northern portion of Maine. Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) is the BA for Nova Scotia. NB Power’s system is electrically interconnected with NPCC-Québec and NPCC-New England, and the electric systems in the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have ties with New Brunswick but no direct ties with other assessment areas. Peak electricity demand in NPCC-Maritimes occurs during the winter season.

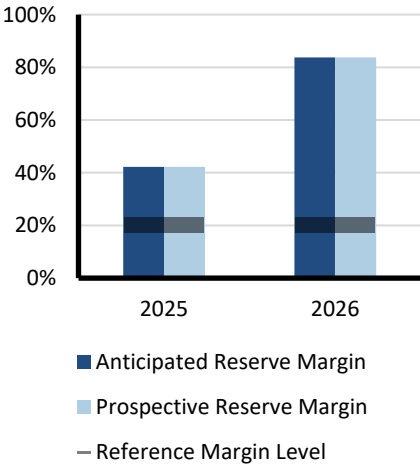
Highlights

- There are no anticipated issues for the Maritimes in the upcoming summer assessment period with sufficient firm capacity to meet the forecast peak demand.
- The Maritimes has not identified any operational issues that are expected to impact system reliability. Emergency operations and planning procedures are in place to mitigate operational events.
- Maritimes summer on-peak reserve margin is largely driven by resource maintenance outages. As a result of fewer planned outages (~1,000 MW) at peak, the 2026 on-peak reserve margin doubled from the 2025 SRA (84% compared to 42%).
- The preliminary results of NPCC’s probabilistic assessment indicate that the Maritimes area is not expected use their operating procedures during the Summer of 2026 to maintain sufficient supply. The Maritimes area did not demonstrate any measurable amounts of cumulative LOLE, LOLH, or EUE risks, and established operating procedures were sufficient to maintain an energy balance over the May–September summer period for all the scenarios.
- Although margins can go negative in May under the high load (above 90:10) scenario, there are opportunities to purchase non-firm energy through the interconnections with neighboring control areas as this scenario does not coincide with either the Maritimes or the NPCC summer peaks.
- Dual-fueled units will have sufficient supplies of heavy fuel oil (HFO) on site to enable sustained operation in the event of natural gas supply interruptions.

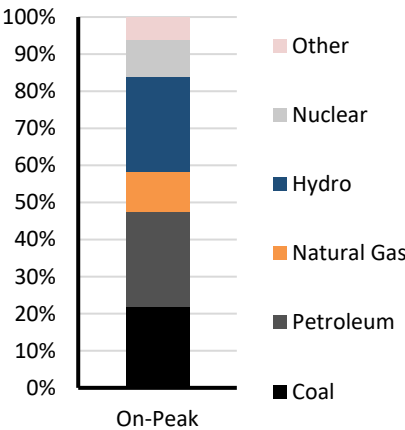
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

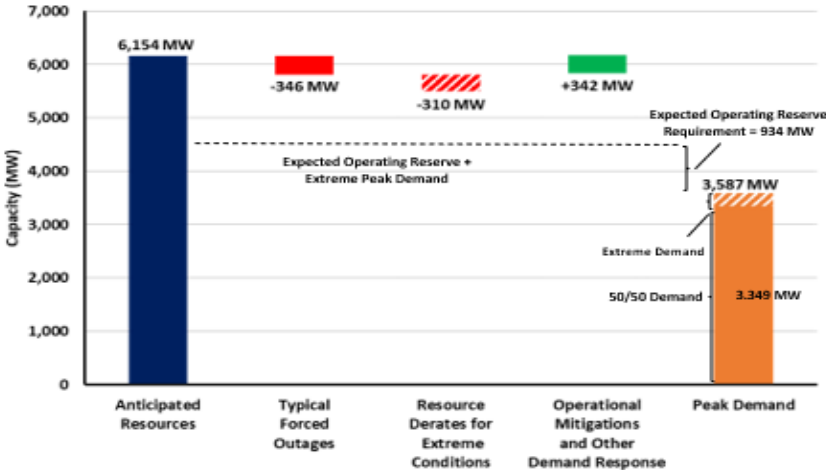
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

- Risk Period:** Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.
- Demand Scenarios:** Net internal demand (50/50) and above 90/10 extreme demand forecast.
- Forced Outages:** Based on historic operating experience.
- Extreme Derates:** A low-likelihood scenario comprising a 100% derate of solar and storage, a 50% derate of wind (calm weather), and a 50% derate to natural gas (fuel supply issue).
- Operational Mitigations:** Changes to system operating conditions in the Maritimes area (i.e., transmission and/or generator outages) will be managed using short-term operating procedures (STOP), which would outline any special operating conditions for the operators.



NPCC-New England

NPCC-New England is an assessment area consisting of the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont that is served by ISO New England (ISO-NE) Inc. ISO-NE is a regional transmission organization that is responsible for the reliable day-to-day operation of New England’s bulk power generation and transmission system, administration of the area’s wholesale electricity markets, and management of the comprehensive planning of the regional BPS.

The New England BPS serves approximately 14.5 million customers over 68,000 square miles.

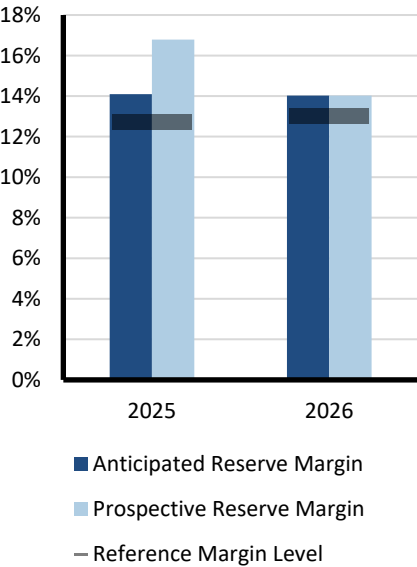
Highlights

- The New England area Anticipated Reserve Margin of 14% marginally exceeds the Reference Margin Level of 13%, avoiding a shortfall between anticipated resources and the reference level for reserves. There is, however, a 41 MW shortfall if resource additions are not included.
- ISO-NE assumes a net interchange of 409 MW, which is capacity-backed; however, ISO-NE typically imports around 3,000 MW during summer peak load conditions.
- ISO-NE does not anticipate any operational challenges or reliability issues for the upcoming 2026 Summer assessment period and forecasts adequate transmission capability and manageable capacity margins to meet the expected peak demand and operating reserves.
- Since January 2026, New England has added NECEC, a symmetric monopole +/- 320kV HVdc line from the 735 kV Appalaches substation in Québec to a new 345 kV substation, Merrill Road in Lewiston, Maine. NECEC will be used as an “import-only” tie with Hydro Québec and is capable of importing up to 1,200 MW into New England, but only on a non-firm basis for the coming summer.
- A probabilistic assessment was conducted for New England, modeling both NPCC and its neighboring regions. The analysis simulated a base case (50/50 normal demand) alongside a highest peak load scenario, which has a 7% probability of occurrence. The preliminary results of the probabilistic assessment indicate that use of New England’s established operating procedures is sufficient to maintain a balance between electricity supply and expected 50/50 demand if needed to mitigate resource shortages during Summer 2026. Under the scenario of highest peak load levels and reduced resource conditions, the estimated cumulative risk reached 0.343 days of LOLE, 1.178 hours of LOLH, and 628 MWh of EUE, with the greatest risks occurring in June and July. The final NPCC 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment will be approved in May 2026.

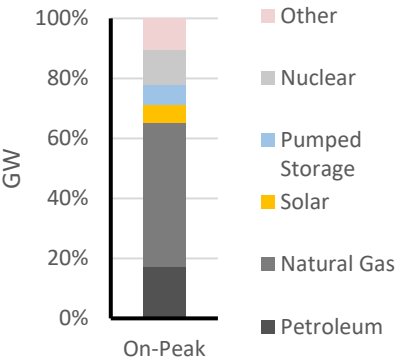
Risk Scenario Summary

The New England area expects to have sufficient resources to meet the 2026 summer peak demand forecast through the use of its established operating procedures and significant imports over its many ties to its neighbors that have historically been able to provide up to 3,000 MW during summer peak load conditions.

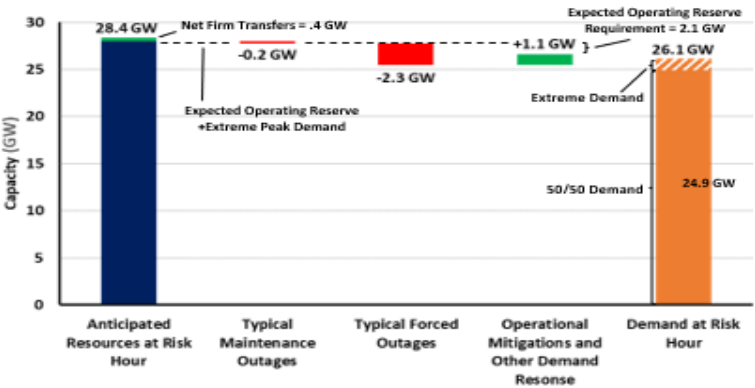
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

- Risk Period:** Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.
- Demand Scenarios:** Forecasted risk hour demand (50/50) and (90/10) extreme demand adder.
- Maintenance Outages:** Historical average of maintenance outages.
- Typical Forced Outages:** Based on historical average of forced outages for summer period.
- Operational Mitigations:** Based on load and capacity relief assumed available from invocation of ISO-NE operating procedures.



NPCC-New York

NPCC-New York is an assessment area consisting of the New York ISO (NYISO) service territory. NYISO is responsible for operating New York’s BPS, administering wholesale electricity markets, and conducting system planning. NYISO is the only BA within the state of New York. The BPS in New York encompasses over 11,000 miles of transmission lines and 760 power generation units and serves 20.2 million customers. For this SRA, the established Reference Margin Level is 15%. Wind, grid-connected solar PV, and run-of-river totals were derated for this calculation. However, New York requires load-serving entities to procure capacity for their loads equal to their peak demand plus an installed reserve margin (IRM). The IRM requirement represents a percentage of capacity above peak load forecast and is approved annually by the New York State Reliability Council. The council approved the 2026–2027 IRM at 24.5%.

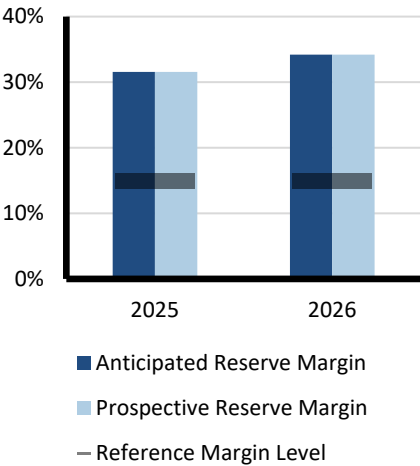
Highlights

- NYISO is not anticipating any operational issues in the New York control area for the upcoming summer.
- Adequate capacity margins are projected for the summer peak, and prospective transactions with neighbors should mitigate reliability concerns. Operating procedures should be sufficient to handle any issues that may occur.
- The preliminary results of the NPCC probabilistic assessment indicate that use of New York’s established operating procedures is sufficient to maintain a balance between electricity supply and expected 50/50 demand if needed to mitigate resource shortages during Summer 2026. The expected load and resource scenario resulted in negligible risks over the May to September summer period, with less than 0.017 days of LOLE, 0.042 hours of LOLH, and 20 MWh of EUE.
- In contrast, under the scenario of highest peak load and reduced resources, the estimated cumulative risk reached 0.655 days of LOLE, 1.996 hours of LOLH, and 1,255 MWh of EUE, with the greatest risks occurring in July and August.
- to coordinate extensively with neighboring RCs and BAs to improve situational awareness and vet needs for firm or non-firm transfers to address extreme system conditions

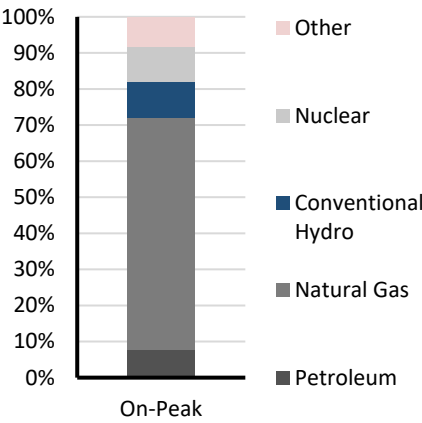
Risk Scenario Summary

The preliminary results of NPCC’s probabilistic assessment indicate that New York’s established operating procedures are sufficient to maintain a balance between electricity supply and expected demand, if needed, to mitigate shortages during Summer 2026.

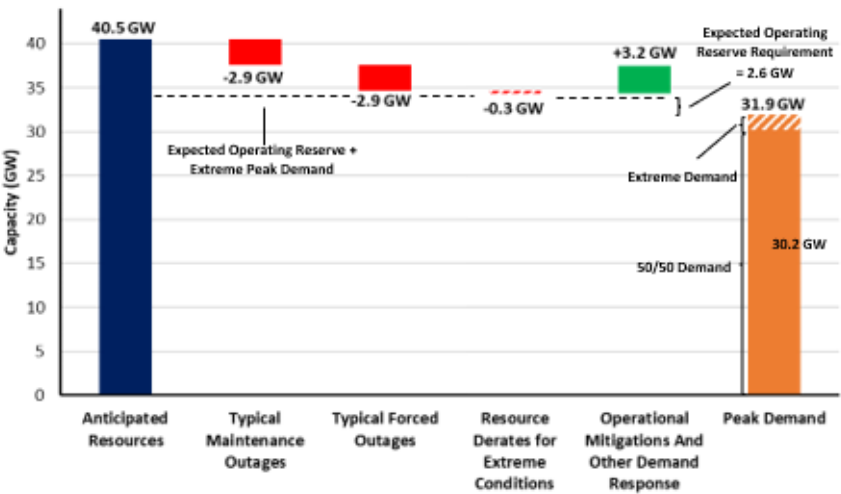
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

Risk Period: The risk period is at the time of peak demand.

Demand Scenarios: Net internal demand (50/50) and (90/10) extreme demand forecast. **Maintenance Outages:** Based on historical performance and the new NYISO capacity accreditation process.

Forced Outages: Based on historical five-year averages.

Extreme Derates: Estimated resources unavailable in extreme conditions.

Operational Mitigations: A total of 3.2 GW based on operational/emergency procedures in area emergency operations manual.



NPCC-Ontario

NPCC-Ontario is an assessment area that covers the Canadian province of Ontario. The province of Ontario covers more than 1 million square kilometers (415,000 square miles) and has a population of over 16 million people. The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is the BA for the province of Ontario. NPCC-Ontario is electrically interconnected with NPCC-Québec, MRO-Manitoba, MISO, and NPCC-New York. Peak electricity demand in NPCC-Ontario occurs during the summer season.

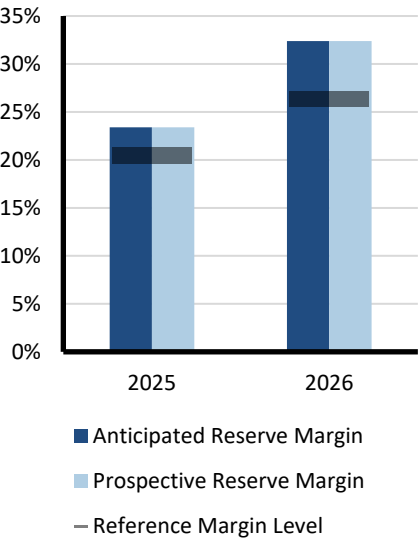
Highlights

- Ontario is well prepared for Summer 2026, and the IESO expects that the electricity system will remain reliable.
- Demand increased 2.7% over last year, driven in part by a rise in certain economic indicators, such as higher total employment, across the forecast horizon. However, uncertainty persists in the current economic environment with Ontario’s largest trading partner.
- Existing-certain capacity is 8.4% higher than last year, reflecting the addition of new units. Established resource adequacy policy sets out a competitive strategy for securing new resources in the short, medium, and long terms. Also, Darlington G4 nuclear refurbishment was completed early and will be available for the summer period.
- Net firm capacity transfers increased 30.6% from Summer 2025. Although the capacity auction secured fewer imports for Summer 2026 compared to Summer 2025, IESO has chosen to utilize 300 MW of the 2015 Capacity Sharing Agreement with Hydro-Québec for the period commencing June 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2026.
- Anticipated resources are projected 9% higher than Summer 2025 due to upgrades at existing natural gas facilities and new energy storage facilities anticipated to be coming on-line this summer.
- The preliminary results of NPCC’s probabilistic assessment indicate that operating procedures were not needed to maintain a balance between electricity supply and demand. Even under peak load and low-resource conditions, the risk of LOLE remained negligible. This stability is supported by nearly 1,100 MW of new capacity from recent gas facility upgrades and storage projects. Consequently, no emergency operating procedures were required to maintain the balance between supply and demand.

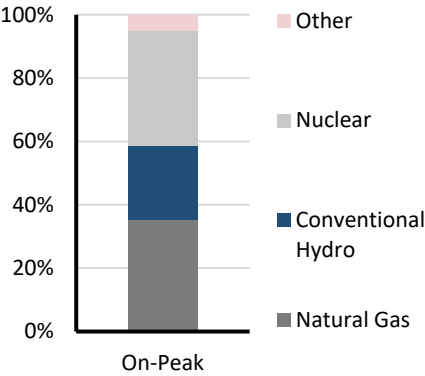
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

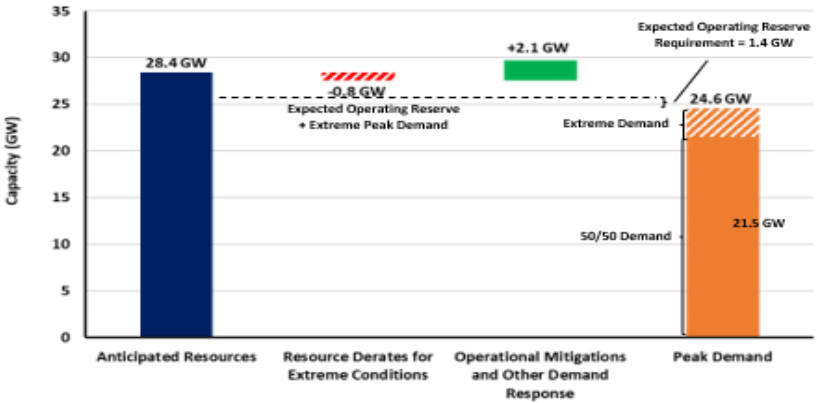
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

Risk Period: Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.

Demand Scenarios: Net internal demand (50/50 forecast) and highest weather-adjusted daily demand based on 31 years of demand history, and extreme weather represents a 97/3 distribution of probabilistically modeled data.

Extreme Derates: Derived from weather-adjusted temperature ratings of thermal units and adjustments to expected hydro production for low water conditions.

Operational Mitigations: The operational procedures used to mitigate extreme conditions total approximately 2,100 MW for the On-Peak Risk Scenario, consisting of Imports, Public Appeals, and voltage reductions.



NPCC-Québec

NPCC-Québec is an assessment area that covers the Canadian province of Québec. The province of Québec covers over 1.5 million square kilometers (nearly 600,000 square miles) and has a population of nearly 9 million people. Hydro-Québec is the BA for the province of Québec. The Québec BPS is one of the four electric Interconnections in North America. It is a predominantly hydroelectric-generation-based system that is electrically interconnected with NPCC-Ontario, NPCC-New York, NPCC-New England, and NPCC-Maritimes. Peak electricity demand in NPCC-Québec occurs during the winter season.

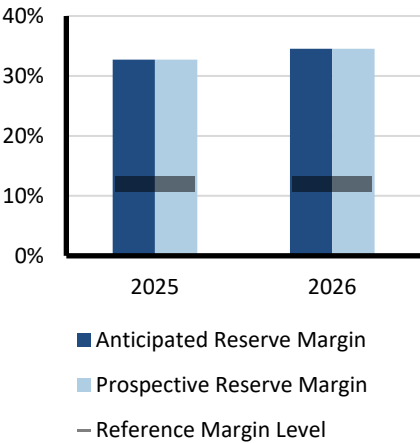
Highlights

- Québec is a winter-peaking hydroelectric system. Despite reduced generation because of reduced runoff in northern Québec since 2023, the Québec area expects no issues in meeting its operational needs this summer.
- Load (NID) is projected to decrease by 1% with respect to 2025.
- Net firm capacity exports have significantly increased (+1,018 MW) this year, as the CHPE is positioned to provide firm capacity to New York for the summer.
- There is a significant change to existing-certain capacity (3.7% or +1,192 MW). Hydro-Québec includes its planned outages in its certain capacity. This year, Hydro-Québec improved its modeling of its outages partially to account for its flexibility in managing outages; notably, the ability to recall certain outages to improve margins during peak events is highlighted.
- The preliminary results of NPCC’s probabilistic assessment indicate that Québec area is not expected to require use of operating procedures designed to mitigate resource shortages during Summer 2026. Québec did not demonstrate any measurable amounts of cumulative LOLE, LOLH, or EUE risks over the May–September summer period for all the scenarios modeled since the system is winter peaking. The Québec area expects to be able to help other areas if needed.

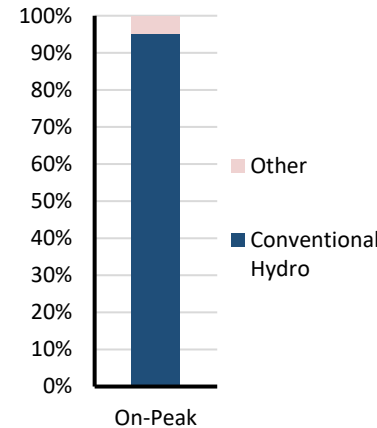
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

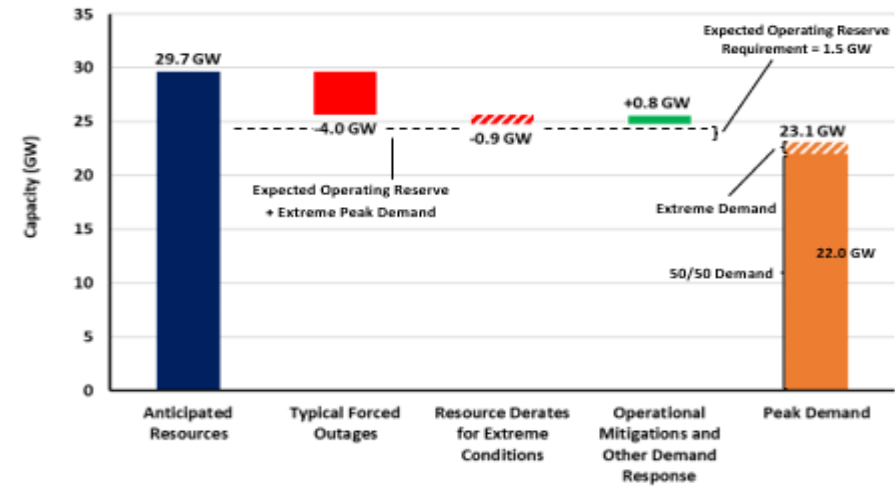
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

- Risk Period:** Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.
- Demand Scenario:** Net internal demand (50/50) and (90/10) demand forecast.
- Forced Outages:** Based on historical data and trending.
- Extreme Derates:** Estimated resources unavailable in extreme conditions.
- Operational mitigations:** An operational procedure used to mitigate extreme conditions and not already included in margins is the depletion of some operating reserves by 750 MW.



PJM

PJM Interconnection is a regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. PJM’s footprint covers approximately 369,054 square miles and serves more than 67 million people. PJM is the area’s BA, Transmission and Resource Planner, Interchange Authority, TOP, Transmission Service Provider, and RC. PJM is electrically interconnected with MISO, NPCC-New York, SERC-Central, and SERC-East. Peak electricity demand in PJM occurs during the summer season.

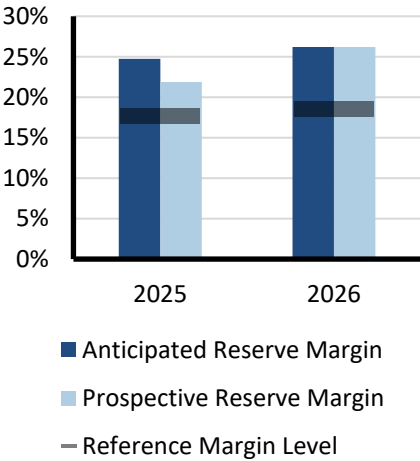
Highlights

- PJM is expecting a low risk of resources falling below the required reserve requirement during Summer 2026.
- PJM is forecasting ~26% installed reserves (including expected committed demand resources), which is above the PJM reserve requirement margin of 18.6% that is necessary to meet the 1-day-in-10-years LOLE criterion. The highest risk for unserved energy is at peak demand hour.
- If extreme high temperatures are experienced, PJM anticipates the need for demand-response resources to help reduce load.
- New and better load forecasts and advancement of planned resources have improved PJM’s reserve margin looking into this summer over previous assessments.
- The LOLH and EUE values reported in the 2024 LTRA for 2026 were 0.12 hours/year and 537.52 MWh/year, respectively. These values corresponded to a 17.8% operable margin (also reported in the 2024 LTRA). Since the expected actual reserve margin for the PJM system is 26% in 2026, the LOLH and EUE values associated with a 26% reserve margin are expected to be lower than those reported in the 2024 LTRA.

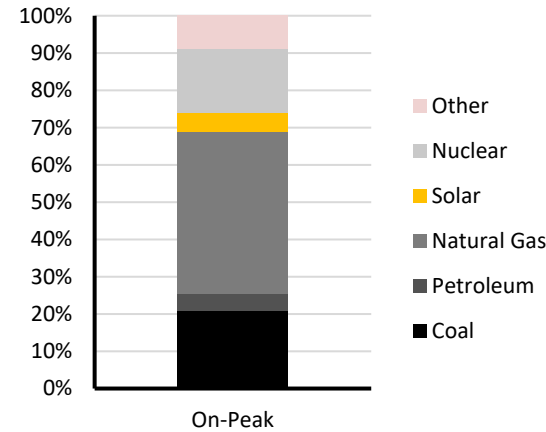
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

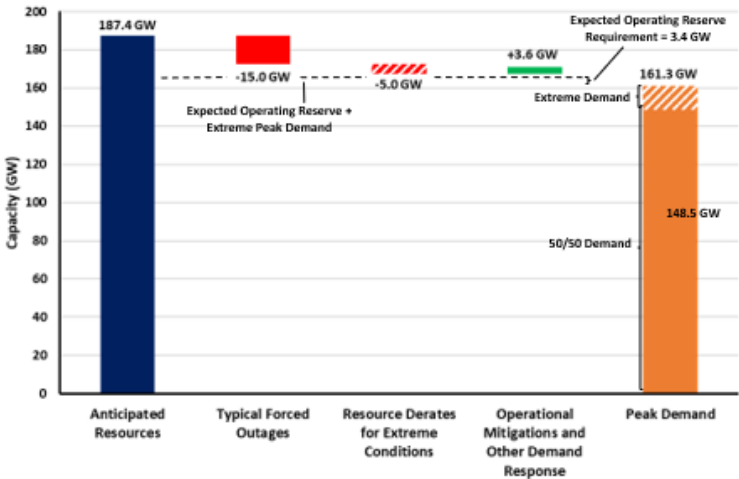
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

- Risk Period:** Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.
- Demand Scenarios:** Net internal demand (50/50) and (90/10) demand forecast.
- Forced Outages:** Based on historical data and trending.
- Extreme Derates:** Accounts for thermal capacity contributions due to performance in extreme conditions.
- Operational Mitigations:** A total of 3.6 GW estimated based on operational/emergency procedures. This includes 500 MWs of additional demand response that can be called upon during operating emergencies.



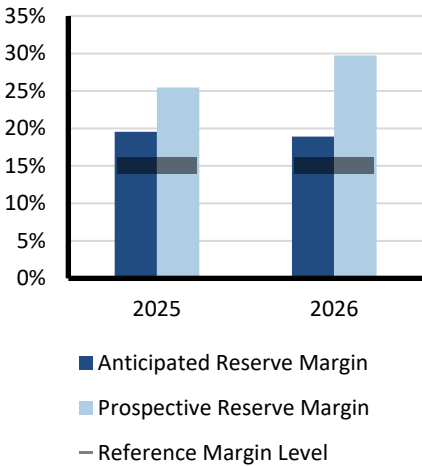
SERC-Central

SERC-Central is an assessment area within the SERC Regional Entity and includes all or portions of Alabama, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Virginia. SERC-Central is a dual-peaking assessment area, experiencing peak electricity demand during both the summer and winter seasons. The PCs in this subregion include Associated Electric Cooperative Inc., Louisville Gas & Electric/Kentucky Utilities, Owensboro, KY Municipal Utilities, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Other SERC member entities in this subregion include Brookfield/Smoky Mountain, Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division, and Nashville Electric Service.

Highlights

- No significant reliability concerns were identified.
- Modest load growth (~1–3%) is driven by residential, industrial, and emerging data center demand.
- Increased demand response (DR) results from new demand-side management (DSM) programs and large industrial load enrollments.
- Adequate capacity, transfers, resource assumptions and reserve margins remain sufficient to support reliability.
- Robust operational planning and coordination, with DSM/DR programs providing additional flexibility during peak conditions.
- ProbA results show negligible risk for this summer.

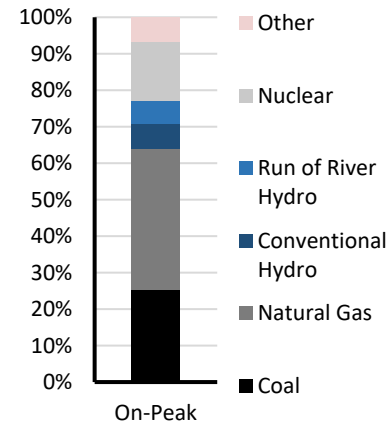
On-Peak Reserve Margin



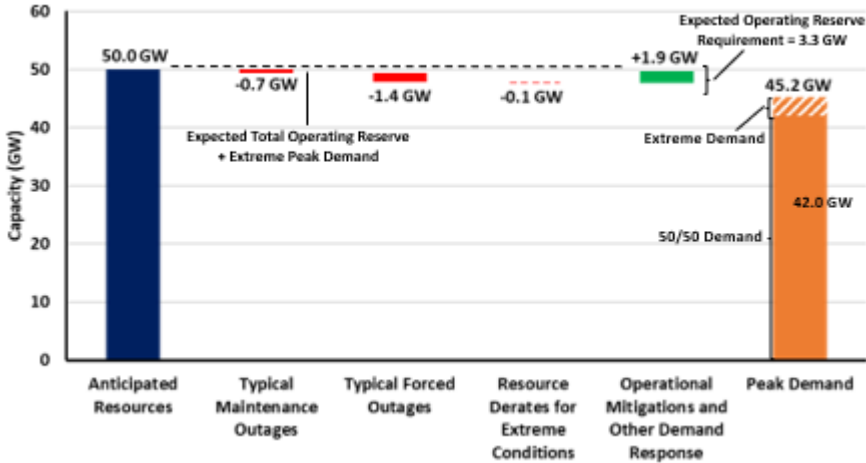
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

- Risk Period:** Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.
- Demand Scenarios:** Net internal demand (50/50) and extreme demand forecast based on extreme summer weather (equals or exceeds the (90/10) demand forecast).
- Maintenance Outages:** Adjusted for higher outages resulting from extreme summer temperatures and aggregated on a SERC subregional level.
- Forced Outages:** Accounts for reduced thermal capacity contributions due to performance in extreme conditions.
- Operational Mitigations:** 1.9 GW based on operational/emergency procedures.



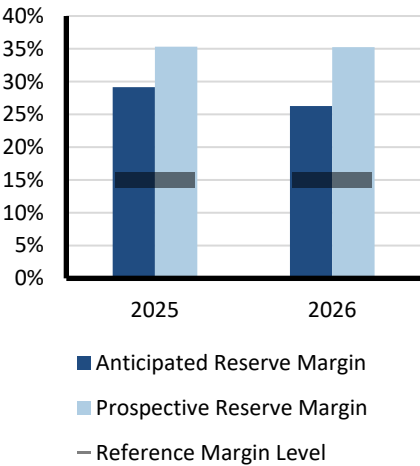
SERC-East

SERC-East is an assessment area within the SERC Regional Entity and includes North Carolina and South Carolina. SERC-East is a winter-peaking assessment area. The PCs in this subregion include Cube Hydro Carolinas LLC, Dominion Energy South Carolina Inc., Duke Energy Carolinas LLC, Duke Energy Progress LLC, and the South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper). Other SERC member entities in this subregion include the Cube Hydro Carolinas-Yadkin Division and Southeastern Power Administration.

Highlights

- No significant operational challenges or emerging reliability issues were identified; system conditions remain adequate for Summer 2026.
- Fuel supply, generation availability, and transmission operations are expected to be adequate, with no major outages anticipated to impact reliability.
- Minimal changes are expected in demand and resource mix; reserve margins remain above planning targets despite updated solar/storage accreditation.
- Strong coordination processes and established operating procedures support reliable peak demand management.
- ProbA results show negligible risk for this summer.

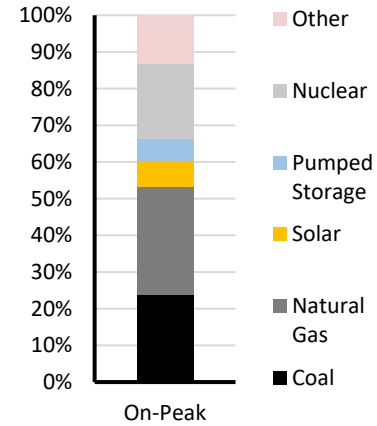
On-Peak Reserve Margin



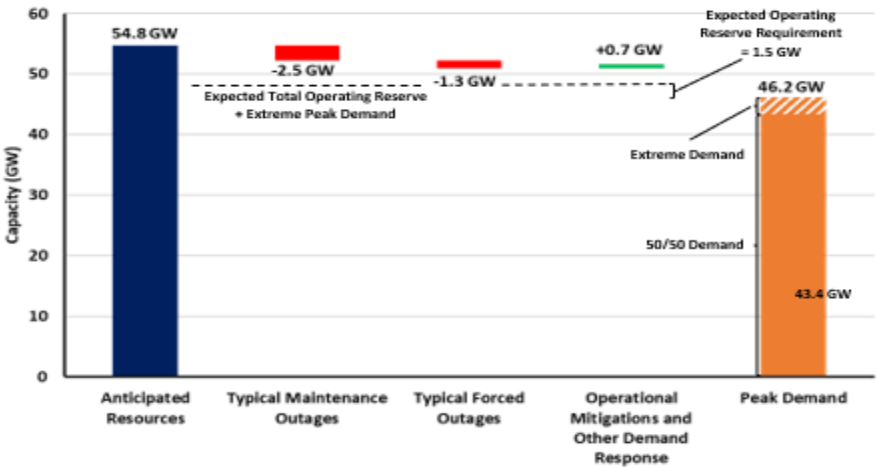
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

Risk Period: Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.

Demand Scenarios: Net internal demand (50/50) and extreme demand forecast based on extreme summer weather (equals or exceeds the (90/10) demand forecast).

Maintenance Outages: Adjusted for higher outages resulting from extreme summer temperatures and aggregated on a SERC subregional level.

Forced Outages: Accounts for reduced thermal capacity contributions due to performance in extreme conditions.

Operational Mitigations: A total of 728 MW based on operational/emergency procedures.



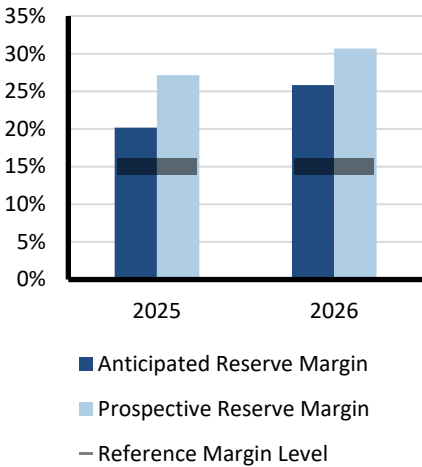
SERC-Florida Peninsula

SERC-Florida Peninsula is an assessment area within the SERC Regional Entity and includes all of Florida. SERC-Florida Peninsula is a summer-peaking assessment area. The PCs in this subregion include Duke Energy Florida LLC, the Florida Municipal Power Agency, Florida Power & Light Company, Florida Reliability Coordinating Council Inc., Gainesville Regional Utilities, the City of Homestead, JEA, Lakeland Electric, the Orlando Utilities Commission, Seminole Electric Cooperative, the City of Tallahassee, and Tampa Electric Company.

Highlights

- No significant operational challenges or emerging reliability issues were identified; system conditions remain stable for Summer 2026.
- There is an adequate demand and capacity outlook, with minimal year-over-year changes and no significant operational risks.
- There is strong resource adequacy, with projected reserve margins (~26%) well above the 15% reference margin.
- DR (~3,350 MW available) and established coordination practices support peak demand and emergency preparedness.
- ProbA results show negligible risk for this summer.

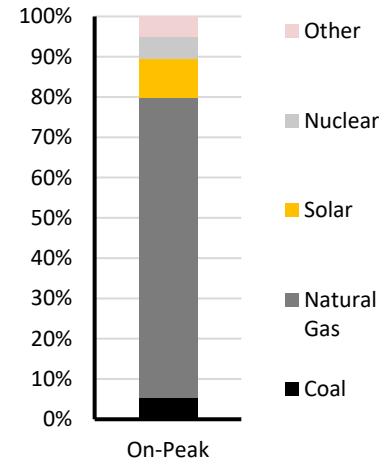
On-Peak Reserve Margin



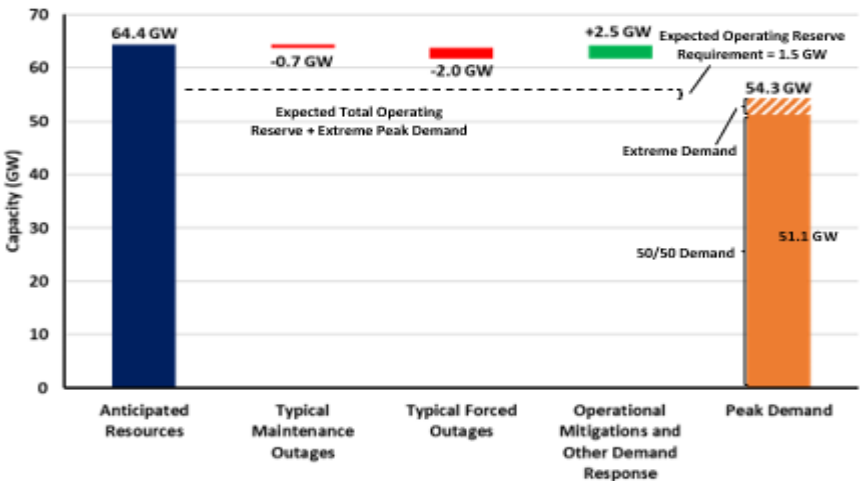
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

- Risk Period:** Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.
- Demand Scenarios:** Net internal demand (50/50) and extreme demand forecast based on extreme summer weather (equals or exceeds the (90/10) demand forecast).
- Maintenance Outages:** Adjusted for higher outages resulting from extreme summer temperatures and aggregated on a SERC subregional level.
- Forced Outages:** Accounts for reduced thermal capacity contributions due to performance in extreme conditions.
- Operational Mitigations:** A total of 2.5 GW based on operational/emergency procedures.



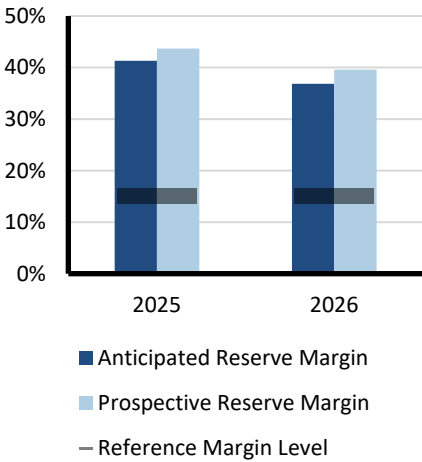
SERC-Southeast

SERC-Southeast is an assessment area within the SERC Regional Entity and includes all or portions of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. SERC-Southeast is a summer-peaking assessment area. The PCs in this subregion include Georgia Transmission Corporation, the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, and Southern Company Services, Inc. - Trans.

Highlights

- No significant reliability risks were identified; fuel supply and generation portfolios remain diverse and adequate.
- Natural gas pipeline constraints and increasing solar penetration present manageable operational considerations, not reliability threats.
- Moderate load growth (~1–3%), driven by economic conditions, residential and commercial expansion, and emerging data center load.
- Limited reliance on DR; existing operating practices and planning processes are sufficient to meet peak demand.
- ProbA results show negligible risk for this summer.

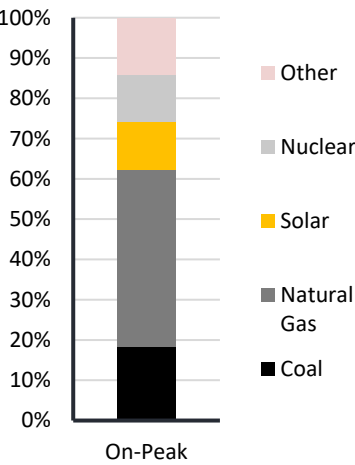
On-Peak Reserve Margin



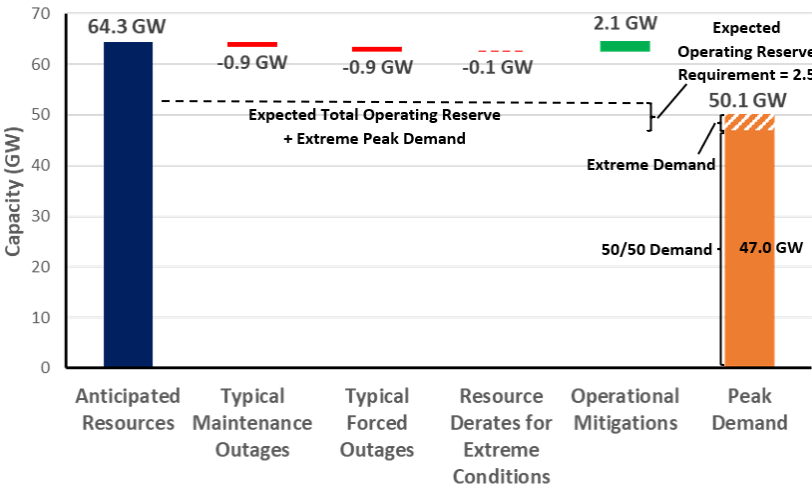
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

Risk Period: Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.

Demand Scenarios: Net internal demand (50/50) and extreme demand forecast based on extreme summer weather (equals or exceeds the (90/10) demand forecast).

Maintenance Outages: Adjusted for higher outages resulting from extreme summer temperatures and aggregated on a SERC subregional level.

Forced Outages: Accounts for reduced thermal capacity contributions due to performance in extreme conditions.

Extreme Derates: Estimated resources unavailable in extreme conditions.

Operational Mitigations: A total of 2.1 GW based on operational/emergency procedures.



Texas RE-ERCOT

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is the independent system operator (ISO) for the ERCOT Interconnection and is located entirely in the state of Texas; it operates as a single BA. It also performs financial settlement for the competitive wholesale bulk power market and administers retail switching for nearly 8 million premises in competitive choice areas. ERCOT is governed by a board of directors and subject to oversight by the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the Texas Legislature. ERCOT is summer peaking, and the forecasted summer peak load month is August. It covers approximately 200,000 square miles, connects over 54,100 miles of transmission lines, has over 1,460 generation units, and serves more than 26 million customers. Texas RE is responsible for the Regional Entity functions described in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 for ERCOT. On November 3, 2022, the Public Utility Commission of Texas issued an order directing ERCOT to assume the duties and responsibilities of the reliability monitor for the Texas grid.

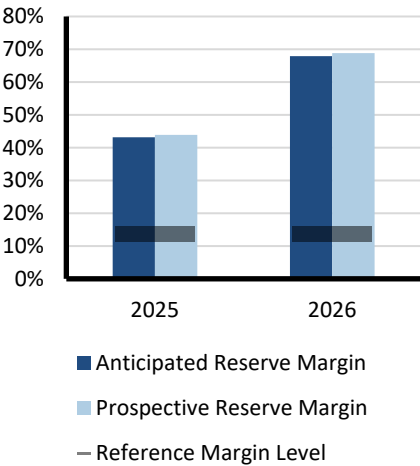
Highlights

- Given an Anticipated Reserve Margin of 67.9% and Reference Reserve Margin of 13.75%, ERCOT expects to have sufficient operating reserves for the August peak load hour given expected normal system summer conditions.
- Continued growth in load and intermittent resources drives a higher risk of emergency conditions in the evening hours when solar generation ramps down and loads are high.
- The probability of an EEA during the expected August (and summer) peak load day continues to drop relative to previous SRAs due to continued robust growth in battery energy storage capacity (up 2,677 MW year-on-year as of March 2026). The EEA probability for the highest-risk hour—hour ending 9:00 p.m.—is 0.43%, down from 3.1% previously.
- The projected EEA risk does not account for regional constraints in Far West Texas, which may lead to a reliance on price-responsive demand in certain low-generation scenarios.
- An identified risk is the potential of newly interconnected large loads (mainly data centers and crypto-mining facilities) to trip and potentially cause grid stability problems. ERCOT has implemented mandatory ride-through capabilities and requires dynamic model submissions, among other solutions, to address this risk.
- The risk assessment process for this SRA will be the same as ERCOT’s upcoming August 2026 Monthly Outlook of Resource Adequacy (MORA) to be released on June 5.

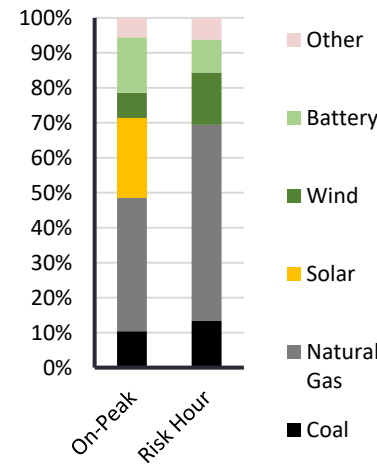
Risk Scenario Summary

The risk of having to declare an EEA for hour 21 is low (0.43%), according to ERCOT’s probabilistic reserve risk model (PRRM) simulation results. The highest risk hour for the peak load day in August (which is also the expected summer peak load day).

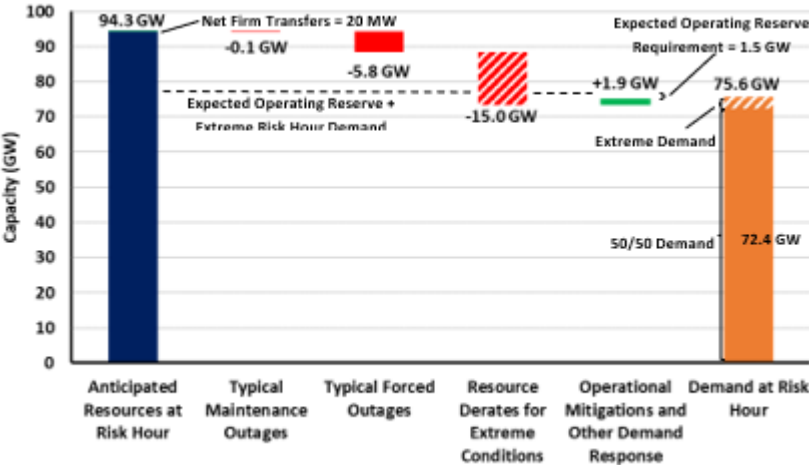
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

- Risk Hour:** The highest risk hour, HE 2100 (9:00 pm CDT).
- Demand Scenarios:** Net internal demand, and an adjustment to extreme demand based on the 95th percentile of the PRRM’s distribution of load simulation outcomes for the highest-risk hour (HE 2100).
- Forced Outages:** The adjustment is the 95th percentile of 10,000 daily thermal forced outage values generated by the PRRM, less the 50th percentile value.
- Low-Wind Scenario:** The adjustment is the 50th percentile of 10,000 wind generation values for hour ending 2100 generated by the PRRM, less the 0th percentile value.
- Extreme Derates:** The adjustment is the 50th percentile of 10,000 solar generation values for hour ending 2100 generated by the PRRM, less the 0th percentile value.
- Operational Mitigations:** Additional capacity from switchable generation and additional imports.



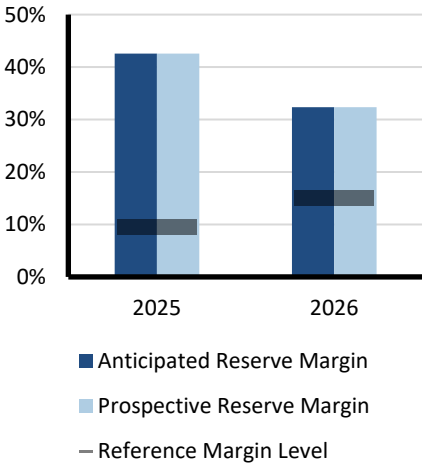
WECC-Alberta

WECC-Alberta is an assessment area that covers the Canadian province of Alberta. The province has a geographic area of 661,848 square kilometers (255,541 square miles) and a population of almost 5 million people. The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) is the province’s planning entity and RC responsible for safe, reliable, and economic operation of the Alberta Interconnected Electric System. AESO is a non-profit corporation that operates a system that includes approximately 26,000 kilometers of transmission lines and connects approximately 426 qualified generating units and nearly 250 market participants through a wholesale market. Alberta’s transmission system has three interties with neighboring areas—Saskatchewan (see MRO-SaskPower), British Columbia (see WECC-British Columbia), and Montana (see WECC-Northwest). Peak electricity demand on the AESO system currently occurs during the winter season.

Highlights

- Anticipated Reserve Margins for the summer exceed the NERC-prescribed Reference Margin Level. Additionally, WECC’s probabilistic analysis shows no LOLH or EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions.
- Peak demand is projected to increase by 2.1% over last summer’s forecast.
- Wide-area heat events and wildfires that affect resource and transmission availability across the Western Interconnection are a reliability concern. Firm imports may be limited at this time if neighboring areas are also experiencing peak loads, limiting energy availability.

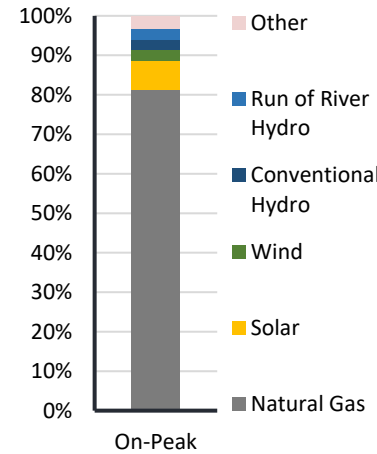
On-Peak Reserve Margin



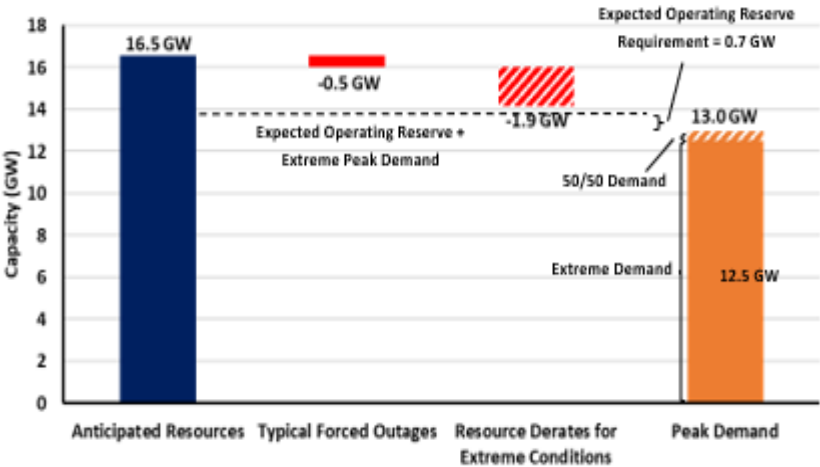
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

Risk Period: Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.
Demand Scenarios: Net internal demand (50/50) and (90/10) demand forecast.
Forced Outages: Average seasonal outages.
Extreme Derates: (90/10) resource performance distribution at peak hour.



WECC-Basin

WECC-Basin is a summer-peaking assessment area in the WECC Regional Entity that includes Utah, southern Idaho, and a portion of western Wyoming, covering Idaho Power and PacifiCorp’s eastern Balancing Authority Area. The population of this area is approximately 5.4 million. It has 15,910 miles of transmission. WECC is responsible for coordinating and promoting BES reliability in the Western Interconnection. WECC’s 329 members include 40 BAs, representing a wide spectrum of organizations with an interest in the BES. Serving an area of nearly 1.8 million square miles and more than 84.5 million customers, it is geographically the largest and most diverse Regional Entity.

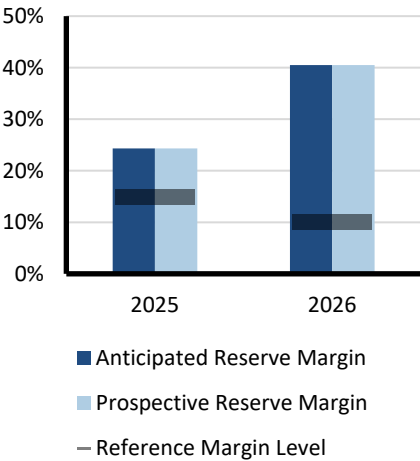
Highlights

- WECC-Basin has established a 15% Reference Margin Level for the 2026 Summer assessment period.
- Wildfires remain a reliability concern for the region, particularly in areas with remote generation such as remotely located hydro. Mitigation programs such as hardening and public safety shutoff programs are in place.
- Extreme temperatures pose a risk to the area, impacting load levels and renewable variability. WECC-Basin is positioned to rely on imports during such conditions, which also poses a risk of concurrent impacts should neighbors experience similar conditions.
- Load forecasts for the area are projected to be 2.5% higher than 2025 Summer actuals.
- Wind, solar, and energy storage resources continue to grow.
- Reserve margins are not anticipated to fall below the 15% Reference Margin Level for 2026 Summer. Both Anticipated and Prospective Reserve Margins are expected to be adequate at 37.6%

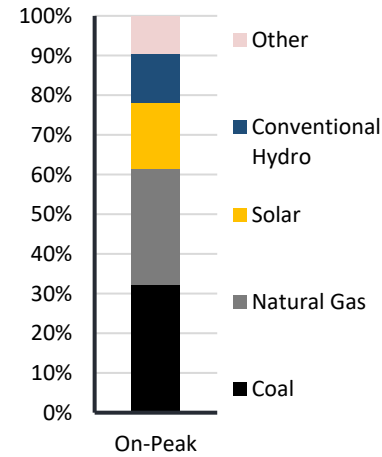
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios with imports.

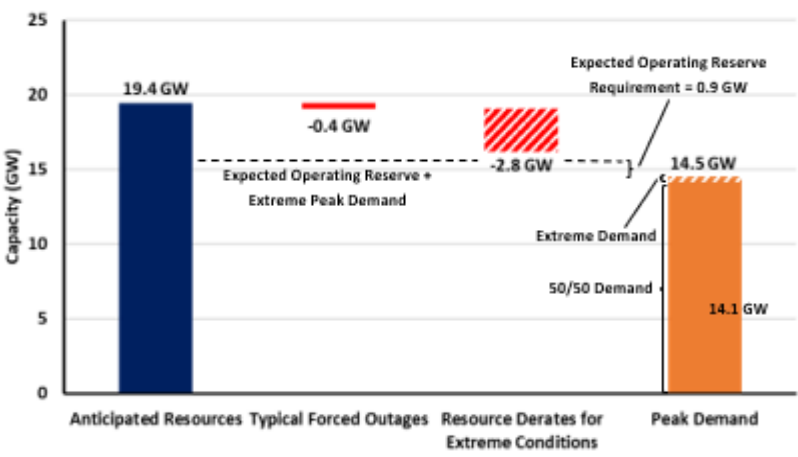
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

- Risk Period:** Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.
- Demand Scenarios:** Net internal demand (50/50) and (90/10) demand forecast.
- Forced Outages:** Average seasonal outages.
- Extreme Derates:** (90/10) resource performance distribution at peak hour.



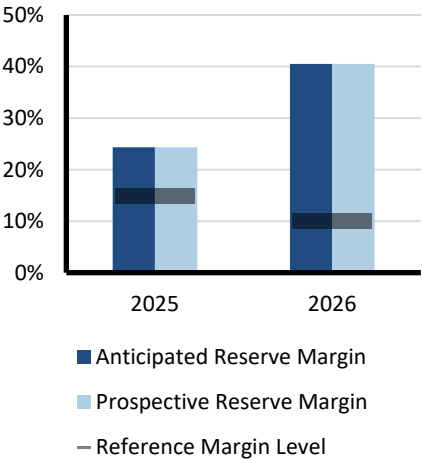
WECC-British Columbia

WECC-British Columbia is an assessment area that covers the Canadian province of British Columbia. The province has a geographic area of 944,735 square kilometers (364,764 square miles) and a population of just over 5 million people. BC Hydro is the Planning Entity and RC for the province of British Columbia and is the principal supplier of electricity for the province. BC Hydro is a provincial Crown corporation and, under provincial legislation, is responsible for the oversight of the British Columbia BES and its interconnections. BC Hydro operates an integrated system supported by 32 hydroelectric plants, approximately 80,000 kilometers of transmission and distribution lines, and 125 contracts with independent power producers. BC Hydro’s transmission system has two interties with neighboring areas—the U.S. state of Washington (see WECC-Northwest) and Alberta (see WECC-Alberta). Peak electricity demand on the BC Hydro system currently occurs during the winter season.

Highlights

- Anticipated Reserve Margins for the summer exceed the NERC-recommended Reference Margin Level.
- WECC’s probabilistic analysis shows no LOLH nor EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions.
- Peak net internal demand is projected to increase 2.4% over last summer’s forecast while anticipated resources increase by 15.7%.
- Wide-area heat events or wildfires that affect resource and transmission availability across the Western Interconnection are a reliability concern. Energy imports may be limited at this time if neighboring areas are also experiencing peak loads, limiting energy availability.
- Supply chain constraints and economic uncertainty may impact Tier 1 resources.

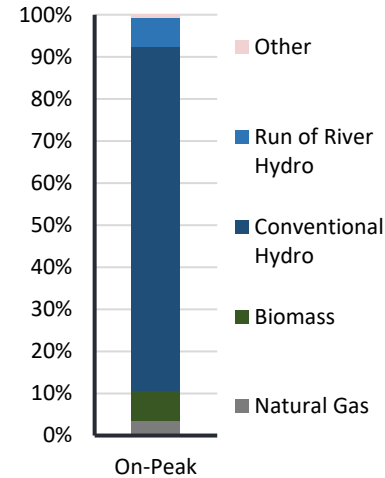
On-Peak Reserve Margin



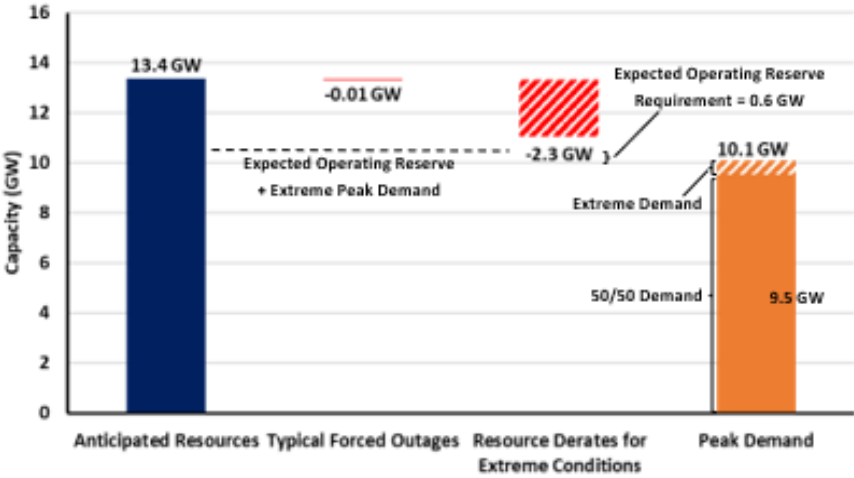
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

- Risk Period:** Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.
- Demand Scenarios:** Net internal demand (50/50) and (90/10) demand forecast.
- Forced Outages:** Average seasonal outages.
- Extreme Derates:** (90/10) resource performance distribution at peak hour.



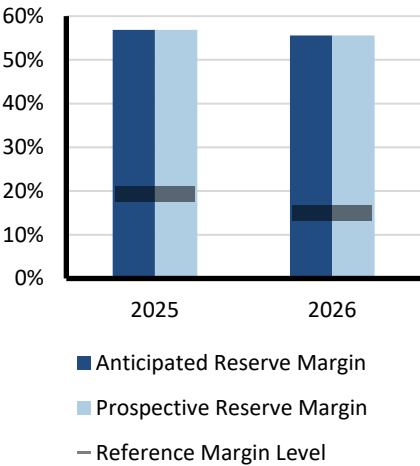
WECC-California

WECC-California is a summer-peaking assessment area in the Western Interconnection that includes most of California and a small section of Nevada. The assessment area has a population of over 42.5 million people. The area includes the California ISO, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Turlock Irrigation District, and the Balancing Area of Northern California. It has 32,712 miles of transmission. WECC is responsible for coordinating and promoting BES reliability in the Western Interconnection. WECC’s 329 members include 40 BAs, representing a wide spectrum of organizations with an interest in the BES. Serving an area of nearly 1.8 million square miles and more than 84.5 million customers, it is geographically the largest and most diverse Regional Entity.

Highlights

- Anticipated Reserve Margins for the summer exceed the NERC-prescribed Reference Margin Level. WECC’s probabilistic analysis shows no LOLH or EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions.
- Extreme heat and wildfires exacerbated by continued climate change may impact generation and transmission resources and remain a reliability concern.
- Cyber attacks pose significant reliability concerns for the area.
- Supply chain constraints and economic uncertainty may impact Tier 1 resources.
- Inverter-based resource (IBR) output variability remains a concern, such as from the evening ramp requirements from declining solar and Santa Ana winds, which can overspeed wind turbines, requiring them to curtail.

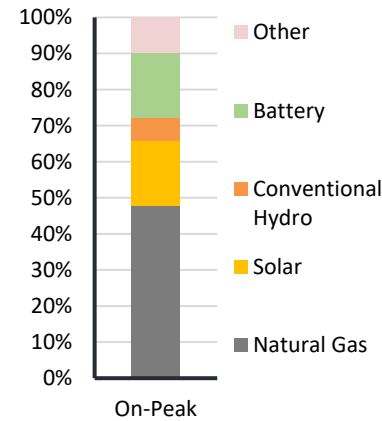
On-Peak Reserve Margin



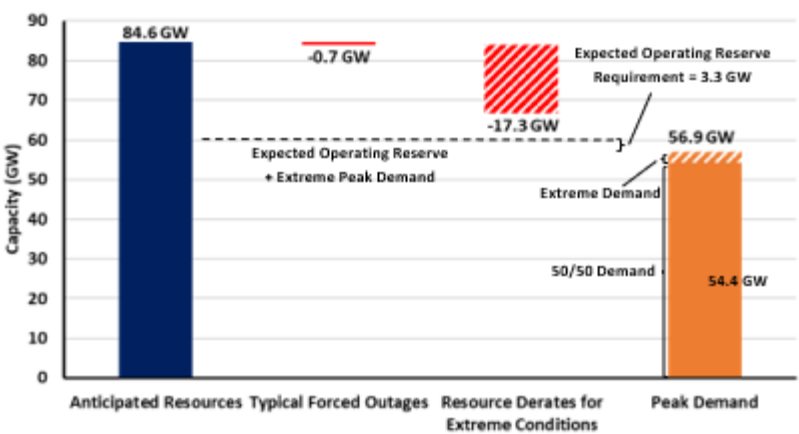
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

Risk Period: On-peak risk scenario.

Demand Scenarios: 50/50 and 90/10. Significant difference in delta from 2025. May be from switch to SERVIM and weather year adjustment taken out.

Forced Outages: Based on historical average of forced outages for a specified period/conditions (e.g., average of forced outages for June through September weekdays, over the past three years), or area-specific methodology for determining anticipated forced outages for non-intermittent resources (e.g., thermal, hydro).

Extreme Derates: Capacity derate for resources for extreme conditions. The derate accounts for reduced capacity contributions due to performance in extreme conditions for thermal, wind, PV, storage, and other.



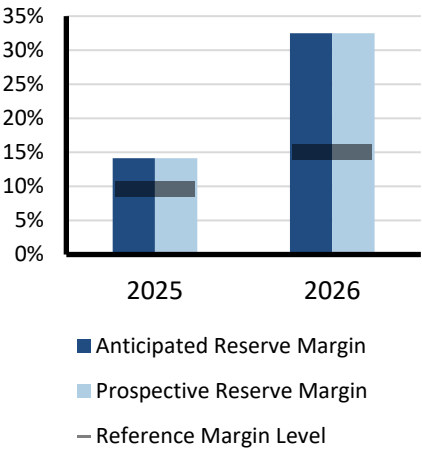
WECC-Mexico

WECC-Mexico is a summer-peaking assessment area in the Western Interconnection that includes the northern portion of the Mexican state of Baja California, which has a population of 3.8 million people and includes Centro Nacional de Control de Energía (CENACE). It has 1,568 miles of transmission. WECC is responsible for coordinating and promoting BES reliability in the Western Interconnection. WECC’s 329 members include 40 BAs, representing a wide spectrum of organizations with an interest in the BES. Serving an area of nearly 1.8 million square miles and more than 84.5 million customers, it is geographically the largest and most diverse Regional Entity.

Highlights

- WECC-Mexico has added an additional 1 GW of natural-gas-fired resources since last summer, greatly improving its outlook from the 2025 SRA.
- Anticipated Reserve Margins for the summer exceed the NERC-prescribed Reference Margin Level. WECC’s probabilistic analysis shows no LOLH or EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions. Anticipated resources are projected to be 15.5% higher.
- Operating reserves are a concern in this region during periods of extreme heat and elevated demand. High loading on Path 45 (See: WECC Path Rating Catalog) coupled with outages or derates to large thermal assets in this region can result in the declaration of an EEA and a request for assistance from RC West.
- Some generating units have reached advanced operational age, resulting in an observable increase in the forced outage rate. This condition increases the risk of capacity shortfalls and may compromise system reliability during peak seasonal demand.

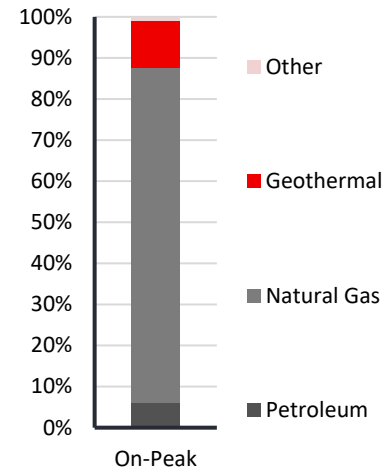
On-Peak Reserve Margin



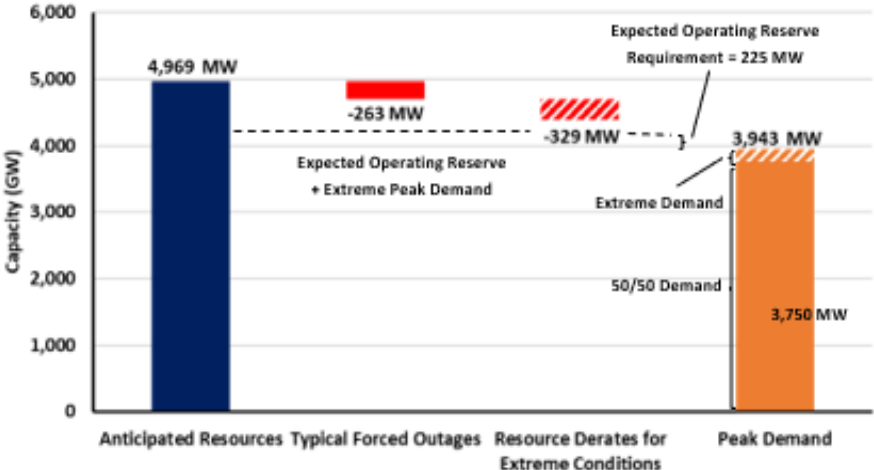
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

Risk Period: Highest risk for unserved energy at peak demand hour.

Demand Scenarios: Net internal demand (50/50) and (90/10) demand forecast.

Forced Outages: Average seasonal outages.

Extreme Derates: Using (90/10) resource performance distribution at peak hour.



WECC-Northwest

WECC-Northwest is a winter-peaking assessment area in the WECC Regional Entity. The area includes Montana, Oregon, and Washington and parts of northern California and northern Idaho. The population of the area is approximately 13.6 million. It has 32,751 miles of transmission. WECC is responsible for coordinating and promoting BES reliability in the Western Interconnection. WECC’s 329 members include 40 BAs, representing a wide spectrum of organizations with an interest in the BES. Serving an area of nearly 1.8 million square miles and more than 84.5 million customers, it is geographically the largest and most diverse Regional Entity.

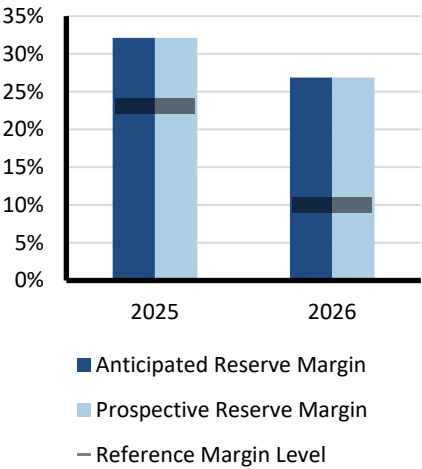
Highlights

- Anticipated Reserve Margins for the summer exceed the NERC-prescribed Reference Margin Level. WECC’s probabilistic analysis shows EUE at 2.7 MWh and LOLH of 0.1 hours weighted average under a range of weather scenarios for demand and energy availability conditions.
- The EUE and LOLH occurs in hours 17 and 18 in August and September, with the vast majority September hour 18.
- Peak net internal demand is projected to grow 4.6% over last summer’s forecasts; however, anticipated resources are showing just a 1.5% increase in energy availability, leading to tighter margins.
- Wide-area heat events, wildfires, and low snow-water equivalents due to a changing climate impact generation resource and transmission availability and remain a continued reliability concern. Firm imports may be limited at this time if neighboring areas are also experiencing peak loads or derates, limiting energy availability.
- Supply chain constraints and economic uncertainty may impact Tier 1 resources.
- There have been instances where operators had difficulty maintaining frequency due to sudden disconnection of large loads necessitating additional regulation capability.

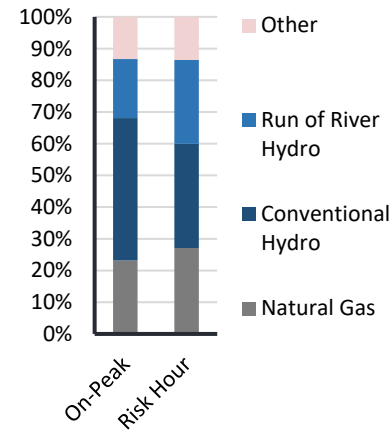
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources do not meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed extreme scenarios. WECC’s probabilistic analysis showed EUE at 2.7 MWh and LOLH of 0.1 hours weighted average under a range of weather scenarios for demand and energy availability conditions, placing the area at risk of shortfall during extreme conditions.

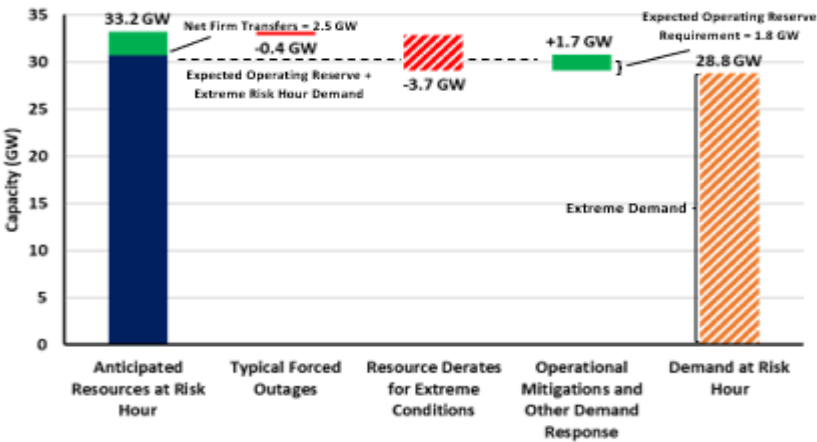
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

Modeled output depicting load-loss event from the probabilistic model.

Risk Period: Off-peak highest risk hour is primarily 6 p.m. in September.

Demand Scenarios: Modeled load for the risk hour during load-loss event.

Typical Forced Outages: Based on historical average of forced outages for the period.

Extreme Derates: Modeled outage and derates to account for underperformance of resources at the risk hour.

Operational Mitigations: An operational procedure used to mitigate extreme conditions not already included in the margins is the depletion of operating reserves by 1.7 GW. WECC did not use an operational model prior to this year's report, and it the first time the model includes operating reserves of 6% withheld through unserved energy.



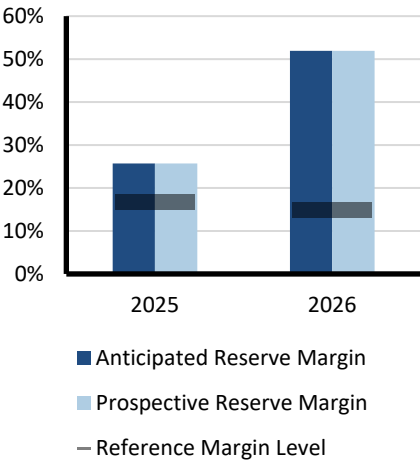
WECC-Rocky Mountain

WECC-BC (British Columbia) is a winter-peaking assessment area in the WECC Regional Entity that consists of the province of British Columbia, Canada. WECC is responsible for coordinating and promoting BES reliability in the Western Interconnection. WECC’s 329 members include 39 Balancing Authorities, representing a wide spectrum of organizations with an interest in the BES. Serving an area of nearly 1.8 million square miles and more than 82 million customers, it is geographically the largest and most diverse Regional Entity. WECC’s service territory extends from Canada to Mexico. It includes the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia in Canada, the northern portion of Baja California in Mexico as well as all or portions of the 14 Western United States in between.

Highlights

- WECC-Rocky Mountain has established a 15% Reference Margin Level for the 2026 Summer assessment period.
- Anticipated Reserve Margins for the summer exceed the NERC-recommended Reference Margin Level.
- Wildfires in the region, along with extreme heat conditions for the summer, pose the greatest reliability risk scenario for the Rocky Mountains. These conditions can impact rural co-ops disproportionately.
- The existing certain and Anticipated Reserve Margins are projected to be at 43% and 52%, respectively, above the established 15% for the summer. Projections for summer load indicate minimal growth from 2025 and are 0.6% higher than 2025 Summer peak load conditions.

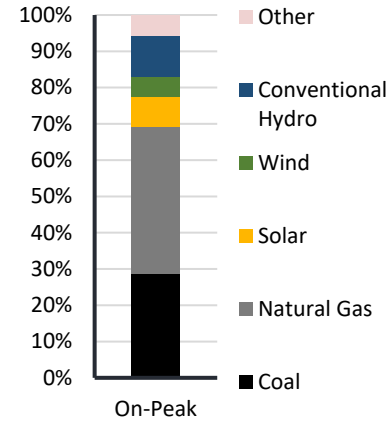
On-Peak Reserve Margin



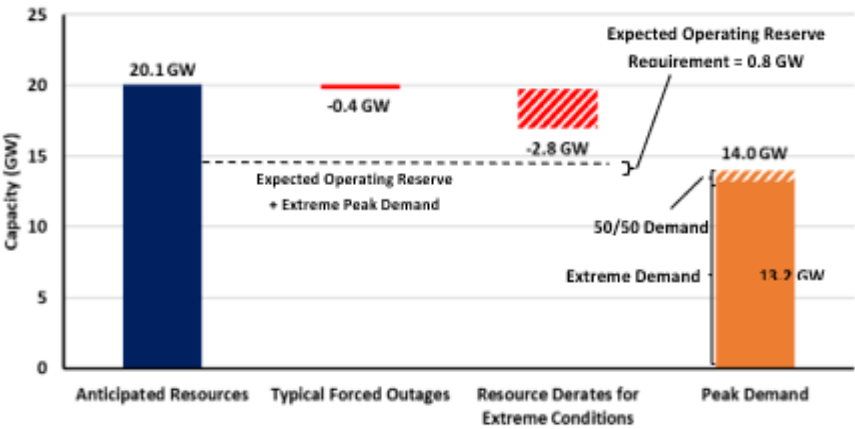
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under assessed scenarios with imports.

Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

- Risk Period:** Highest risk for unserved energy occurs at the hour of peak demand.
- Demand Scenarios:** Net internal demand (50/50) and (90/10) demand forecast.
- Forced Outages:** Average seasonal outages.
- Extreme Derates:** (90/10) resource performance distribution at peak hour.



WECC-Southwest

WECC-Southwest is a summer-peaking assessment area in the Western Interconnection that includes all of Arizona and New Mexico, most of Nevada, and small parts of California and Texas. The area has a population of approximately 13.6 million. It has 23,084 miles of transmission. WECC is responsible for coordinating and promoting BES reliability in the Western Interconnection. WECC’s 329 members include 40 BAs, representing a wide spectrum of organizations with an interest in the BES. Serving an area of nearly 1.8 million square miles and more than 84.5 million customers, it is geographically the largest and most diverse Regional Entity.

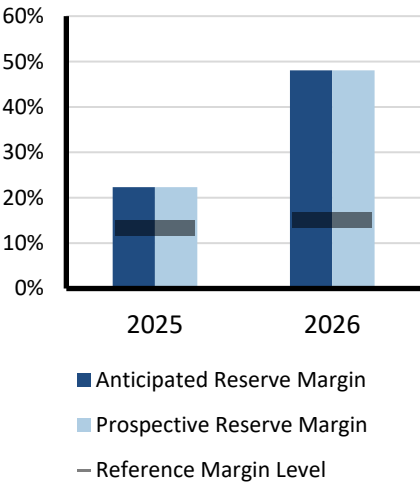
Highlights

- Anticipated Reserve Margins for the summer exceed the NERC-prescribed Reference Margin Level. WECC’s probabilistic analysis shows no LOLH or EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions.
- Peak net internal demand is projected to grow 9.5% over last summer’s forecasts. DR availability has also increased from 199 MW to 364 MW.
- Anticipated resource capacity is expected to be 32.5% higher than last summer, mostly due to methodological changes to capacity of incoming future resources. Supply chain constraints and economic uncertainty may impact Tier 1 resources.
- Elevated forced outage rates due to the amount of aging generation capacity along with extensive overhaul requirements can keep resources out of service for extended periods of time.
- Extreme heat events can result in prolonged periods of elevated demand, derates to thermal generation, and—given the large area that heat waves cover—drastically reduced import capability from neighboring areas. The area also faces significant wildland fire potential this summer. Wildfires have the potential to interrupt large numbers of customers by damaging generation, transmission, and distribution assets.

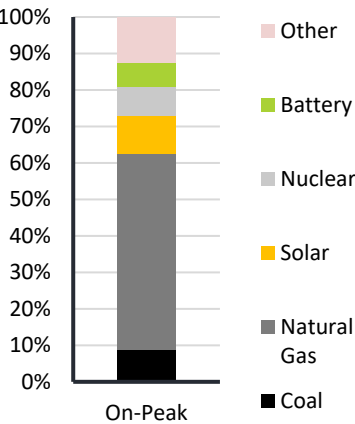
Risk Scenario Summary

Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed scenarios.

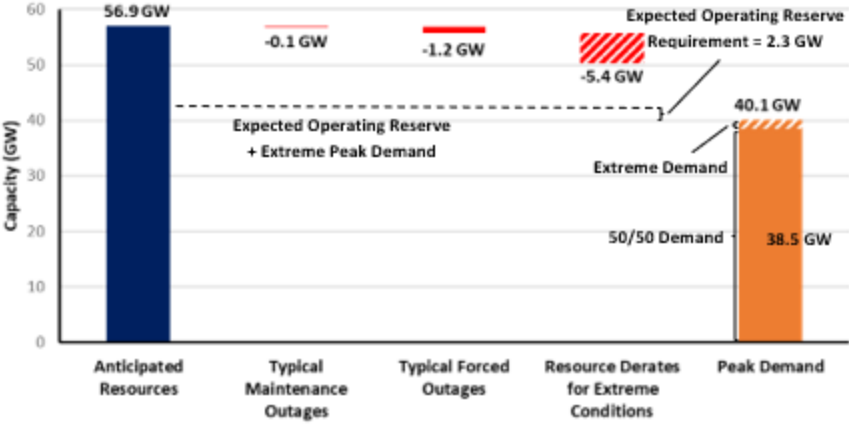
On-Peak Reserve Margin



Fuel Mix



Risk Period Scenario



Scenario Description (See Data Concepts and Assumptions)

Risk Period: Highest risk for unserved energy occurs at the hour of peak demand (5:00 p.m. local).
Demand Scenarios: Net internal demand (50/50) at risk hour and (90/10) demand forecast.
Forced Outages: Average seasonal outages.
Extreme Derates: Using (90/10) scenario.

Data Concepts and Assumptions

The table below explains data concepts and important assumptions used throughout this assessment.

General Assumptions
- Reliability of the interconnected BPS is comprised of both adequacy and operating reliability: - Adequacy is the ability of the electric system to supply the aggregate electric power and energy requirements of the electricity consumers at all times while taking into account scheduled and reasonably expected unscheduled outages of system components. - Operating reliability is the ability of the electric system to withstand sudden disturbances, such as electric short-circuits or unanticipated loss of system components.
The reserve margin calculation is an important industry planning metric used to examine future resource adequacy.
All data in this assessment is based on existing federal, state, and provincial laws and regulations.
Differences in data collection periods for each assessment area should be considered when comparing demand and capacity data between year-to-year seasonal assessments.
A positive net transfer capability would indicate a net importing assessment area; a negative value would indicate a net exporter.
Demand Assumptions
Electricity demand projections, or load forecasts, are provided by each assessment area.
Load forecasts include peak hourly load¹⁷ or total internal demand for the summer and winter of each year.¹⁸
Total internal demand projections are based on normal weather (50/50 distribution)¹⁹ and are provided on a coincident²⁰ basis for most assessment areas.
Net internal demand is used in all reserve margin calculations, and it is equal to total internal demand then reduced by the amount of controllable and dispatchable demand response projected to be available during the peak hour.

¹⁷ https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Glossary%20of%20Terms/Glossary_of_Terms.pdf used in NERC Reliability Standards

¹⁸ The summer season represents June–September and the winter season represents December–February.

¹⁹ Essentially, this means that there is a 50% probability that actual demand will be higher and a 50% probability that actual demand will be lower than the value provided for a given season/year.

²⁰ Coincident: This is the sum of two or more peak loads that occur in the same hour. Noncoincident: This is the sum of two or more peak loads on individual systems that do not occur in the same time interval; this is meaningful only when considering loads within a limited period of time, such as a day, a week, a month, a heating or cooling season, and usually for not more than one year. SERC calculates total internal demand on a noncoincidental basis.

Resource Assumptions
Resource planning methods vary throughout the North American BPS. NERC uses the categories below to provide a consistent approach for collecting and presenting resource adequacy. Because the electrical output of VERs (e.g., wind, solar PV) depends on weather conditions, their contribution to reserve margins and other on-peak resource adequacy analysis is less than their nameplate capacity.
<u>Anticipated Resources:</u> • Existing-Certain Capacity: Included in this category are commercially operable generating units or portions of generating units that meet at least one of the following requirements when examining the period of peak demand for the summer season: unit must have a firm capability and have a power purchase agreement with firm transmission that must be in effect for the unit; unit must be classified as a designated network resource; and/or, where energy-only markets exist, unit must be a designated market resource eligible to bid into the market. • Tier 1 Capacity Additions: This category includes capacity that either is under construction or has received approved planning requirements. • Net Firm Capacity Transfers (Imports minus Exports): This category includes transfers with firm contracts.
<u>Prospective Resources:</u> Includes all anticipated resources plus the following: Existing-Other Capacity: Included in this category are commercially operable generating units or portions of generating units that could be available to serve load for the period of peak demand for the season but do not meet the requirements of existing-certain.
Reserve Margin Descriptions
Planning Reserve Margin: This is the primary metric used to measure resource adequacy; it is defined as the difference in resources (anticipated or prospective) and net internal demand then divided by net internal demand and shown as a percentage.
Reference Margin Level: The assumptions and naming convention of this metric vary by assessment area. The Reference Margin Level can be determined using both deterministic and probabilistic (based on a 0.1/year loss-of-load study) approaches. In both cases, this metric is used by system planners to quantify the amount of reserve capacity in the system above the forecasted peak demand that is needed to ensure sufficient supply to meet peak loads. Establishing a Reference Margin Level is necessary to account for long-term factors of uncertainty involved in system planning, such as unexpected generator outages and extreme weather impacts that could lead to increase demand beyond what was projected in the 50/50 load forecast. In many assessment areas, a Reference Margin Level is established by a state, provincial authority, ISO/Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), or other regulatory body. In some cases, the Reference Margin Level is a requirement. Reference Margin Level s may be different for the summer and winter seasons. If a Reference Margin Level is not provided by an assessment area, NERC applies 15% for predominantly thermal systems and 10% for predominantly hydro systems.

Seasonal Risk Scenario Chart Description
Each assessment area performed an operational risk analysis that was used to produce the seasonal risk scenario charts in the Regional Assessments Dashboards. The chart presents deterministic scenarios for further analysis of different resource and demand levels: The left blue column shows anticipated resources, and the two orange columns at the right show the two demand scenarios of the normal peak net internal demand and the extreme summer peak demand—both determined by the assessment area. The middle red or green bars show adjustments that are applied cumulatively to the anticipated resources, such as the following: • Reductions for typical generation outages (i.e., maintenance and forced outages that are not already accounted for in anticipated resources) • Reductions that represent additional outage or performance derating by resource type for extreme, low-probability conditions (e.g., drought condition impacts on hydroelectric generation, low-wind scenario affecting wind generation, fuel supply limitations, or extreme temperature conditions that result in reduced thermal generation output) • Additional capacity resources that represent quantified capacity from operational procedures, if any, that are made available during scarcity conditions Not all assessment areas have the same categories of adjustments to anticipated resources. Furthermore, each assessment area determined the adjustments to capacity based on methods or assumptions that are summarized below the chart. Methods and assumptions differ by assessment area and may not be comparable. The chart enables evaluation of resource levels against levels of expected operating reserve requirement and the forecasted demand. Furthermore, the effects from extreme events can also be examined by comparing resource levels after applying extreme scenario derates and/or extreme summer peak demand.

Resource Adequacy

The Anticipated Reserve Margin, which is based on available resource capacity, is a metric used to evaluate resource adequacy by comparing the projected capability of anticipated resources to serve forecast peak demand.²¹ Large year-to-year changes in anticipated resources or forecast peak demand (net internal demand) can greatly impact Planning Reserve Margin calculations. All assessment areas have sufficient Anticipated Reserve Margins to meet or exceed their Reference Margin Level for Summer 2026 as shown in [Figure 5](#).

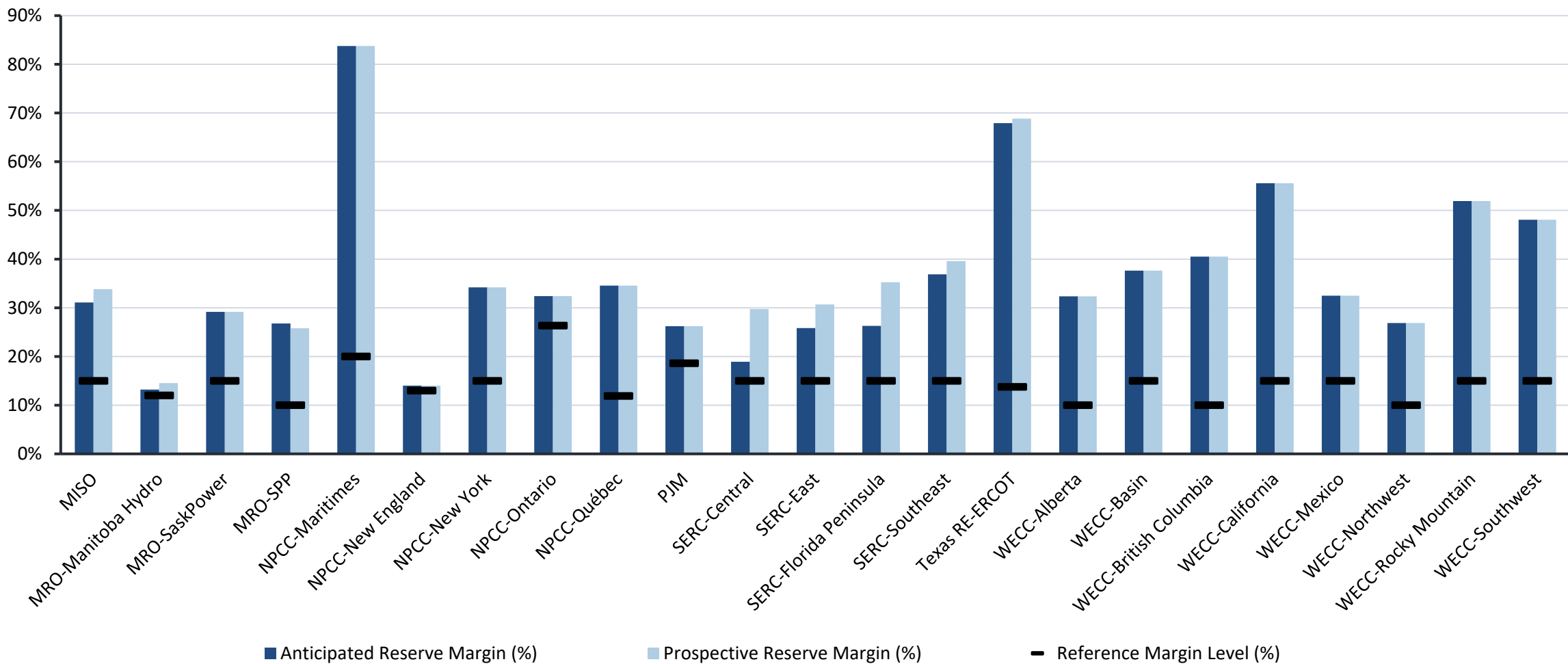


Figure 5: Summer 2026 Anticipated/Prospective Reserve Margins Compared to Reference Margin Level

²¹ Generally, anticipated resources include generators and firm capacity transfers that are expected to be available to serve load during electrical peak loads for the season. Prospective resources are those that could be available but do not meet criteria to be counted as anticipated resources. Refer to the [Data Concepts and Assumptions](#) section for additional information on Anticipated/Prospective Reserve Margins, anticipated/prospective resources, and Reference Margin Levels.

Changes from Year to Year

Figure 6 provides the relative change in the forecast Anticipated Reserve Margins from the 2025 Summer to the 2026 Summer. A significant decline can signal potential operational issues for the upcoming season. Additional details for each assessment area are provided in the [Data Concepts and Assumptions](#) and [Regional Assessments Dashboards](#) sections.

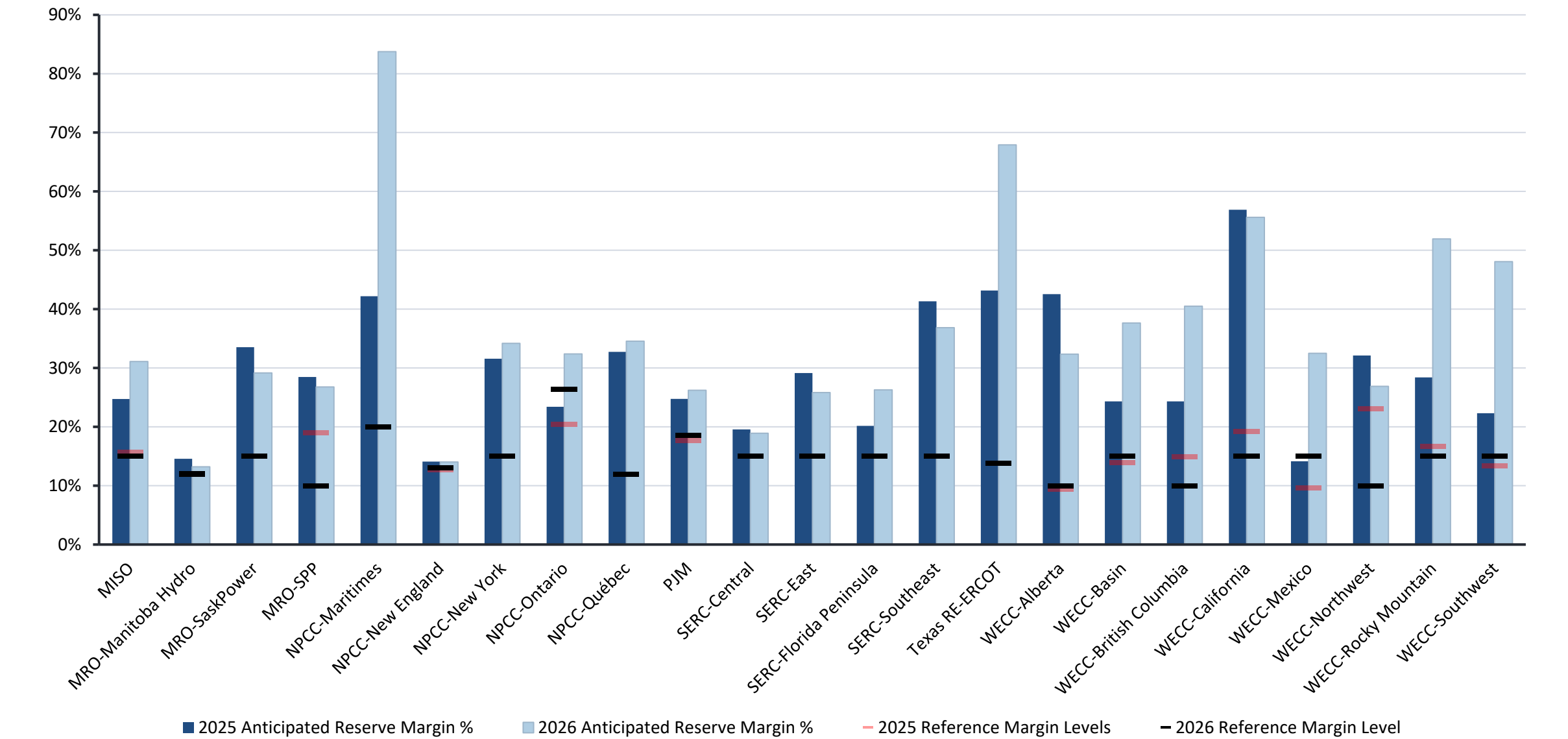


Figure 6: Summer 2025 and Summer 2026 Anticipated Reserve Margins Year-to-Year Change

Net Internal Demand

The changes in forecasted net internal demand for each assessment area are shown in [Figure 7](#).²² Assessment areas develop these forecasts based on historic load and weather information as well as other long-term projections.

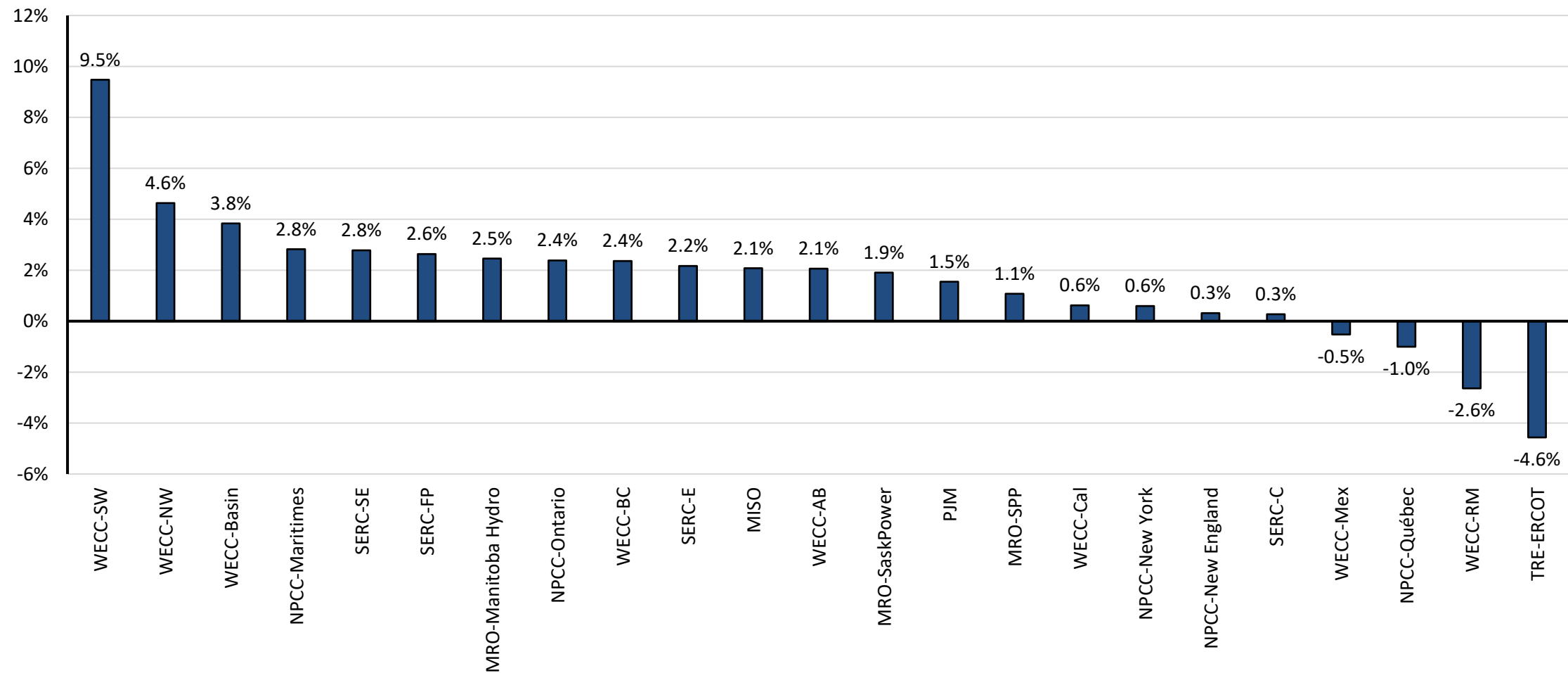


Figure 7: Changes in Net Internal Demand—Summer 2025 Forecast Compared to Summer 2026 Forecast

²² The lower demand forecast in Texas RE-ERCOT is the result of updated load modeling that reflects the observed behavior of load during peak periods and more demand response from large computational loads.

Demand and Resource Tables

The tables in this section contain peak demand and supply capacity data (i.e., resource adequacy data) for each assessment area.

MISO			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	125,313	127,824	2.0%
Demand Response: Available	9,004	9,100	1.1%
Net Internal Demand	116,309	118,725	2.1%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	142,793	152,382	6.7%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	0	0	-
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	2,280	3,259	42.9%
Anticipated Resources	145,073	155,641	7.3%
Existing-Other Capacity	1,190	0	-100.0%
Prospective Resources	148,543	158,900	7.0%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	24.7%	31.1%	6.4
Prospective Reserve Margin	27.7%	33.8%	6.1
Reference Margin Level	15.7%	15.0%	-0.7

MRO-SaskPower			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	3,620	3,688	1.9%
Demand Response: Available	50	50	0.0%
Net Internal Demand	3,570	3,638	1.9%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	4,477	4,409	-1.5%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	0	0	-
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	290	290	0.0%
Anticipated Resources	4,767	4,699	-1.4%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	4,767	4,699	-1.4%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	33.5%	29.2%	-4.4
Prospective Reserve Margin	33.5%	29.2%	-4.4
Reference Margin Level	15.0%	15.0%	0.0

MRO-Manitoba Hydro			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	3,377	3,611	6.9%
Demand Response: Available	0	151	-
Net Internal Demand	3,377	3,460	2.5%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	5,583	5,631	0.9%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	0	0	-
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	-1,714	-1,714	0.0%
Anticipated Resources	3,869	3,917	1.2%
Existing-Other Capacity	21	46	114.6%
Prospective Resources	3,890	3,963	1.9%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	14.6%	13.2%	-1.4
Prospective Reserve Margin	15.2%	14.5%	-0.7
Reference Margin Level	12.0%	12.0%	0.0

MRO-SPP			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	56,168	57,122	1.7%
Demand Response: Available	1,408	1,772	25.8%
Net Internal Demand	54,760	55,350	1.1%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	70,549	69,317	-1.7%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	0	0	-
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	-201	851	-524.0%
Anticipated Resources	70,348	70,168	-0.3%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	69,801	69,621	-0.3%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	28.5%	26.8%	-1.7
Prospective Reserve Margin	27.5%	25.8%	-1.7
Reference Margin Level	19.0%	10.0%	-9.0

NPCC-Maritimes			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	3,584	3,691	3.0%
Demand Response: Available	327	342	4.6%
Net Internal Demand	3,257	3,349	2.8%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	4,348	5,721	31.6%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	220	280	27.3%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	63	153	142.9%
Anticipated Resources	4,631	6,154	32.9%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	4,631	6,154	32.9%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	42.2%	83.8%	41.6
Prospective Reserve Margin	42.2%	83.8%	41.6
Reference Margin Level	20.0%	20.0%	0.0

NPCC-New York			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	31,471	31,578	0.3%
Demand Response: Available	1,487	1,415	-4.8%
Net Internal Demand	29,984	30,163	0.6%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	37,682	37,324	-1.0%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	0	210	-
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	1,769	2,941	66.3%
Anticipated Resources	39,451	40,475	2.6%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	39,451	40,475	2.6%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	31.6%	34.2%	2.6
Prospective Reserve Margin	31.6%	34.2%	2.6
Reference Margin Level	15.0%	15.0%	0.0

NPCC-New England			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	25,202	25,228	0.1%
Demand Response: Available	399	346	-13.3%
Net Internal Demand	24,803	24,882	0.3%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	27,054	27,667	2.3%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	0	295	-
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	1,245	409	-67.1%
Anticipated Resources	28,299	28,371	0.3%
Existing-Other Capacity	668	0	-100.0%
Prospective Resources	28,967	28,371	-2.1%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	14.1%	14.0%	-0.1
Prospective Reserve Margin	16.8%	14.0%	-2.8
Reference Margin Level	12.7%	13.0%	0.3

NPCC-Ontario			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	21,955	22,545	2.7%
Demand Response: Available	998	1,088	9.1%
Net Internal Demand	20,957	21,457	2.4%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	24,760	26,837	8.4%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	413	670	62.2%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	689	900	30.6%
Anticipated Resources	25,862	28,407	9.8%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	25,862	28,407	9.8%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	23.4%	32.4%	9.0
Prospective Reserve Margin	23.4%	32.4%	9.0
Reference Margin Level	20.5%	26.3%	5.9

NPCC-Québec			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	23,283	22,490	-3.4%
Demand Response: Available	1,020	450	-55.9%
Net Internal Demand	22,263	22,040	-1.0%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	32,132	33,324	3.7%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	0	0	-
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	-2,582	-3,670	42.1%
Anticipated Resources	29,550	29,655	0.4%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	29,550	29,655	0.4%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	32.7%	34.5%	1.8
Prospective Reserve Margin	32.7%	34.5%	1.8
Reference Margin Level	11.9%	11.9%	0.0

PJM			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	154,144	156,373	1.4%
Demand Response: Available	7,898	7,864	-0.4%
Net Internal Demand	146,246	148,509	1.5%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	186,638	188,854	1.2%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	0	0	-
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	-4,200	-1,427	-66.0%
Anticipated Resources	182,438	187,427	2.7%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	178,238	187,427	5.2%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	24.7%	26.2%	1.5
Prospective Reserve Margin	21.9%	26.2%	4.3
Reference Margin Level	17.7%	18.6%	0.9

SERC-Central			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	42,765	44,369	3.8%
Demand Response: Available	864	2,354	172.3%
Net Internal Demand	41,900	42,016	0.3%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	46,949	47,603	1.4%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	592	202	-66.0%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	2,554	2,158	-15.5%
Anticipated Resources	50,095	49,962	-0.3%
Existing-Other Capacity	2,475	4,546	83.7%
Prospective Resources	52,570	54,508	3.7%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	19.6%	18.9%	-0.6
Prospective Reserve Margin	25.5%	29.7%	4.3
Reference Margin Level	15.0%	15.0%	0.0

SERC-East			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	44,015	44,765	1.7%
Demand Response: Available	1,558	1,387	-11.0%
Net Internal Demand	42,457	43,378	2.2%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	54,665	54,637	0.0%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	17	23	36.9%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	150	119	-20.7%
Anticipated Resources	54,832	54,780	-0.1%
Existing-Other Capacity	2,628	3,890	48.1%
Prospective Resources	57,459	58,670	2.1%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	29.1%	26.3%	-2.8
Prospective Reserve Margin	35.3%	35.3%	0.0
Reference Margin Level	15.0%	15.0%	0.0

SERC-Florida Peninsula			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	52,987	54,477	2.8%
Demand Response: Available	3,158	3,335	5.6%
Net Internal Demand	49,829	51,142	2.6%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	59,395	64,163	8.0%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	102	58	-43.4%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	381	131	-65.6%
Anticipated Resources	59,878	64,352	7.5%
Existing-Other Capacity	3,482	2,481	-28.7%
Prospective Resources	63,360	66,833	5.5%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	20.2%	25.8%	5.7
Prospective Reserve Margin	27.2%	30.7%	3.5
Reference Margin Level	15.0%	15.0%	0.0

SERC-Southeast			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	47,049	48,625	3.3%
Demand Response: Available	1,338	1,642	22.7%
Net Internal Demand	45,711	46,983	2.8%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	64,111	64,391	0.4%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	0	375	-
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	489	-467	-195.5%
Anticipated Resources	64,600	64,299	-0.5%
Existing-Other Capacity	1,077	1,277	18.7%
Prospective Resources	65,676	65,576	-0.2%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	41.3%	36.9%	-4.5
Prospective Reserve Margin	43.7%	39.6%	-4.1
Reference Margin Level	15.0%	15.0%	0.0

Texas RE-ERCOT			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	85,151	83,224	-2.3%
Demand Response: Available	3,292	5,100	54.9%
Net Internal Demand	81,859	78,124	-4.6%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	112,321	125,975	12.2%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	4,854	5,189	6.9%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	20	20	0.0%
Anticipated Resources	117,195	131,184	11.9%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	117,770	131,903	12.0%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	43.2%	67.9%	24.8
Prospective Reserve Margin	43.9%	68.8%	25.0
Reference Margin Level	13.75%	13.75%	0.0

WECC-AB			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	12,246	12,499	2.1%
Demand Response: Available	0	0	-
Net Internal Demand	12,246	12,499	2.1%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	17,176	16,179	-5.8%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	281	323	15.1%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	0	40	-
Anticipated Resources	17,457	16,542	-5.2%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	17,457	16,542	-5.2%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	42.6%	32.3%	-10.2
Prospective Reserve Margin	42.6%	32.3%	-10.2
Reference Margin Level	9.4%	15.0%	5.6

WECC-BC			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	9,309	9,529	2.4%
Demand Response: Available	0	0	-
Net Internal Demand	9,309	9,529	2.4%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	11,313	12,307	8.8%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	260	469	80.3%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	0	612	-
Anticipated Resources	11,573	13,388	15.7%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	11,573	13,388	15.7%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	24.3%	40.5%	16.2
Prospective Reserve Margin	24.3%	40.5%	16.2
Reference Margin Level	14.9%	10.0%	-4.9

WECC-California			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	54,797	55,073	0.5%
Demand Response: Available	746	685	-8.2%
Net Internal Demand	54,051	54,388	0.6%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	75,726	78,788	4.0%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	8,470	2,085	-75.4%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	598	3,751	527.2%
Anticipated Resources	84,794	84,623	-0.2%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	84,794	84,623	-0.2%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	56.9%	55.6%	-1.3
Prospective Reserve Margin	56.9%	55.6%	-1.3
Reference Margin Level	19.2%	15.0%	-4.2

WECC-Southwest			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	35,321	38,814	9.9%
Demand Response: Available	199	364	82.9%
Net Internal Demand	35,122	38,451	9.5%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	40,300	46,476	15.3%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	1,966	6,667	239.1%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	695	3,791	445.4%
Anticipated Resources	42,961	56,934	32.5%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	42,961	56,934	32.5%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	22.3%	48.1%	25.8
Prospective Reserve Margin	22.3%	48.1%	25.8
Reference Margin Level	13.3%	15.0%	1.7

WECC-Northwest			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	29,157	30,479	4.5%
Demand Response: Available	30	2	-93.3%
Net Internal Demand	29,127	30,477	4.6%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	36,388	35,708	-1.9%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	844	477	-43.5%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	1,249	2,483	98.8%
Anticipated Resources	38,481	38,668	0.5%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	38,481	38,668	0.5%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	32.1%	26.9%	-5.2
Prospective Reserve Margin	32.1%	26.9%	-5.2
Reference Margin Level	23.1%	10.0%	-13.1

WECC-Basin			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	14,214	14,564	2.5%
Demand Response: Available	620	448	-27.7%
Net Internal Demand	13,594	14,116	3.8%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	14,923	16,759	12.3%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	704	1,382	96.3%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	1,274	1,288	1.1%
Anticipated Resources	16,901	19,429	15.0%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	16,901	19,429	15.0%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	24.3%	37.6%	13.3
Prospective Reserve Margin	24.3%	37.6%	13.3
Reference Margin Level	14.0%	15.0%	1.0

WECC-Rocky Mountain			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	13,848	13,516	-2.4%
Demand Response: Available	284	310	9.1%
Net Internal Demand	13,564	13,206	-2.6%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	17,312	18,363	6.1%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	104	1,206	1059.6%
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	0	495	-
Anticipated Resources	17,416	20,063	15.2%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	17,415	20,063	15.2%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	28.4%	51.9%	23.5
Prospective Reserve Margin	28.4%	51.9%	23.5
Reference Margin Level	16.7%	15.0%	-1.7

WECC-Mexico			
Demand, Resource, and Reserve Margins	2025 SRA	2026 SRA	2025 vs. 2026 SRA
Demand Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Total Internal Demand (50/50)	3,770	3,750	-0.5%
Demand Response: Available	0	0	-
Net Internal Demand	3,770	3,750	-0.5%
Resource Projections	MW	MW	Net Change (%)
Existing-Certain Capacity	4,303	4,761	10.6%
Tier 1 Planned Capacity	0	765	-
Net Firm Capacity Transfers	0	-557	-
Anticipated Resources	4,303	4,969	15.5%
Existing-Other Capacity	0	0	-
Prospective Resources	4,303	4,969	15.5%
Reserve Margins	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	Annual Difference
Anticipated Reserve Margin	14.1%	32.5%	18.4
Prospective Reserve Margin	14.1%	32.5%	18.4
Reference Margin Level	9.6%	15.0%	5.4

Variable Energy Resource Contributions

Because the electrical output of variable energy resources (VER) (e.g., wind, solar PV) depends on weather conditions, on-peak capacity contributions are less than nameplate capacity. The following table shows the capacity contribution (MW) of existing wind and solar PV resources at the peak demand hour for each assessment area. Resource contributions are also aggregated by Interconnection and across the entire BPS. For NERC’s analysis of risk periods after peak demand (e.g., U.S. assessment areas in WECC), lower contributions of solar PV resources are used because output is diminished during evening periods.

BPS Variable Energy Resources by Assessment Area												
Assessment Area / Interconnection	Wind			Solar PV			Hydro			Energy Storage Systems (ESS)		
	Nameplate Wind	Expected Wind	Expected Share of Nameplate (%)	Nameplate Solar PV	Expected Solar PV	Expected Share of Nameplate (%)	Nameplate Run-of-River Hydro	Expected Run-of-River Hydro	Expected Share of Nameplate (%)	Nameplate ESS	Expected ESS	Expected Share of Nameplate (%)
MISO	32,066	5,611	17%	20,419	12,322	60%	1,294	770	60%	3,560	3,457	97%
MRO-Manitoba Hydro*	259	47	18%	-	-	0%	202	-	0%	-	-	0%
MRO-SaskPower	816	319	39%	30	9	28%	121	74	61%	-	-	0%
MRO-SPP	35,760	8,114	23%	3,926	2,139	54%	113	66	59%	1,318	1,113	84%
NPCC-Maritimes	1,341	423	32%	148	80	54%	1,316	1,316	100%	162	106	65%
NPCC-New England	2,431	424	17%	3,609	1,728	48%	584	287	49%	723	686	95%
NPCC-New York	2,598	417	16%	661	283	43%	914	354	39%	23	-	0%
NPCC-Ontario*	4,943	735	15%	478	66	14%	-	-	0%	451	226	50%
NPCC-Québec*	4,024	885	22%	10	1	12%	444	444	100%	-	-	0%
PJM	13,855	4,570	33%	16,852	9,951	59%	2,505	2,505	100%	256	238	93%
SERC-Central	1,324	370	28%	2,303	1,446	63%	4,979	3,213	65%	100	100	100%
SERC-East	-	-	0%	7,843	4,205	54%	3,096	3,033	98%	323	235	73%
SERC-Florida Peninsula	-	-	0%	13,502	6,276	46%	-	-	0%	1,177	1,145	97%
SERC-Southeast	-	-	0%	9,412	8,087	86%	3,326	3,374	101%	164	141	86%
Texas RE-ERCOT	40,586	9,450	23%	40,279	29,682	74%	579	447	77%	21,979	20,688	94%
WECC-AB	5,684	455	8%	1,870	1,271	68%	896	481	54%	261	222	85%
WECC-Basin	5,959	360	6%	3,773	2,605	69%	884	386	44%	655	557	85%
WECC-BC*	753	60	8%	17	12	71%	1,871	888	47%	-	-	0%
WECC-Cal	7,985	907	11%	27,495	14,278	52%	1,120	628	56%	16,711	14,204	85%
WECC-Mexico	296	3	1%	350	35	10%	-	-	0%	-	-	0%
WECC-NW*	9,941	1,016	10%	1,729	1,051	61%	14,086	8,303	59%	547	461	84%
WECC-RM	5,684	1,034	18%	2,920	1,551	53%	117	61	52%	342	291	85%
WECC-SW	4,848	1,473	30%	11,112	4,868	44%	376	270	72%	3,691	3,137	85%
EASTERN INTERCONNECTION	94,474	21,180	22%	78,714	46,528	59%	18,892	15,435	82%	7,805	7,220	92%
QUÉBEC INTERCONNECTION	4,024	885	22%	10	1	12%	444	444	100%	-	-	0%
TEXAS INTERCONNECTION	40,586	9,450	23%	40,279	29,682	74%	579	447	77%	21,979	20,688	94%
WECC INTERCONNECTION ²³	41,150	5,308	13%	49,266	25,670	52%	19,350	11,017	57%	22,207	18,872	85%
ALL INTERCONNECTIONS	181,153	36,673	20%	168,736	101,946	60%	38,822	26,899	69%	52,442	47,005	90%
*On peak contributions from conventional hydro are not represented in this table, and in certain areas those contributions are significant.												

²³ Some areas in the Western Interconnection re-categorized their hydro resources for the 2026 SRA from run-of-river hydro to conventional hydro

Review of 2025 Capacity and Energy Performance

The summer of 2025 was the 12th hottest on record for the contiguous United States²⁴ during the meteorological summer period (June–August) and the 11th warmest summer in Canada.²⁵ Cooler-than-normal temperatures were observed in the eastern U.S., whereas most of Canada experienced slightly above-normal temperatures. Despite the comparatively temperate 2025 Summer (summer of 2024 was the fourth-hottest on record in both the United States²⁶ and Canada²⁷), U.S. electricity generation reached a record high for the assessment summer period (June – September) at 1,628 TWh²⁸, topping the prior year’s summer electricity generation total of 1,603 TWh. The month of July in the U.S. set a new monthly generation record at 446 TWh. In Canada, the comparatively cooler summer appears to have brought electricity generation down from the 2024 summer high of 192 TWh to the 2025 total of 188 TWh²⁹. Actual peak demand exceeded normal demand forecasts across 19 assessment areas and exceeded extreme demand projections from the 2025 SRA in three assessment areas. Despite a lower average summer temperature in 2025, a widespread heatwave³⁰ in early summer impacted much of the central and eastern U.S., bringing record-setting temperatures across several hundred counties.

Canada experienced its second-worst wildfire year on record³¹ (2023 being the worst) with fires burning an area larger than New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island combined. Saskatchewan and Manitoba comprised nearly half of the total area impacted by the fires. Drought that began in 2021 has also deepened across Canada, resulting in reduced hydroelectric power generation for a third straight year in British Columbia.

Eastern Interconnection–Canada and Québec Interconnection

In Ontario, grid operators utilized demand response resources on 10 different occasions during the summer period,³² culminating in demand reductions of 316 MW during the time of peak demand (24,862 MW) on June 24, 2025, the single highest peak in 12 years. Other demand-side management programs further reduced peak demand by 1,800 MW, contributing to 7% total reduction in demand stemming from consumer programs.

Québec saw electricity generation of roughly 52 TWh during the summer period,³³ down from 56 TWh for Summer 2024 amid relatively cooler temperatures and a year beset by low runoff levels that have persisted since 2023.³⁴ The Maritimes saw a slight increase in electricity generation to 5.8 TWh for Summer 2025, up from 5.3 TWh the prior summer. Nova Scotia Power realized nearly a 20% reduction in annual 2025 power outages from the year before but still fell short of targets set by the Nova Scotia Energy Board relating to power-outage duration and frequency.

Saskatchewan saw severe storms and large hail in late August that damaged infrastructure, triggering emergency operating conditions and power outages.³⁵

²⁴ [Assessing the U.S. Temperature and Precipitation Analysis in August 2025 | News | National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](#)

²⁵ [Climate Trends and Variations Bulletin - summer 2025 - Canada.ca](#)

²⁶ [U.S. sweltered through its 4th-hottest summer on record | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

²⁷ [Climate Trends and Variations Bulletin - Summer 2024 - Canada.ca](#)

²⁸ [U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis](#)

²⁹ [Electric power generation, monthly generation by type of electricity](#)

³⁰ [Assessing the U.S. Climate in June 2025 | News | National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](#)

³¹ [Canada’s top 10 weather stories of 2025 - Canada.ca](#)

³² [2025 Year in Review](#)

³³ [Electric power generation, monthly generation by type of electricity](#)

³⁴ [Hydro-Québec - Quarterly Bulletin - Third Quarter 2025](#)

³⁵ [SaskPower crews still working to restore power after weekend outages - WestCentralOnline: West Central Saskatchewan's latest news, sports, weather, community events.](#)

Eastern Interconnection—United States

New York and New England saw region-wide heat waves in June and July. ISO-NE saw peak-hour demand in June exceed its extreme demand projections from the 2024 SRA, a significant step up from the prior year’s summer peak (+7%). Heat and humidity, high demand, and some unexpected generation reductions and outages left the region short of the resources needed to maintain required operating reserves for more than three hours around the evening peak on June 24,³⁶ though electricity supply was not interrupted. NYISO declared an EEA Level 1 on June 24, June 25, and July 29 due to limited capacity availability,³⁷ resulting in the deployment of emergency DR programs and other special-case resources. Both the New York and New England ISOs saw peak loads that exceeded their demand projections.

PJM saw their third-highest all-time summer peak³⁸ of more than 160 GW. This exceeded extreme demand projections for the summer (159 GW). The system operator was able to manage load by calling on customers who were enrolled in financially incentivized DR programs.

MISO declared an EEA Level 1³⁹ on June 23 to access emergency capacity. At the time of the event, more than 4 GW of generation was trapped in the south due to transmission constraints. MISO was able to dispatch 565 MW of emergency capacity in the Midwest, but only 45% performed. MISO has been engaged in efforts to highlight the need for non-performance penalties. On June 24, when neighboring areas were experiencing peak demand, MISO had to curtail non-firm exports to avoid going into EEA. In late July, MISO experienced a shortage of operating reserves due to errors in forecasting load and renewables. This was one of 24 total instances of operating reserve shortage, double the amount from the previous year.

In SERC, an EEA Level 2 was declared in the Carolinas amid high load conditions and generation resources that were unavailable⁴⁰ during the peak of the June heat wave affecting the broader Eastern Interconnection – a precautionary reliability measure to support system operations during peak demand and generation outages. During this event, the affected service territory recorded a new all-time peak demand of 21,931 MW on June 25.

Texas Interconnection—ERCOT

Texas saw a relatively mild summer and above-average rainfall in 2025 with the June–July period ranking as the 43rd hottest out of 131 historical years. But even so, Summer 2025 load levels were comparable to the 2023 Summer load levels when the summer was far hotter.⁴¹ Forced outages of thermal resources outstripped such forced outages from the summer of 2024, prompting a larger discharge of energy storage resources (ESR) some evenings. Texas set a new solar generation record in July at 29.3 GW, and solar contributed just under 17 GW at the hour of peak demand on August 18 (hour ending at 6:00 pm). Wind generation was relatively high at the peak demand hour and also set records in the spring. Energy storage also reached a new discharge record at 7.2 GW on August 20.

Western Interconnection

The Western Interconnection saw summer peak demand decrease slightly from the previous year’s summer peak, reaching 163,140 MW in 2025, down from 168,206 MW the prior summer. Operators and RCs were able to maintain the flow of electricity through the summer months.

³⁶ [Summer 2025 recap: Reliability maintained as grid sees highest peak in over a decade - ISO Newswire](#)

³⁷ [NYISO Summer 2025](#)

³⁸ [2025 in Review: Operations Improvements See PJM Through Record Peaks, Growing Demand | PJM Inside Lines](#)

³⁹ [Microsoft PowerPoint - IMM Quarterly Report, Summer 2025](#)

⁴⁰ [DOE grants Duke Energy authority to exceed power plant permit limits during extreme heat | Utility Dive](#)

⁴¹ [12 Summer 2025 Operational and Market Review.pptx](#)

Western Interconnection—Canada

Western Canada experienced a heat wave from late August and through early September, breaking daily records in British Columbia and the Yukon and exacerbating the ongoing drought in western Canada. Wildfire activity also increased due to heat and dry conditions. The same period brought generation outages that triggered emergency operations in parts of western Canada.

Western Interconnection—United States

The western United States overall navigated last summer with the BPS experiencing relatively few emergency events, and demand in western assessment areas never reached or exceeded the projections for extreme demand from the *2025 SRA*. Variable resources performed as expected with the exception of California seeing much less solar generation than anticipated, 65% less solar than was projected ahead of the prior year’s assessment. California’s lower-than-expected solar did not result in energy shortfalls.

In Mexico, generation losses in late August triggered Level 3 EEAs, but the overall number of Level 3 EEAs was down year-on-year and on par with the number of Level 3 EEAs triggered in 2023 for the same seasonal period.

Despite the moderation in summer heat when compared to 2024, certain Rocky Mountain states saw record temperatures with Utah and Nevada recording their warmest years on record. The Rocky Mountain region saw peak demand surpass the projected normal demand conditions but remained under extreme demand projections.

2025 Summer Demand and Generation Summary at Peak Demand							
Assessment Area	Actual Peak Demand ¹ (GW)	SRA Peak Demand Scenarios ² (GW)	Wind – Actual ¹ (MW)	Wind – Expected ³ (MW)	Solar – Actual ¹ (MW)	Solar – Expected ³ (MW)	Forced Outages Summary ⁴ (MW)
MISO	121.6	116.3	1,105	6,039	12,323	9,123	8,856
		121.6					
MRO-Manitoba Hydro	3.5	3.4	0	48	0	0	252
		3.6					
MRO-SaskPower	3.6	3.6	232	310	26	9	0
		3.8					
MRO-SPP	54.5	54.8	8,130	5,556	810	492	4,370
		57.5					
NPCC-Maritimes	3.6	3.3	151	314	69	0	33
		3.5					
NPCC-New England	26.6	24.7	566	142	180	1,412	1,963
		26.4					
NPCC-New York	32	30.0	1,256	446	164	243	1,372
		31.7					
NPCC-Ontario	24.9	21.0	607	742	39	66	1,532
		24.5					
NPCC-Québec	23.0	22.3	790	885	0	0	5,029
		23.3					
PJM	160.7	146.2	4,515	1,855	7,730	6,244	15,945
		158.7					
SERC-C	43.2	41.9	84	370	714	1,053	701
		45.7					
SERC-E	44.8	42.5	0	0	3,200	5,022	2,407
		45.7					
SERC-FP	54.6	49.8	0	0	8,035	5,749	1,599
		50.8					
SERC-SE	46.4	45.7	0	0	3,366	7,728	1,380
		55.9					
TRE-ERCOT	83.7	85.2 ⁵	14,509	9,396	16,961	22,962	11,095
		91.3 ⁵					
WECC-AB	12.5	12.2	2,870	796	32	1,480	**
		12.7					
WECC-BC	9.8	9.3	293	149	4.8	0	**
		10.0					
WECC-CA	54	54.1	1,744	1,207	5,064	14,756	1,063
		64.3					

2025 Summer Demand and Generation Summary at Peak Demand							
Assessment Area	Actual Peak Demand ¹ (GW)	SRA Peak Demand Scenarios ² (GW)	Wind – Actual ¹ (MW)	Wind – Expected ³ (MW)	Solar – Actual ¹ (MW)	Solar – Expected ³ (MW)	Forced Outages Summary ⁴ (MW)
WECC-MX	3.5	3.8 4.1	2.5	50	296	227	**
WECC-NW	29.8	29.1 32.7	1,054	3,107	1,398	666	1,825
WECC-RM	13.4	13.8 15.0	2,313	1,359	1,571	1,669	1,954
WECC-Basin	13.8	13.6 15.0	931	911	2,660	2,231	0
WECC-SW	36.9	35.1 39.0	1,230	1,091	4,472	4,293	2,323
Highlighting Notes	Actual peak demand in the highlighted areas met or exceeded extreme scenario levels.		Actual wind output in highlighted areas was significantly below seasonal forecast.		Actual solar output in highlighted areas was significantly below seasonal forecast.		Actual forced outages above or below forecast by factor of two
Table Notes: ¹ Actual demand, wind, and solar values for the hour of peak demand in U.S. areas were obtained from the assessment areas. ² See NERC 2025 SRA demand scenarios for each assessment area (pp. 14–33). Values represent the normal summer peak demand forecast and an extreme peak demand forecast that represents a 90/10, or once-per-decade, peak demand. Some areas use other basis for extreme peak demand. ³ Expected values of wind and solar resources from the 2025 SRA. ⁴ Values from NERC Generator Availability Data System for the 2025 summer hour of peak demand in each assessment area. Highlighted areas had actual forced outages that were more than twice the value for typical forced outage rates used in the 2024 summer risk period scenarios in the 2025 SRA. ⁵ Texas RE-ERCOT peak demand scenarios are obtained by adding expected demand response (3.2 GW) to the demand scenarios found on p. 30 of the 2025 SRA. **Data unavailable - Canadian assessment areas report to the NERC Generator Availability Data System on a voluntary basis, which can contribute to the absence of some values in certain assessment areas.							

2026 Summer Energy Market and Electric Reliability Assessment



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Staff Report
May 2026

This report is a product of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staff. This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission or any Commissioner.

PREFACE

The 2026 Summer Energy Market and Electric Reliability Assessment (2026 Summer Assessment) report provides Commission Staff's outlook for June through September 2026. The report contains five sections: a summary of key findings; anticipated weather and weather-related risks; notable reliability risks for the summer; energy market fundamentals; and regional electric reliability probabilistic assessments.

KEY FINDINGS IN SUMMER 2026 ASSESSMENT

TAKEAWAYS

- **High temperatures and extreme weather events are expected to challenge the electric grid.**
 - Drought and low snowpack could curb hydropower generation.
 - Wildfires and hurricanes may affect some parts of the country.
 - **Projected generation and transmission additions will help address forecasted high electricity demand growth.**
 - **Natural gas demand and production are both expected to increase.**
 - **Resources and operating reserves are adequate in all NERC assessment areas under normal operating conditions.**
 - Possible reliability challenges in NPCC-NE, western ERCOT, and WECC-NW under extreme operating conditions.
-

Forecasted higher-than-average summer temperatures and uncertainty from extreme weather events are expected to challenge the electric grid this summer. Addressing those stressors may be difficult because several weather conditions build off each other, namely low snowpack, continued drought, and wildfires. The resulting low water levels are also expected to restrict hydropower generation in key regions.

As to market fundamentals, electricity consumption is expected to be higher in summer 2026 than in each of the previous five summers. However, new generator additions and transmission line expansions are expected to help address increased electricity demand. Also, natural gas demand is forecast to increase this summer compared to the previous five summers, while electricity generation is expected to continue to make up the largest share of total natural gas demand.

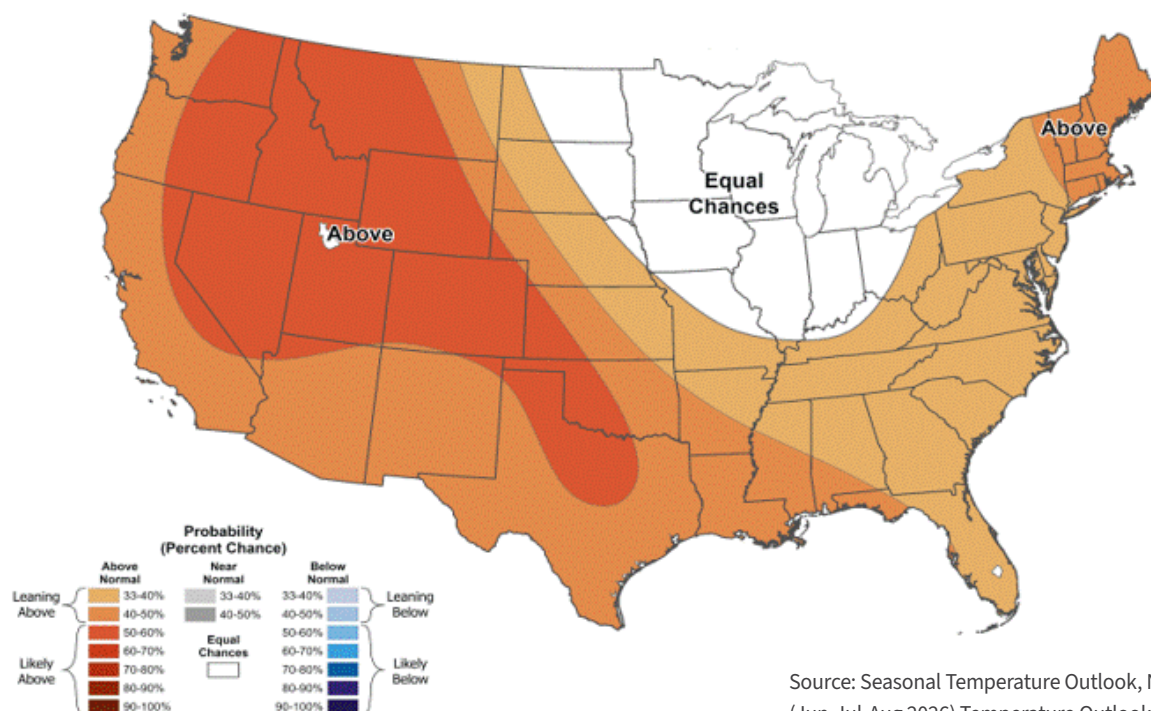
Wholesale electricity prices are expected to vary by region this summer, with the highest prices expected in the Mid-Atlantic (PJM Interconnection LLC), New York (New York Independent System Operator), and New England (ISO New England). Compared to last summer, natural gas prices are also expected to increase at major eastern trading hubs but decrease at most western and midcontinent trading hubs.

Based on data provided by the assessment areas, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has conducted probabilistic assessments that indicate possible challenges this summer for the electric grid. Under normal operating conditions, according to NERC, all assessment areas are expected to have adequate generating resources to meet expected summer electricity demand and operating reserve requirements. However, under

extreme weather conditions, three assessment areas face a higher likelihood of tight generation availability in a range of operating scenarios: the Northeast Power Coordinating Council-New England (NPCC-NE), the western part of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), and the Western Energy Coordinating Council – Northwest (WECC-NW). These operating scenarios include higher peak load levels, reduced resources conditions, and wide-area extreme weather conditions that may disrupt available transfer and generator availability. If these scenarios occur, operational mitigation may be needed to avoid facing reliability issues.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

Figure 1: Summer Temperatures Likely Higher Than Average with Typical Hurricane Risk Expected



Source: Seasonal Temperature Outlook, NOAA Three Month (Jun-Jul-Aug 2026) Temperature Outlook, April 1, 2026.

Weather risk from extreme heat is elevated this summer with the potential to impact electricity markets and reliability. Forecasts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for June to August 2026, shown in the map on **Figure 1**, project above-average temperatures across much of the United States.¹ Additionally, NOAA forecasts a 61% chance of El Niño conditions and a 1-in-4 chance that it will be a ‘strong’ El Niño later this year, raising the risk of extreme heat events this summer.² El Niño conditions typically drive higher temperatures across the northern and central United States and stronger storms in the South. As El Niño strengthens, extreme heat could strain the grid beyond expected operating conditions and result in sharp increases in demand as cooling load increases.

Geographically widespread, high temperatures can intensify stress on the electric grid by reducing the ability of neighboring systems to exchange supply while they are simultaneously facing high demand. High temperatures can also increase transmission line losses and cause conductors to reach operating limits sooner under the combination of high load and high heat conditions, all of which increase the risk of outages and make preparation essential.³ Extreme heat can also reduce generator capacity, leading to outages or derates.⁴

1 NOAA uses a 30-year climate average in calculating these probabilities along with a range of inputs including the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) forecasting data.

2 NOAA, *El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Diagnostic Discussion* (Apr. 9, 2026), www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensoforecast/ensodisc.shtml.

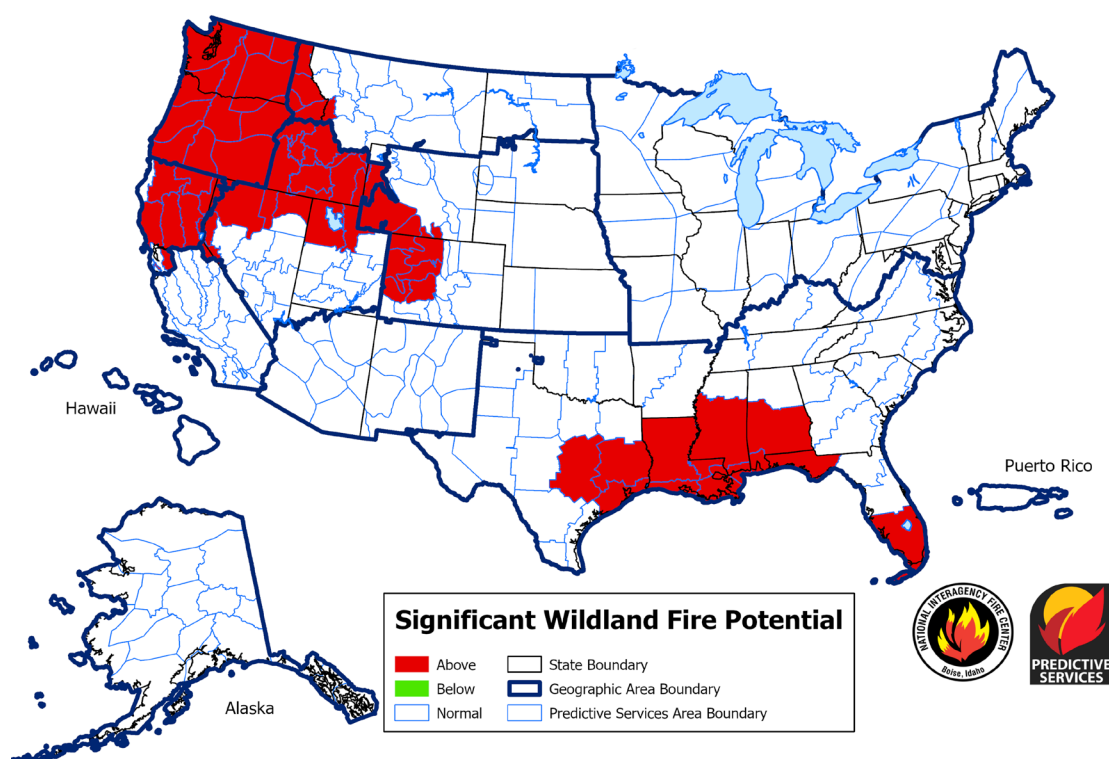
3 Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), *Extreme Heat Events and Impacts to the Electrical System* at 3 (Sep. 5, 2022), restservice.epri.com/publicdownload/000000003002025522/0/Product.

4 A 2024 Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) study concluded that extreme high temperatures can reduce efficiency of some natural gas turbines by 25%. See PNNL, *Heatwaves: Less Efficient Power Flow, More Power Demand*, press release, (July 29, 2024), www.pnnl.gov/news-media/extreme-heat-hurricanes-wildfires-how-summers-extremes-disrupt-power-grid.

Finally, higher temperatures forecast for this summer could intensify storm systems and hurricanes.⁵ The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30, typically peaking in late summer or early fall. While the forecasts for this summer anticipate a below-average total of 13 hurricanes, uncertainty remains due to projected weather patterns that produce opposite effects: Projected El Niño conditions typically reduce hurricane formation, but warmer temperatures coupled with warm Atlantic waters can cause hurricanes to form and intensify rapidly.⁶

Wildfire Forecast

Figure 2: Wildfire Risks Elevated across the United States



Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

Source: Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook August 2026. National Interagency Coordination Center, Issued: May 1, 2026.

The expansion of wildfire risk from the West to other parts of the country is expected to continue in 2026. The National Interagency Coordination Center's (NICC) map for August 2026, shown in **Figure 2**, shows significant wildfire risk across the West, Southern Plains, and the Southeast regions of the United States, including the risk of fast-moving grass fires. Parts of the Gulf Coast may also experience above-normal fire activity caused by critically dry vegetation, persistent drought, and other conditions.⁷

⁵ NOAA, *Fuel for the Storm* (Accessed Mar. 9, 2025), oceantoday.noaa.gov/fuelforthestorm/.

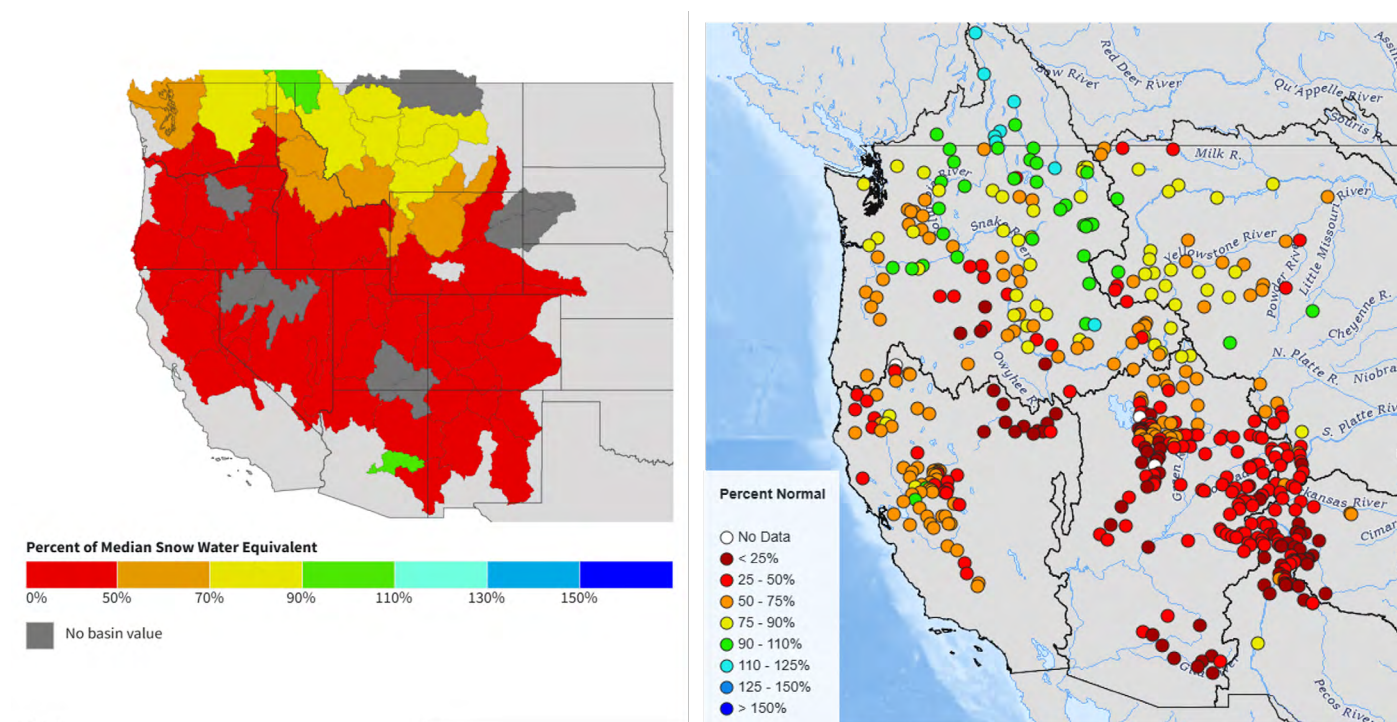
⁶ Colorado State University, *Forecast for 2026 Hurricane Activity* (Apr. 9, 2026), tropical.colostate.edu/forecasting.html.

⁷ National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC), *National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook, Outlook Period – March through June 2026* (Mar. 2, 2026), www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive-services/outlooks.

Since 2019, California utilities have relied on Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPSs), or intentional transmission line de-energization, to prevent their equipment from igniting fires. In recent years, PSPSs have been employed as a wildfire mitigation tool more broadly across the West and increasingly in other parts of the United States to counter drought conditions and wildfire risks as they expand eastward.⁸

Western Snowpack and Hydropower Forecast

Figure 3: Record Low Snowpack Impacts Western Hydropower Availability



Source(s): SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Median, USDA Natural Resources Conservation. Service Data Valid End of Day: April 8, 2026; and Western Water Supply Forecast, NWS Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, Valid April 8, 202

Snowpack is important for summer electric system reliability, serving as a natural energy reservoir that gradually releases water during spring and summer and fuels hydropower generation when electricity demand increases with rising temperatures.⁹ But across the West this summer, there is record-low snowpack, shown in red, orange and yellow, in **Figure 3**.¹⁰ This could curb production of hydropower throughout the West, where over half of all U.S. utility-scale hydropower generation capacity is concentrated.¹¹

8 Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, *Public Safety Power Shutoffs in Wildfire Mitigation Plans* (Feb. 2026), wildfire.pnnl.gov/mitigationPlans/content/analysis/Public%20Safety%20Power%20Shutoffs%20in%20WMPs.pdf.

9 Winter snowpack refers to the depth of water that would theoretically result if the entire snowpack melted instantaneously.

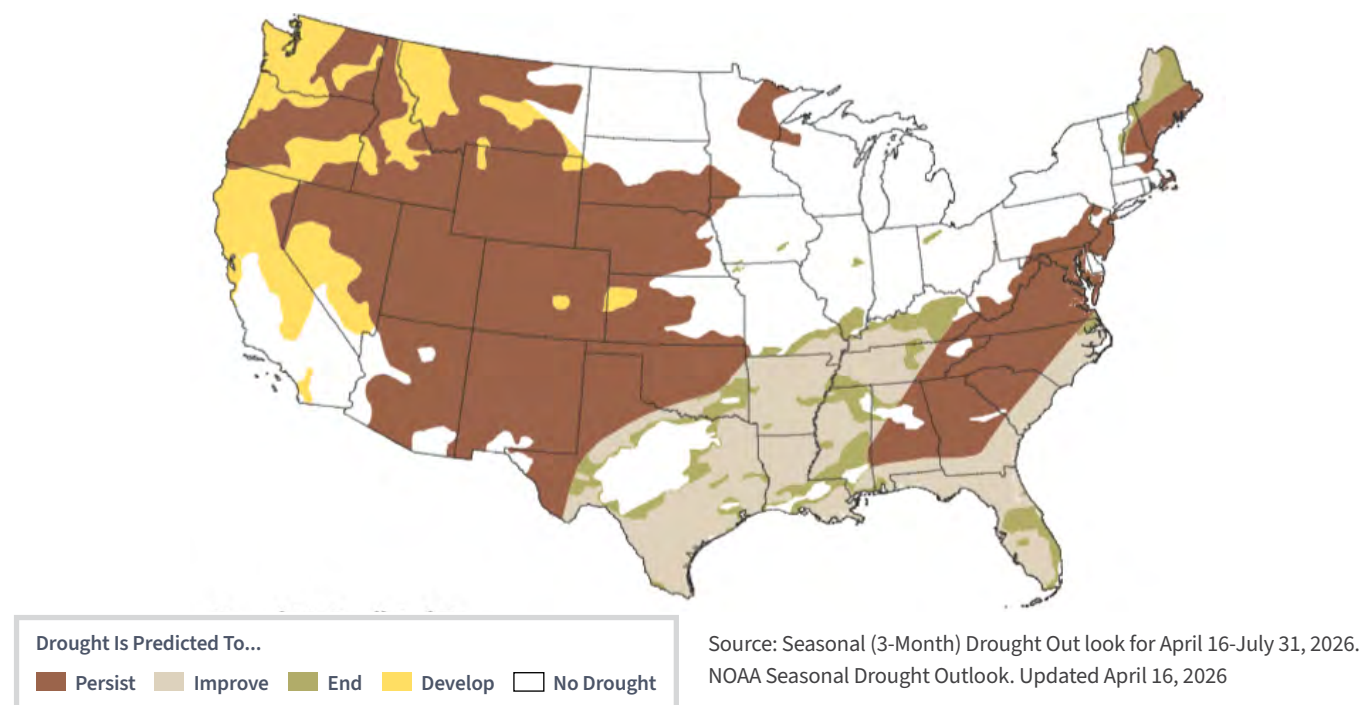
10 National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), *Drought Status Update: Snow Drought Current Conditions and Impacts in the West* (Apr. 9, 2026), www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/snow-drought-current-conditions-and-impacts-west-2026-04-09.

11 EIA, *Hydropower explained: Where hydropower is generated* (Accessed May 13, 2026), www.eia.gov/energyexplained/hydropower/where-hydropower-is-generated.php.

Meanwhile, low water volumes in summer 2026 in the greater Missouri and Mississippi River basins, following multiple consecutive years of low water flows, increase the risk of disrupted navigation, including for barges carrying coal to power plants. Low water levels, the risk of saltwater intrusion, and increased water temperatures could prompt derating or forced outages of generators with once-through-cooling equipment on the affected rivers.

Drought Conditions

Figure 4: Drought Conditions Impact Western, Central and Eastern Coastal Regions



Continued drought conditions this summer increase the risks to energy infrastructure, creating challenges for grid reliability. Drought conditions impact 62% of the continental United States and are expected to expand this summer, as shown in **Figure 4**. For example, continued widespread drought conditions could impact energy infrastructure in Texas this summer, as reservoirs along the Gulf Coast are forecast to drop to record lows, putting refineries clustered in Corpus Christi, Texas, and other parts of the region at risk of mandatory water cuts. Refinery capacity in the Corpus Christi region amounts to about 5% of total refinery capacity in the U.S.¹²

To the north, about 53% of Canada was in moderate to extreme drought conditions as of February 2026, and these conditions are projected to persist into summer 2026, particularly in Québec, Manitoba, and British Columbia.¹³ That would reduce Canadian hydropower available for export to the United States, potentially affecting thousands

12 Based on a U.S total of refinery capacity of 18,162,000 barrels per day as of January 2026. EIA, *Petroleum and Other Liquids: Refinery Utilization and Capacity* (Accessed Apr. 7, 2026), www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pnp_unc_dcu_nus_m.htm.

13 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, *Canadian Drought Monitor: Current Drought Conditions* (Mar. 6, 2026), agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-production/weather/canadian-drought-monitor/current-drought-conditions.

of megawatts¹⁴ of electricity imports into the New York Independent System Operator, ISO New England, and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO).¹⁵

In 2025, 28% less electricity flowed from Canada to the U.S. than in 2024, marking the lowest Canadian export total (35.64 Terawatt hours) since 2004.¹⁶ As of January and February 2026, Canadian electricity exports to the U.S. remained below 2025 levels.

From an operational standpoint, lower Canadian hydropower output will continue to increase U.S.-to-Canada net transfers and potentially strain transmission paths not historically loaded south-to-north.¹⁷ Such strains can lead to further congestion, voltage and loading challenges, or impose limits on power flow management actions during periods of high demand.

14 Canada exported a monthly average 2.6 TWh of electricity to the U.S. in 2025. CER, *Electricity Trade Summary* (Apr. 2, 2026), www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/data-analysis/energy-commodities/electricity/statistics/electricity-trade-summary/index.html.

15 Canada Energy Regulator (CER), *Electricity Trade Summary* (Apr. 2, 2026), www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/data-analysis/energy-commodities/electricity/statistics/electricity-trade-summary/index.html.

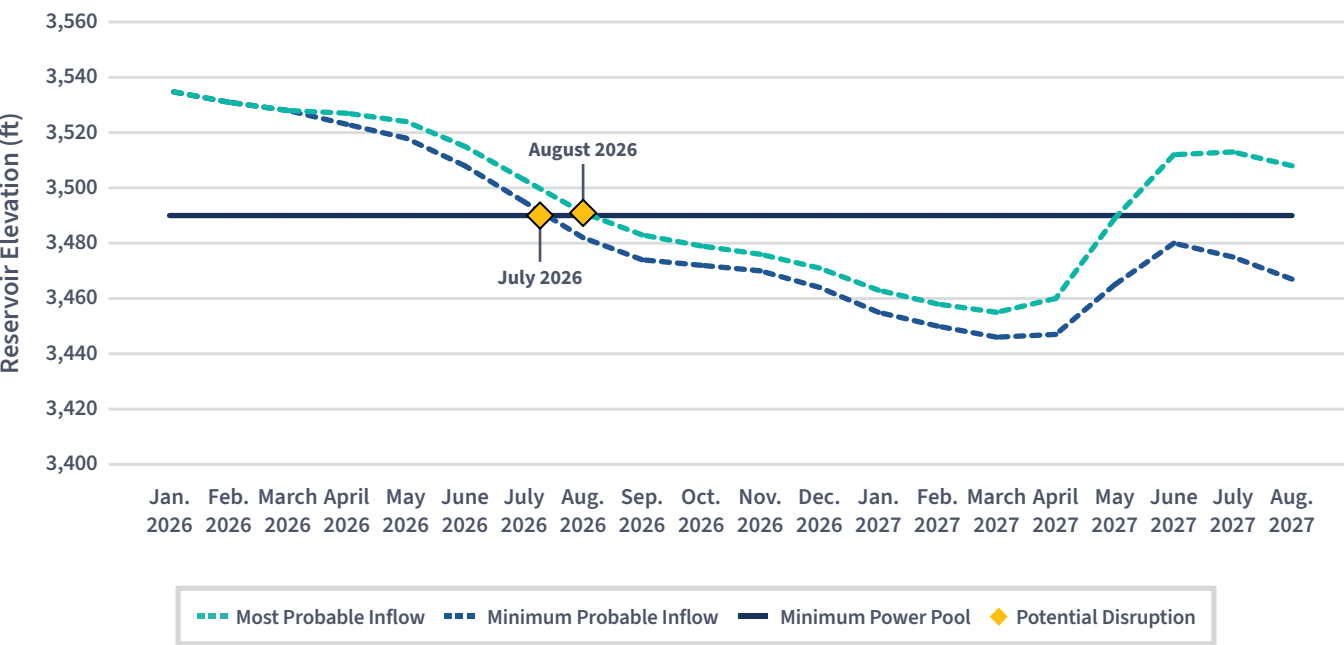
16 CER, *Market Snapshot: Annual Trade Summary – Electricity* (June 25, 2025), www.rec-cer.gc.ca/en/data-analysis/energy-markets/market-snapshots/2025/market-snapshot-annual-trade-summary-electricity.html.

17 EIA, *U.S. Northeast is Relying Less on Electricity Imports from Canada* (Sep. 19, 2025), www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=66144.

NOTABLE RELIABILITY RISKS AND TRENDS

Colorado River Drought Impacts

Figure 5: Colorado River Expected to Fall to Critical Levels in Summer 2026



Source: Bureau of Reclamation, April 2026 Most Probable 24-Month Study, Bureau of Reclamation Upper and Lower Colorado River Basin Regions, April 16, 2026

Electricity operations in the Colorado River Basin highlight the significant challenges that drought conditions have created across the West. Specifically, Lake Powell at the non-FERC-jurisdictional Glen Canyon Dam is forecast to see the lowest volume of water inflow since the dam began operation in 1964, at only 13% of average inflow volumes.¹⁸

U.S. Department of Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation forecasts indicate that, unless circumstances change, currently under the most probable conditions forecast from April 2026, shown in teal on **Figure 5**, the Glen Canyon dam may reach “minimum power pool,” shown as a black line, this summer, below which power generation at the dam is impossible and river flow will be cut off at the dam.¹⁹ However, the Bureau of Reclamation recently announced planned emergency actions it intends to take to preserve operations at Glen Canyon through the summer with emergency releases from upstream reservoirs and significantly reduced water releases from Glen Canyon. Without successful emergency actions or if water releases are reduced significantly, downstream dam operations would be affected, as well as any other municipal, commercial or industrial infrastructure dependent on the river, including the non-FERC jurisdictional Hoover Dam, a 2,000 MW hydropower generator on the Nevada-Arizona border. In total,

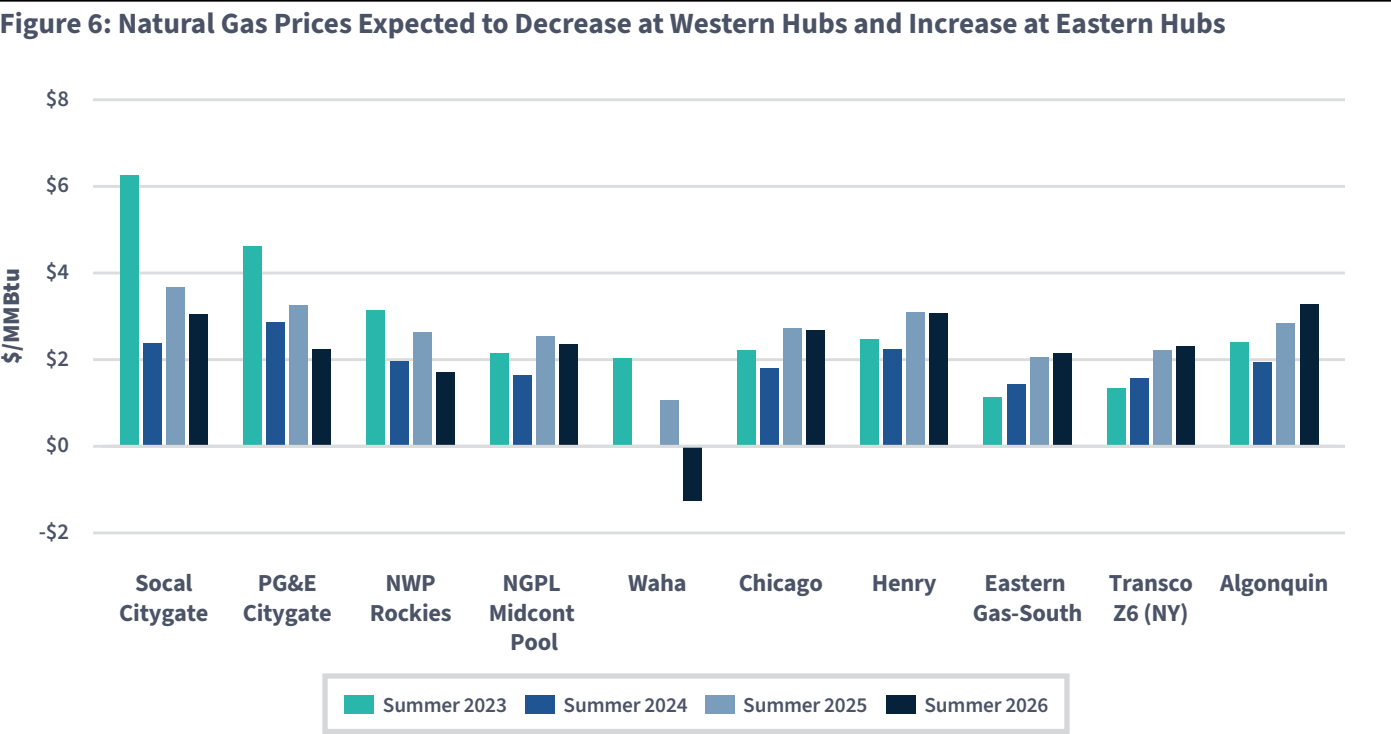
18 NOAA Colorado River Basin Forecast Center, *May 2026 Water Supply Briefing* (May 7, 2026) www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/present/2026/cbrfcwsupmay2026.pdf.
19 Bureau of Reclamation, *Reclamation Acts to Protect Colorado River System During Historic Drought*, press release, (Apr. 17, 2026), www.usbr.gov/newsroom/news-release/5326.

up to 4,500 MW of hydropower capacity on the Colorado River could be impacted by prolonged drought as soon as August 2026, if adverse conditions persist. Such conditions are beyond the region's transmission system design; on a day-to-day basis, they can create congestion and constrain system operators' ability to respond to voltage support challenges, event response mitigation needs, or any additional grid stressors.²⁰

20 Bureau of Reclamation, *Technical Appendix – 15 Dams and Electrical Power Resources*, at 15.1.4 (Jan. 2026), www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/post2026/draft-eis/docs/vol-3/P26-DEIS-TA-15.pdf.

NATURAL GAS FUNDAMENTALS

Natural Gas Prices



Source: InterContinental Exchange

Natural gas prices are signals of the supply-demand balance in natural gas markets and a significant input in the cost of wholesale electricity. Natural gas prices for summer 2026 are expected to be lower at major western and midcontinent trading hubs and higher at major eastern trading hubs across the United States compared to summer 2025. As of April 10, 2026, the futures contract price for the Henry Hub, located in Louisiana, averaged \$3.07 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) for this summer, 1% lower than last summer’s settled futures price average of \$3.10/MMBtu. Relatively high prices at the Henry Hub, compared to other major U.S. natural gas trading hubs, may be driven by expected growth in demand from LNG exports, the anticipated primary driver for total natural gas demand growth this summer.²¹ Despite the projected growth in LNG exports, U.S. natural gas prices this summer are relatively insulated from international events and potential global supply shortages. Most U.S. LNG export terminals are already operating at high utilization rates and do not have significant additional export capacity with which they could respond to near-term international market signals.

In the western United States, elevated natural gas storage levels following the 2025-2026 winter are expected to contribute to a decrease in natural gas prices in the Pacific Northwest and California compared to summer 2025 prices. Prices at the Northwest Rockies hub and the Pacific Gas & Electric Citygate, a northern California trading hub,

21 EIA, *Short-Term Energy Outlook* at Table 5a (Apr. 7, 2026), www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo.

are both expected to decrease by more than 30% year-over-year. Prices at the Southern California Gas Citygate hub are also expected to decrease 17% this summer.

At Northeast hubs, futures prices are expected to be higher this summer, as shown in **Figure 6**, reflecting the need to refill Northeast storage following significant regional storage withdrawals this past winter. The Algonquin Citygate, which serves the Boston area, is expected to average \$3.29/MMBtu, 16% higher than last summer's settled futures price of \$2.83. The Transco Z6 NY hub, a New York City point, is expected to average \$2.30/MMBtu an increase of 4% compared to summer 2025.

At the Waha trading hub, a point that represents the oil- and natural gas-rich Permian Basin production area in West Texas and southeastern New Mexico, average summer futures prices are trading at negative \$1.26/MMBtu, a significant reduction to last summer's settled price of \$1.06/MMBtu. This negative price reflects the limited availability of pipeline takeaway capacity in the Permian Basin relative to the volume of "associated natural gas," or natural gas that is produced as a byproduct of oil production, in the basin. Higher crude oil prices also are expected to incentivize additional crude oil and associated natural gas production in the Permian Basin this summer to help meet the global demand for crude oil, further exacerbating pipeline takeaway constraints in the area.²²

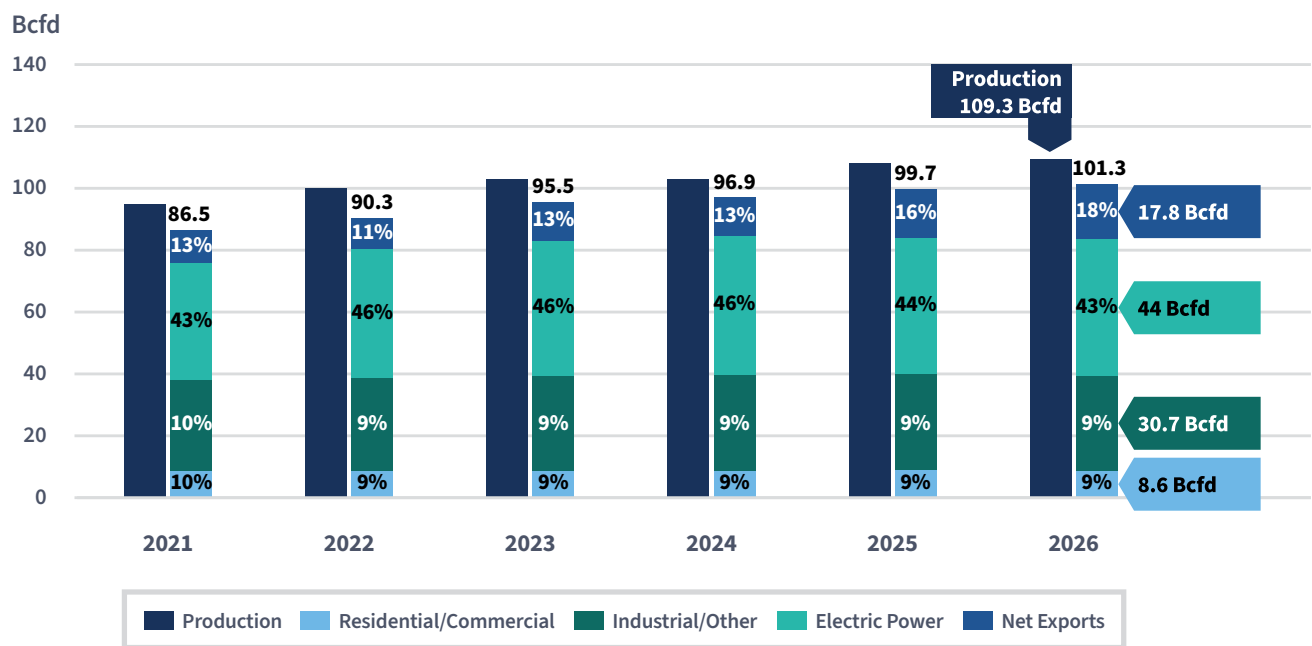
Three natural gas pipeline projects — the Gulf Coast Express Expansion project, the Blackcomb Pipeline project, and Phase 1 of the Hugh Brinson Pipeline project — are expected to add 4.6 Bcfd of pipeline capacity in the second half of 2026. These projects may help to alleviate the constraints in pipeline takeaway capacity for the Permian Basin region and increase natural gas prices at the Waha trading hub towards the end of the year.²³

22 EIA, *Short-Term Energy Outlook: Global Oil Markets* (Apr. 7, 2026), www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/report/global_oil.php

23 Chris Newman, *Permian Prompt-Month Natural Gas Forwards Sink to All-Time Lows*, Natural Gas Intelligence, Sep. 25, 2025, naturalgasintel.com/news/permian-prompt-month-natural-gas-forwards-sink-to-all-time-lows/.

Natural Gas Demand

Figure 7: Natural Gas Demand Expected to Continue Growth



Source: U.S. EIA STEO Table 5a

U.S. demand for natural gas continues to grow. As depicted in **Figure 7**, EIA projects total U.S. natural gas demand to average 101.3 Bcfd in summer 2026, 1.6 Bcfd more than summer 2025 levels and 8% more than the previous five-year summer average of 93.8 Bcfd. While electricity generation (also known as power burn) is expected to continue to make up the largest share of natural gas demand, net exports are the largest contributors to the expected growth in overall natural gas demand for summer 2026, consistent with previous summers. Net exports are expected to average 17.8 Bcfd in summer 2026, up 2 Bcfd from summer 2025 and 44% above the previous five-year average.²⁴ Total domestic natural gas consumption, which includes the residential/commercial, industrial, and power burn sectors but excludes net exports, is expected to average 83.3 Bcfd in summer 2026, a 0.5% decrease from summer 2025 levels but 2.5% above the previous five-year average.

Natural gas demand from the residential/commercial sector is forecast to average 8.6 Bcfd, slightly below summer 2025’s level and slightly above the previous five-year average. Natural gas demand in the industrial/other sector is forecast to average 30.7 Bcfd in summer 2026, down slightly from summer 2025’s level but 0.7% above the previous five-year average.²⁵ Industrial demand is mainly concentrated near the Gulf Coast due to the numerous petrochemical and other types of industrial facilities located in that region.

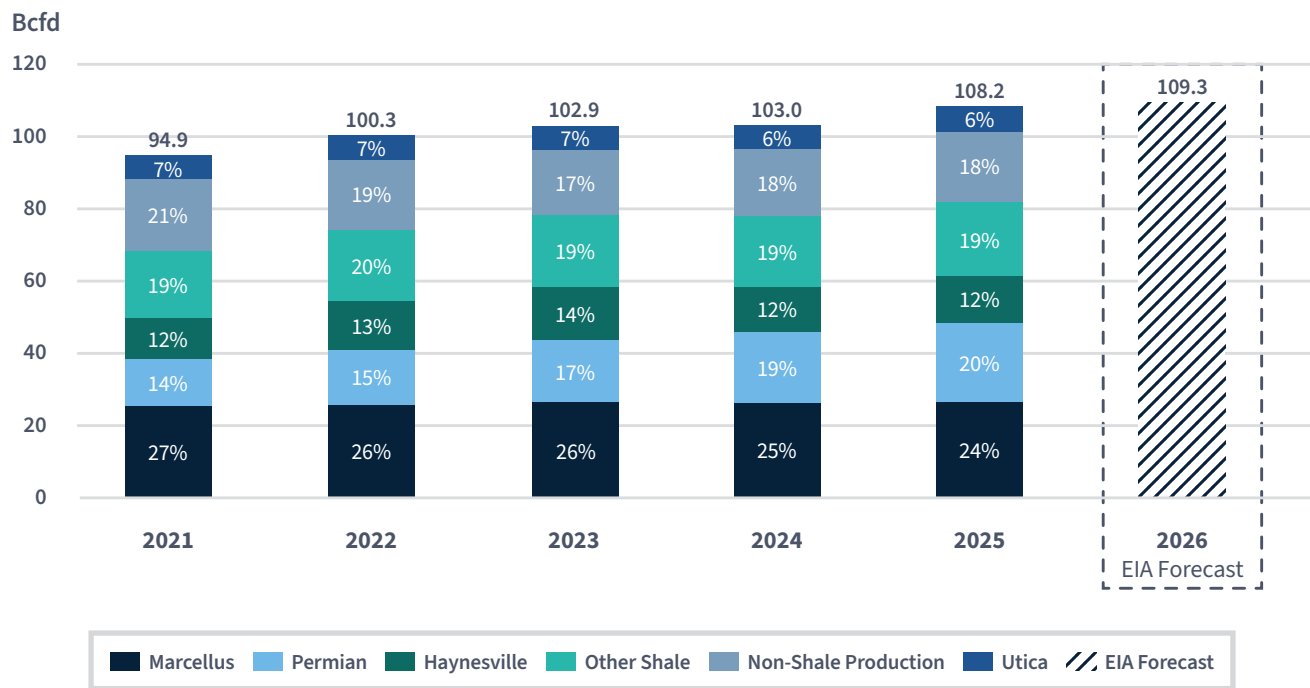
24 EIA, *Short-Term Energy Outlook* at Table 5a (Apr. 7, 2025), www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo.

25 *Ibid.*

EIA projects power burn to average 44 Bcfd in summer 2026, up 0.7% from summer 2025 and 4.2% above the previous five-year average. The average share of electricity generation from natural gas-fired power plants during summer 2026 is forecast to be 43%, down from 44% in summer 2025 and below the previous five-year average of 44%. Consistent with past summers, power burn in 2026 is forecast to peak during the typically hottest months of July and August, averaging 47.9 Bcfd between the two months, up 2.1% from summer 2025.

Natural Gas Production

Figure 8: Natural Gas Production Expected to Increase to All-Time High



Source: U.S. EIA STEO Tables 5a and 10b

Natural gas production is expected to be slightly higher this summer than last, driven by continued strong production from major shale fields. EIA forecasts U.S. dry natural gas production to average 109.3 Bcfd during summer 2026.²⁶ This represents a 1% increase from the summer 2025 average of 108.2 Bcfd and is 7% above the previous five-year average of 101.8 Bcfd.²⁷ The different colored segments within each bar in **Figure 8** break down the total production by region, illustrating how various shale plays contribute to overall production volume. Dry gas production remains concentrated across three regions. Collectively, Appalachia, the Permian, and the Haynesville accounted for 63% of total U.S. dry gas production for summer 2025.

26 *Ibid*; Dry natural gas is consumer-grade natural gas that is almost entirely composed of methane, with little to no hydrocarbon liquids or impurities.

27 EIA, *Short-Term Energy Outlook* at Table 5a (Apr. 7, 2026), www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo.

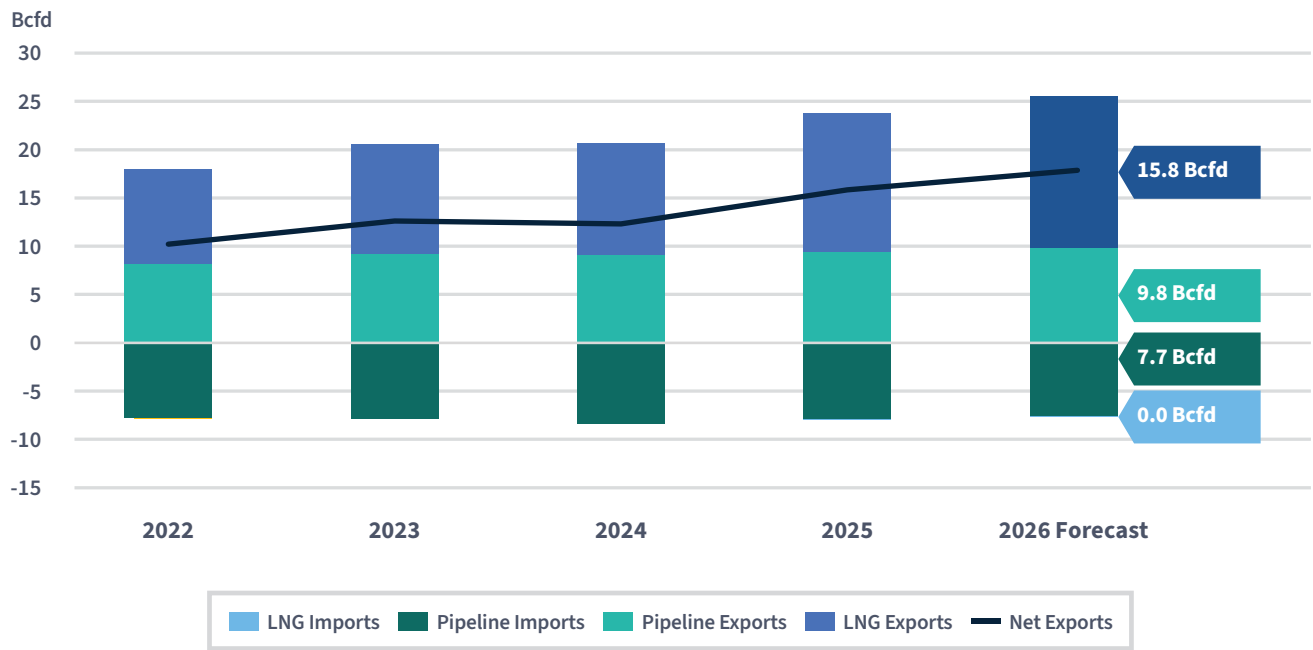
Appalachia remains the largest natural gas-producing region with the Marcellus and Utica shales combining for 33.3 Bcfd, approximately 31% of total U.S. dry natural gas production in 2025. Appalachian natural gas production is primarily located in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. Production growth in Appalachia has slowed in recent years due to pipeline capacity constraints, though recent pipeline capacity additions are expected to support modest growth in 2026.²⁸

The Permian Basin, located in West Texas and southeast New Mexico, produced approximately 22 Bcfd of dry natural gas over summer 2025, representing 20% of the total U.S. dry gas production. Growth in Permian natural gas production is driven largely by crude oil market dynamics rather than gas-specific investment. Elevated oil prices are expected to drive more oil-directed drilling for summer 2026, leading to production of more associated natural gas.

The Haynesville formation, located in northwest Louisiana and East Texas, produced 13.3 Bcfd in summer 2025. While production dipped from its all-time peak of 14.7 Bcfd in 2023, the basin is positioned for a rebound in summer 2026. EIA forecasts that Haynesville production will grow 1.2 Bcfd in 2026, partly in response to growing demand from expanding Gulf Coast LNG export capacity.

Natural Gas Exports and Imports

Figure 9: Natural Gas Exports Expected to Increase



Source: U.S. EIA STEO Table 5a

Projected U.S. net natural gas exports show continued growth in summer 2026, as shown in **Figure 9**, increasing by 2 Bcfd as new LNG terminal capacity begins commercial service. According to EIA projections, gross exports via

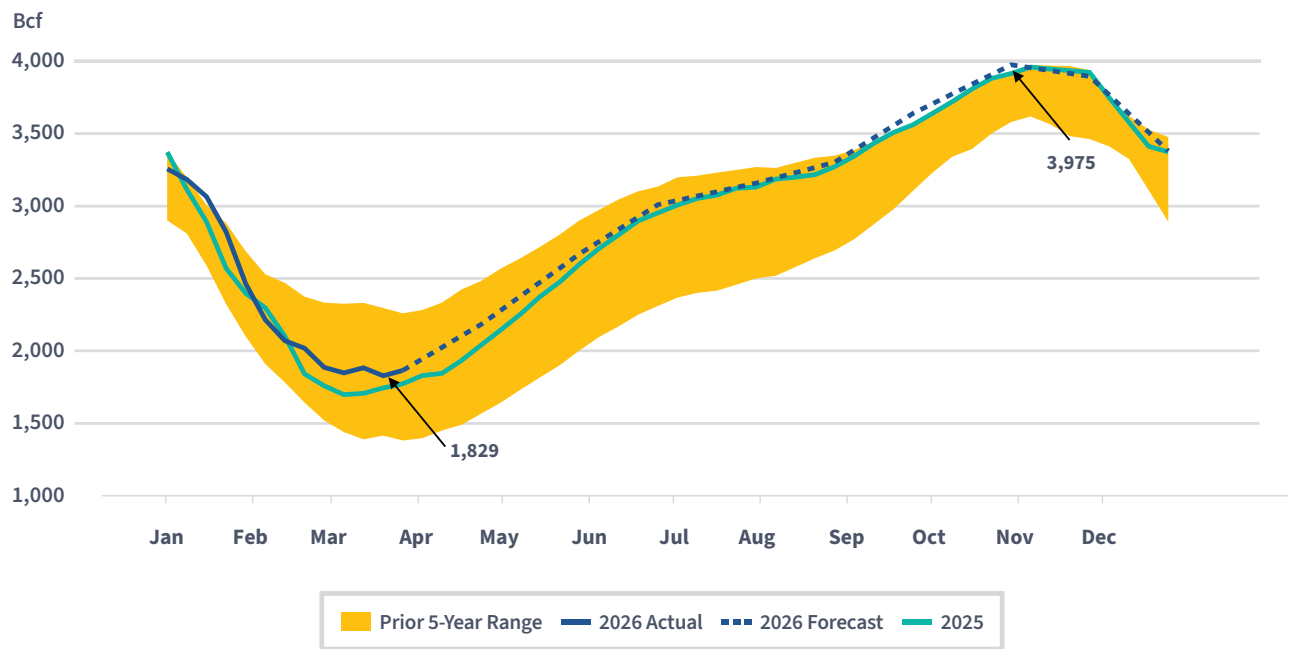
28 EIA, U.S. Natural Gas Production to Reach Record Highs in 2026 and 2027 (Feb. 13, 2026), www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=67166.

pipeline and LNG will rise to 25.6 Bcfd in summer 2026, a 7.4% increase from summer 2025. Gross LNG exports for this summer are forecast to average 15.8 Bcfd, up from 14.3 Bcfd in summer 2025 – an increase of 10%.²⁹ U.S. LNG cargoes continue to face strong demand – particularly from Europe, Japan, and South Korea – which supports additional liquefaction and export capacity growth in the future. The EIA anticipates that U.S. LNG export facilities will operate at high utilization levels this summer, as ongoing geopolitical developments in the Middle East limit global LNG supply.³⁰

Gross pipeline exports are forecast to average 9.8 Bcfd this summer, up 0.3 Bcfd from summer 2025. Mexico remains the primary pipeline export destination, driven by growth in demand from Mexico’s industrial and electric generation sectors and by expanding pipeline capacity along the U.S.-Mexican border.³¹ Gross pipeline imports, primarily from Canada, are forecast to average 7.7 Bcfd in summer 2026, slightly below the 7.9 Bcfd seen in summer 2025.

Natural Gas Storage Inventories

Figure 10: Historical and Forecast U.S. Natural Gas Storage Inventories



Source: U.S. EIA Form 912

29 As of April 2026, FERC-authorized LNG export liquefaction capacity stood at approximately 14.5 Bcfd across eight export facilities. In addition, three facilities are exporting LNG while commissioning. FERC, *North American LNG Export Terminals – Existing, Approved not Yet Built, and Proposed* (Accessed Apr. 7, 2026), www.ferc.gov/media/us-lng-export-terminals-existing-approved-not-yet-built-and-proposed.

30 EIA, *Short-Term Energy Outlook: Natural Gas Market Update*, (Apr. 7, 2026), www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/report/natgas.php#:~:text=In%20our%20forecast,%20the%20Henry,to%20come%20online%20this%20month.

31 Mexico also began exporting LNG in 2024 from its Fast LNG Altamira LNG production vessel. See EIA, *Initial Cargo of Liquefied Natural Gas Ships from Mexico* (Aug. 16, 2024), www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=62844#:~:text=The%20developer%20of%20the%20first,Tuxpan%20pipeline%20supplies%20the%20project.

Natural gas storage inventories help to balance natural gas demand and supply and are fundamental to price formation in natural gas markets.³² The 2026 U.S. natural gas storage injection season began in late March with 1,829 Bcf stored in working gas inventories, an inventory level 2.5% above the previous five-year average.³³ The starting inventory level for the 2026 injection season was 131 Bcf (8%) higher than at the start of the 2025 injection season.³⁴ EIA expects total injections of approximately 2,146 Bcf throughout the 2026 injection season, 5% less than the 2025 injection season but 6% more than the previous five-year average. EIA forecasts a total of 3,975 Bcf of natural gas in storage by the end of October 2026, which would be slightly above the 2021-2025 five-year range.³⁵

Regionally, the Mountain and the Pacific regions started the injection season with elevated levels of storage.³⁶ The Mountain region started with 198 Bcf, 22% higher than the 2025 injection season and 64% more than the 2021-2025 five-year average. The Pacific region started with 257 Bcf, 34% higher than the 2025 storage level and 56% more than the five-year average. Elevated storage levels in these two regions would put downward pressure on prices in the West as the available natural gas supply increases.

Natural Gas Infrastructure

Natural gas infrastructure additions since summer 2025 further increased pipeline transportation capacity available in summer 2026 relative to prior summers, which should ease constraints in some regions. Between September 1, 2025, and April 17, 2026, staff calculates a combined 152 miles of new, enhanced, or expanded interstate natural gas pipelines, adding approximately 1.6 Bcfd in transportation capacity. These capacity additions are distributed across the Northeast, Midwest, and South Central regions. Capacity additions for both interstate and intrastate pipelines continue to support LNG export growth in the South Central region. For example, two large intrastate pipeline projects in Louisiana completed in mid-2025—the 1.7 Bcfd Louisiana Energy Gateway project and the 1.8 Bcfd New Generation Gas Gathering project—will increase access to the Haynesville Shale and expand capacity serving Gulf Coast demand, including LNG facilities, this summer.

32 U.S. natural gas storage inventory data listed in this section is for the Lower 48 states.

33 EIA, *Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report* (Apr. 9, 2026), www.eia.gov/naturalgas/storage/. The natural gas storage injection season typically spans from the first week of April to the last week of October. The start of the season is determined by the lowest natural gas storage level of the year and the winter withdrawal season by the highest storage level of the year.

34 *Ibid.*

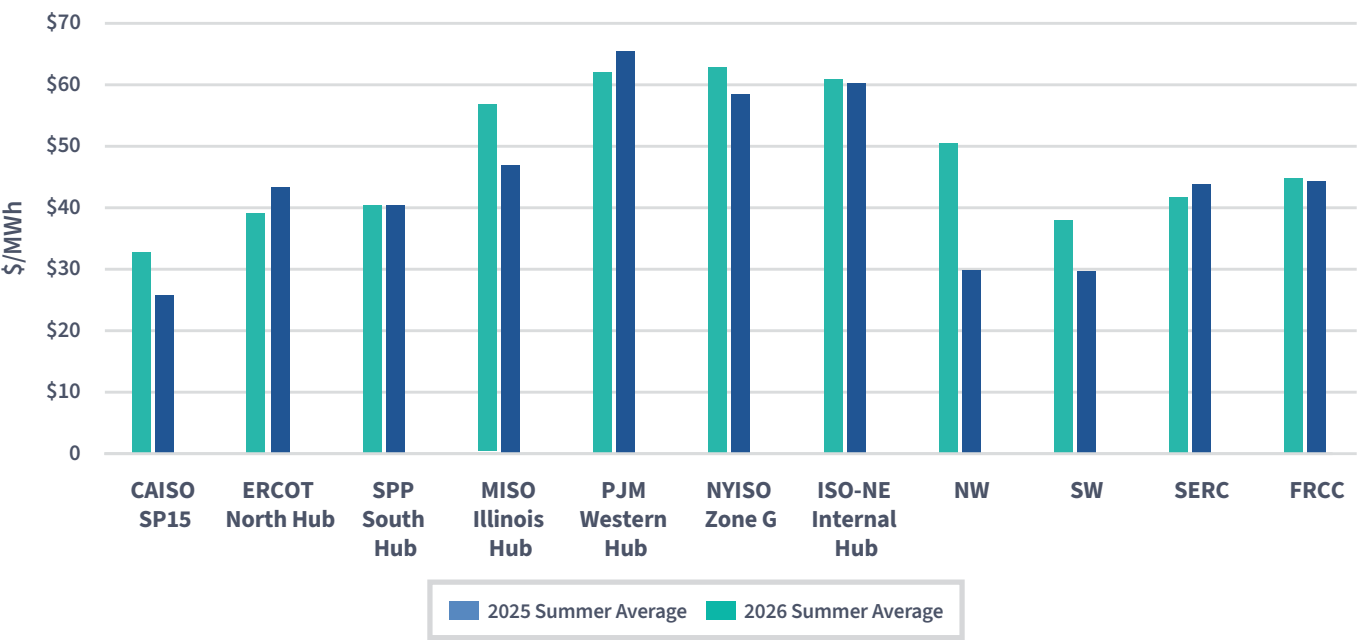
35 EIA, *Short-Term Energy Outlook* (Apr. 7, 2026), www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo.

36 EIA, *Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report* (Apr. 9, 2026), www.eia.gov/naturalgas/storage/.

ELECTRICITY MARKET FUNDAMENTALS & ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

Electricity Prices

Figure 11: Summer Average Wholesale Electricity Price Expected to Decrease



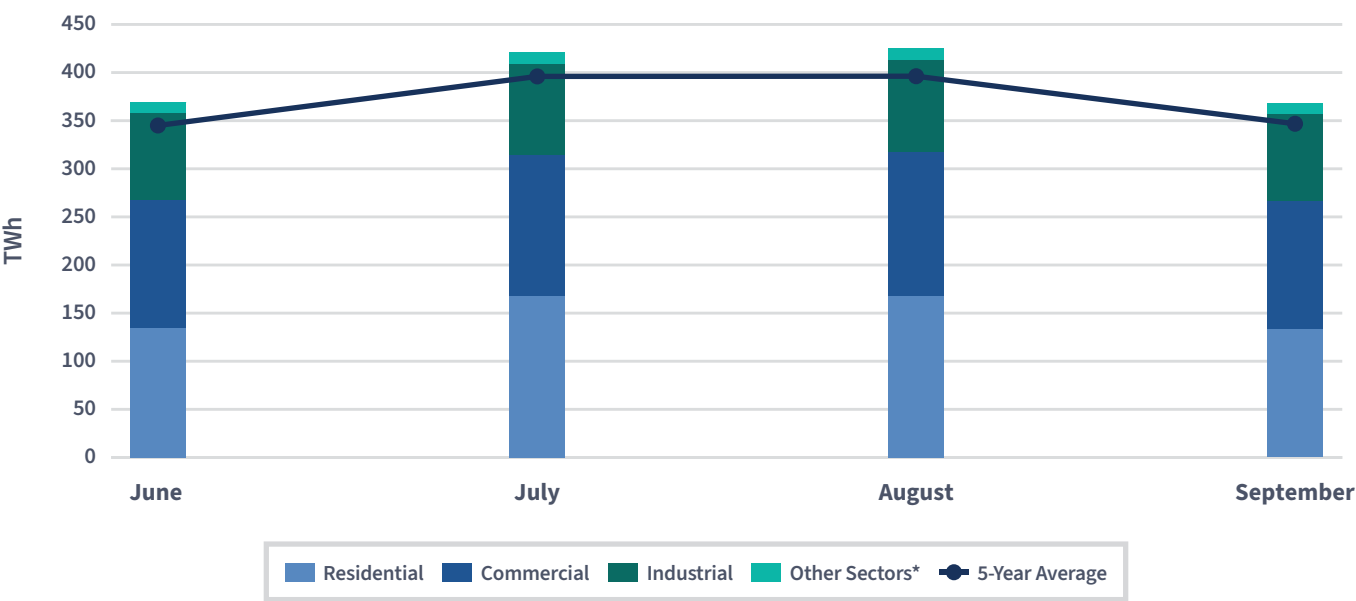
Source: U.S. EIA STEO Table 7a

Overall, the nationwide, wholesale, average electricity price is expected to fall this summer; however, prices will vary by region, reflecting differences in generation additions, shifts in the resource mix, natural gas prices, and regional demand. EIA forecasts that the load-weighted, wholesale electricity prices at benchmark trading hubs for summer 2026 will average \$46.81 per megawatt-hour (MWh), a 5% decrease from summer 2025. Most of the regions are expected to see a decline in prices compared to the previous summer, with the greatest price decreases expected in the Northwest (-41%), the Southwest (-22%), and MISO (-17%). ERCOT, PJM, and SERC are the only regions projected to see increases in prices, with ERCOT up by 11%, PJM by 5%, and SERC by 5%.

The price trends align with EIA forecasts for net summer capacity additions in RTOs/ISOs this summer, as described in more detail in the *Electric Generation Additions, Retirements, and Outages* section. Nationwide, EIA projects more generation additions than retirements in 2026, easing supply-demand tension. Regions are also expected to have larger shares of solar capacity that will contribute more energy and help reduce summer electricity prices. Further, as described in the *Natural Gas Prices* section, lower summer natural gas prices in the West may help lower electricity prices in CAISO, the Northwest, and the Southwest.

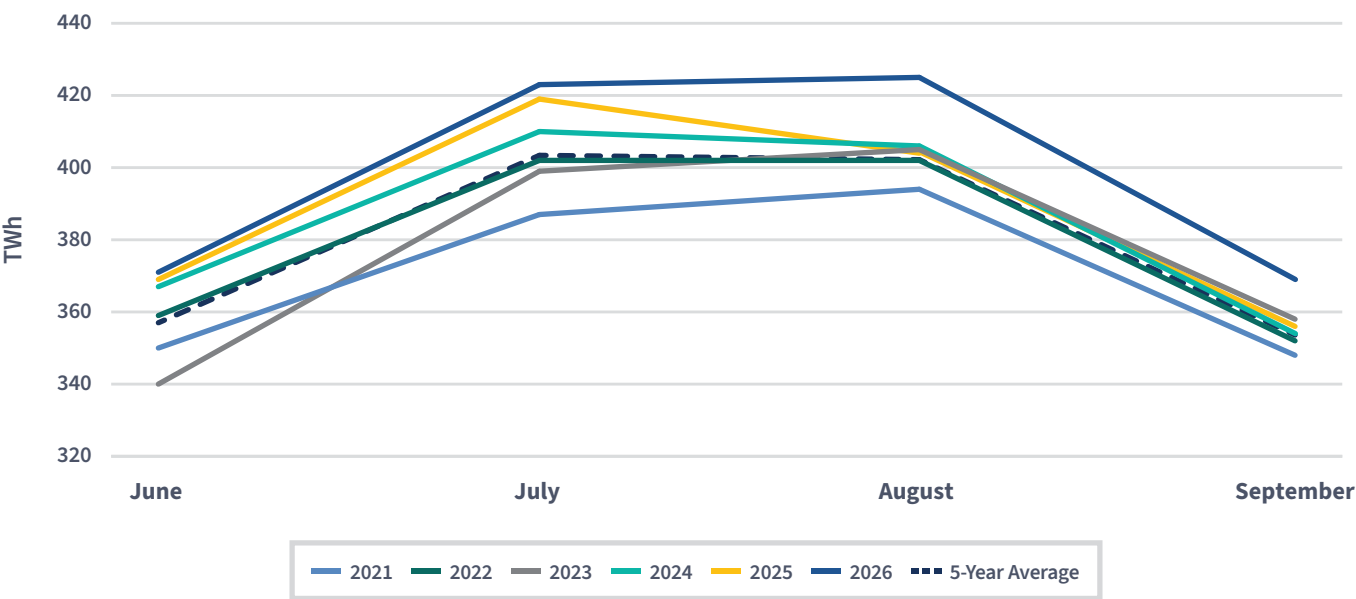
Electricity Consumption

Figure 12: 2026 Summer Electricity Consumption by End User



*Other sectors includes direct use and transportation Source: U.S. EIA Form 912

Figure 13: Summer Electricity Consumption by Year (2021-2026)



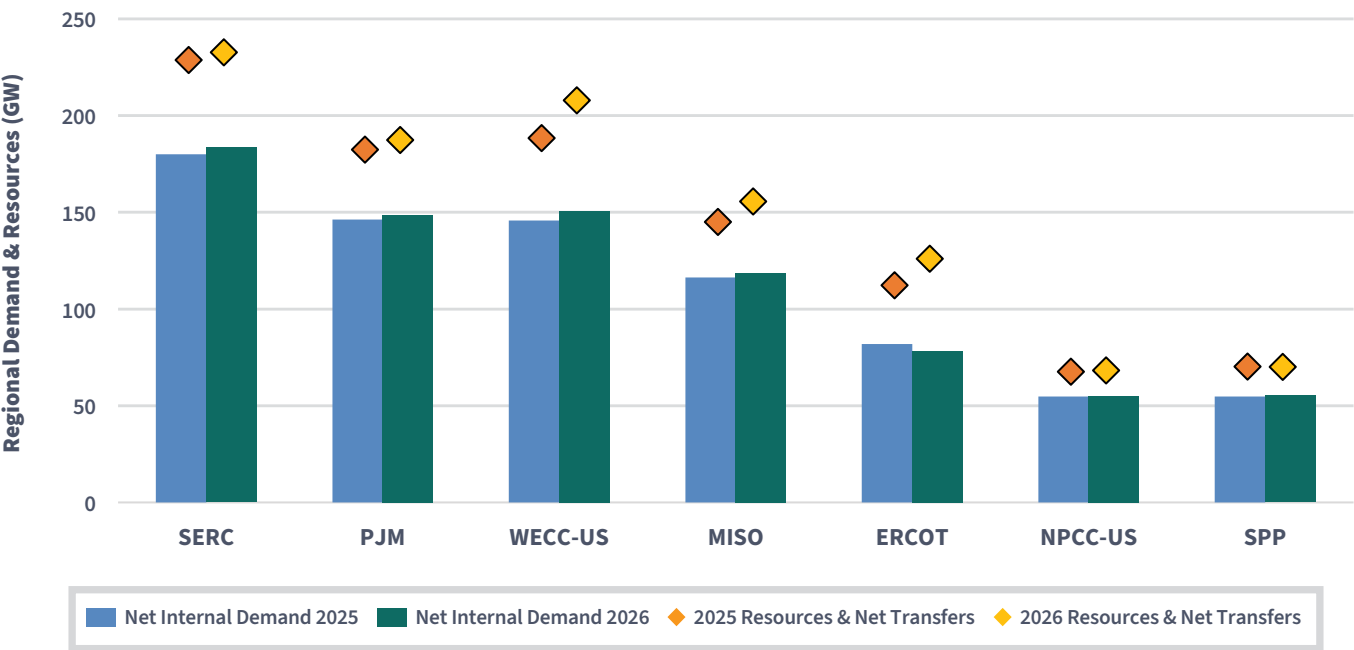
Source: U.S. EIA STEO Table 7a

Electricity consumption is projected to continue to increase in 2026 as it has since 2021. **Figure 12** illustrates electricity consumption across customer classes for summer 2026, with the dark blue line with blue markers showing the previous 5-year average summer consumption. The residential sector's projected 2026 summer consumption of 604 TWh would surpass its 2021-2025 average of 580 TWh by 4.1%, with particularly strong growth in August (6% above the five-year average). The commercial sector shows the most pronounced departure from its historical pattern, with projected 2026 summer consumption of 561 TWh exceeding its 2021-2025 five-year average of 523 TWh, a 7% increase. For the industrial sector, EIA projects 2026 summer consumption of 372 TWh—3% above the previous five-year average of 361 TWh.

Figure 13 illustrates that electricity consumption in summer 2026, represented by the dark blue line, is expected to exceed total consumption levels over each of the previous five summers. Total electricity consumption is projected to reach 1,587 TWh during summer 2026. EIA forecasts that electricity consumption from June to September 2026 will increase by 106 TWh from summer of 2021. This represents a 7% increase from summer 2021 to summer 2026, with summer 2026 projected to have 3% year-over-year growth compared to summer 2025, which is projected to be the most significant year-over-year growth since summer 2022 and 4.5% above the previous five-year average of 1,518 TWh. EIA's projections for monthly total consumption in summer 2026 suggest that demand will peak in August, when EIA forecasts electricity demand will be 426 TWh, a 5% increase from August 2025.

NERC ELECTRICITY DEMAND & RESOURCES

Figure 14: NERC Forecasted Electricity Demand and Resources Summer 2025 and 2026



Source: NERC, 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment

Each summer, NERC projects electricity demand and resources to gauge resource adequacy for each assessment area and the regions. Nationwide, electricity demand is expected to be higher this summer compared to last summer, except in ERCOT. NERC forecasts net internal demand for electricity to increase by approximately 1.3%, or 10 GW, from 780 GW in summer 2025 to 790 GW in summer 2026. However, electricity demand could vary depending on the number of extreme weather events and the characteristics and duration of those events.

Figure 14 compares the net internal demand shown as solid bars and the resources and net transfer values shown as diamonds.³⁷ This figure compares summer 2025 and summer 2026 and shows that all 15 NERC assessment areas are expected to have sufficient available generation resources and net transfers to meet their expected loads under normal summer conditions,³⁸ with all areas’ planning reserve margins³⁹ exceeding the reference margins levels.⁴⁰ However, extreme weather conditions can create reliability problems even for a region that has achieved its target

37 Resources and Net Transfers refers to the addition of “Existing-Certain Capacity” and “Net Firm Capacity Transfers.” NERC, *2025 Long Term Reliability Assessment* at 167-168 (Jan. 2026), www.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/nerc_ltra_2025.pdf.

38 NERC, *2026 Summer Reliability Assessment* at 2-3 (May 19, 2026), www.nerc.com/our-work/assessments.

39 The planning reserve margin measures the difference in resources (anticipated or prospective) and net internal demand divided by net internal demand, shown as a percentile. NERC, *2025 Long Term Reliability Assessment* (Jan. 2026), at 170, www.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/nerc_ltra_2025.pdf.

40 The reference margin level (RML) can be determined using both deterministic and probabilistic (based on a 0.1/year loss-of-load study) approaches. If an RML is not provided by an assessment area, NERC applies 15% for predominantly thermal systems and 10% for predominantly hydropower systems. NERC, *2025 Long Term Reliability Assessment* at 170 (Jan. 2026), www.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/nerc_ltra_2025.pdf.

reserve margin. Those conditions can limit fuel availability for generators, reduce power transfers and cause derates of electric generators, unexpected outages and other problems. A variety of factors affect reliable operation and are managed by system operators to help maintain electric supply and reliability. More comprehensive reliability assessments for three of these assessment areas are in the *Regional Highlights and NERC Probabilistic Assessments* section of this report.

To serve demand in summer 2026, NERC forecasts a national increase of 5%, or approximately 52 GW, in total electric generation capacity compared to summer 2025 and expects net energy transfers to increase from approximately 995 GW to approximately 1,048 GW over the same period, illustrated as diamonds in **Figure 14**.⁴¹ This increase is for all areas except NPCC-US and SPP, where total capacity remains about the same as the prior year.

Three trends could challenge resource adequacy in summer 2026: (1) rapid load growth from data centers, electrification, and industrial expansion; (2) supporting increasing transfers; and (3) possible retirements of coal and natural gas generators.

On the demand side, NERC projects that summer peak demand across North America will grow by about 224 GW over the next decade, a 69% increase over the previous year's ten-year forecast and roughly a 24% increase from 2025 peak demand.⁴² NERC attributes most of the expected new load to an increasing number of new data centers.⁴³ On the supply side, operators are deploying tools and technologies to increase effective transfer capability. For example, the Commission's Order No. 881 requires transmission providers to use ambient-adjusted ratings, potentially increasing available transmission capacity, though implementation is ongoing.⁴⁴ For this summer, across the U.S., many transmission providers will have begun using hourly ambient adjusted ratings for their line ratings pursuant to Order No. 881.⁴⁵ Among the RTO/ISOs, PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM) has adopted the use of ambient adjusted ratings, and SPP expects to implement them on September 1.⁴⁶

Additionally, in several regions, coal and natural gas-fired plants that were slated to retire are continuing operations pursuant to DOE Orders under section 202 (c) of the Federal Power Act (FPA).⁴⁷ These units total more than 4,300 MW

41 NERC, *2026 Summer Reliability Assessment* at 45-50 (May 19, 2026), www.nerc.com/our-work/assessments.

42 NERC, *Long Term Reliability Assessment, January 2026, Trends and Reliability Implications* at 9, (Jan. 23, 2026), prod.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/nerc_ltra_2025.pdf.

43 *Ibid*; Robert Walton, *NERC Forecasts Peak Demand to Rise 24% on New Data Center Loads*, Utility Dive, Jan. 30, 2026, www.utilitydive.com/news/nerc-10-year-peak-demand-forecast-jumps-24-on-new-data-center-loads/810955/#:~:text=Dive%20Brief%3A&text=Summer%20peak%20demand%20across%20the,most%20of%20the%20projected%20increase.

44 *Managing Transmission Line Ratings*, Order No. 881, 177 FERC ¶ 61,179 (2021). Ambient adjusted ratings are designed to more accurately reflect the transfer capability of the transmission system than seasonal and static transmission line ratings, and in some cases may identify more transfer capacity.

45 Transmission providers using AARs this summer include Tampa Electric Co., Duke Energy Florida, Southern Companies, Dominion Energy South Carolina, Louisville Gas and Electric Co. and Kentucky Utilities, Avista, Idaho Power Co., Public Service Company of New Mexico, and Portland General Electric Co.

46 PJM Inside Lines, *PJM Becomes First RTO to Implement Ambient-Air Ratings for Transmission under FERC Order 881* (Mar. 9, 2026), insidelines.pjm.com/pjm-becomes-first-rto-to-implement-ambient-air-ratings-for-transmission-under-ferc-order-881/. Ethan Howland, *PJM is Now Using Ambient-Adjusted Transmission Ratings. Other Grid Operators Will Soon Follow*, Utility Dive, Mar. 12, 2026, www.utilitydive.com/news/pjm-ambient-adjusted-transmission-ratings-ferc-881/814534/.

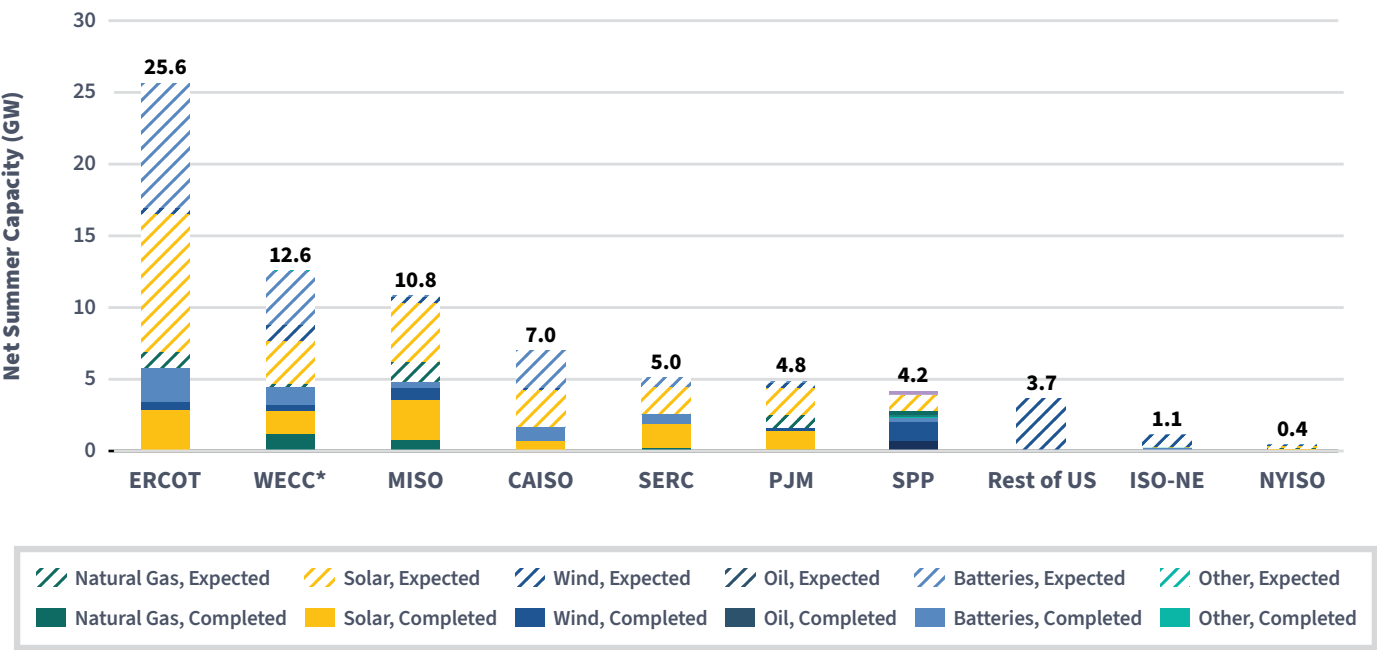
47 Pursuant to FPA section 202(c) and section 301(b) of the Department of Energy Organization Act, the Secretary of Energy may direct a plant to continue running to address an emergency and to serve the public interest. 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c); 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b).

of firm capacity that may be able to support reliability during peak demand.⁴⁸ A detailed list of other notable thermal plant retirements that are not subject to the DOE emergency orders can be found in the *Electric Generation Additions, Retirements, and Outages* section of this report.

48 Units directed to continue operations by the Secretary of Energy under FPA 202(c) include: Eddystone Units 3 and 4 (760 MW) in Pennsylvania through May 2026; the Centralia Generating Station Unit 2 (729 MW) in Washington, the R.M. Schahfer Units 17 and 18 (722 MW) in Indiana, the Craig Station Unit 1 (427 MW) in Colorado, and the F.B. Culley Generating Station Unit 2 (360 MW) in Indiana will remain in operation through June 2026. Also, J.H. Campbell (1,331 MW) in Michigan through August 2026. DOE, *2026 DOE 202(c) Orders* (Accessed May 18, 2026), www.energy.gov/ceser/2026-doe-202c-orders; EIA, *Retirement Delays of U.S. Electric Generating Capacity May Continue in 2026* (Feb. 23, 2026), www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=67206.

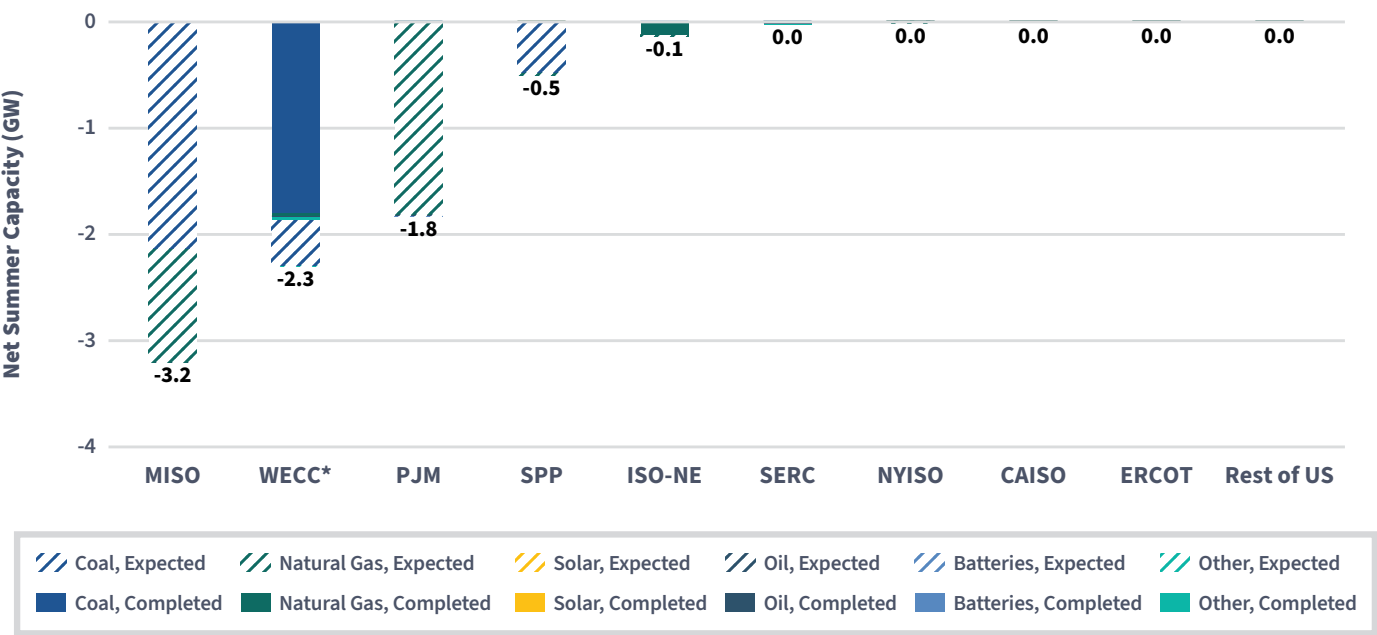
ELECTRIC GENERATION ADDITIONS, RETIREMENTS, & OUTAGES

Figure 15: Electricity Capacity Additions (Oct 2025 - Sep 2026)



NOTE: Completed (from Oct 2025-Jan 2026); Expected (from Feb 2026-Sep 2026) Source: U.S. EIA. Form 860M. WECC* refers to WECC without CAISO.

Figure 16: Electricity Capacity Retirements (Oct 2025 - Sep 2026)



NOTE: Completed (from Oct 2025-Jan 2026); Expected (from Feb 2026-Sep 2026) Source: U.S. EIA. Form 860M. WECC* refers to WECC without CAISO.

In this section of the assessment, we take a closer look at recent and expected generator additions and retirements heading into summer, including how the resource mix is changing and where plants are being built and retired.

Figure 15 and **Figure 16** show solid bars for completed electric capacity additions and retirements from October 2025 to January 2026, and stripe patterned bars show expected electric capacity additions and retirements from February 2026 to September 2026.⁴⁹ These figures reflect net summer capacity⁵⁰ across different regions and resource types. Based on EIA data, during this time period net summer capacity additions are expected to total about 75 GW, which is 78% higher than the average net summer capacity additions seen in the last five years.⁵¹ ERCOT is expected to add the most net summer electric capacity, 25.6 GW, which is a 16% increase from its 2025 net summer electric capacity of 158 GW. Other regions expected to add significant net summer electric capacity are the non-CAISO WECC (12.6 GW, a 7% increase to its 2025 capacity) and MISO (10.8 GW, a 6% increase to its 2025 capacity).

Most of these new capacity additions are from solar, battery, and wind facilities, while the expected 8.1 GW of retirements are almost all (98%) coal and natural gas facilities.⁵² Given their operating characteristics, new capacity from solar, battery, and wind facilities does not replace the thermal capacity from coal and natural gas facilities on a one-for-one basis.⁵³

Meanwhile, across all regions, natural gas generators will continue to provide the largest share (39%) of net summer generation capacity, followed by solar at 14%, coal at 13%, wind at 12%, and nuclear and hydropower both at 7%.⁵⁴

Natural gas resources will remain the dominant source of net summer capacity even while that capacity will decrease more than that of any other fuel type this summer compared to last. Meanwhile, the share of solar net summer capacity will increase the most.

Specifically, generators are expected to retire 3.1 GW of natural gas net summer capacity and to add 35.9 GW of solar capacity, which would decrease the share of natural gas net summer capacity from 41% to 39% and increase the share of solar net summer capacity from 11% to 14%. Generators are also expected to add 22.3 GW of battery net summer capacity, which would increase the share of battery net summer capacity from 3% to 4.5%. All other resource types are expected to see installed capacity share changes of one percent or less.

49 Of the units directed to continue operations by the Secretary of Energy under FPA 202(c), J.H. Campbell, Eddystone Units 3 and 4, R.M. Schahfer Units 17 and 18, and the Craig Station Unit 1 are included in the expected electric capacity retirements in Figure 16. FPA 202(c) order status changes statuses change every three months, and EIA updates their data accordingly.

50 In this report, net summer capacity refers to the maximum output that generating equipment can supply to system load at the time of peak summer demand. EIA, *Glossary* (Accessed Mar. 18, 2026), www.eia.gov/tools/glossary/index.php/.

51 EIA, *Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory* (Mar. 24, 2026), www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia860m/.

52 The WECC amounts include two coal-fired units at the Intermountain Power Plant that are not operating but have not been decommissioned. See Alixel Cabrera, *IPP Coal-fired Units are no Longer Operating as State Government Searches for Buyers*, Utah News Dispatch, Dec. 5, 2025, utahnewsdispatch.com/2025/12/05/intermountain-power-plant-coal-fired-units-no-longer-operating/.

53 For example, Bolson et al. estimate replacing 1 MW of thermal electricity generation requires 2 MW of wind generation or 4 MW of solar generation. See N. Bolson, P. Prieto, & T. Patzek, *Capacity Factors for Electrical Power Generation from Renewable and Nonrenewable Sources*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 119 (52) e2205429119, doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2205429119 (2022).

54 Note that these installed summer capacity estimates capture expected capacity retirements and planned capacity through September 2026 and do not imply that generation output will match the summer capacity of a resource type. See EIA, *Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory* (Mar. 2026), www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia860m/.

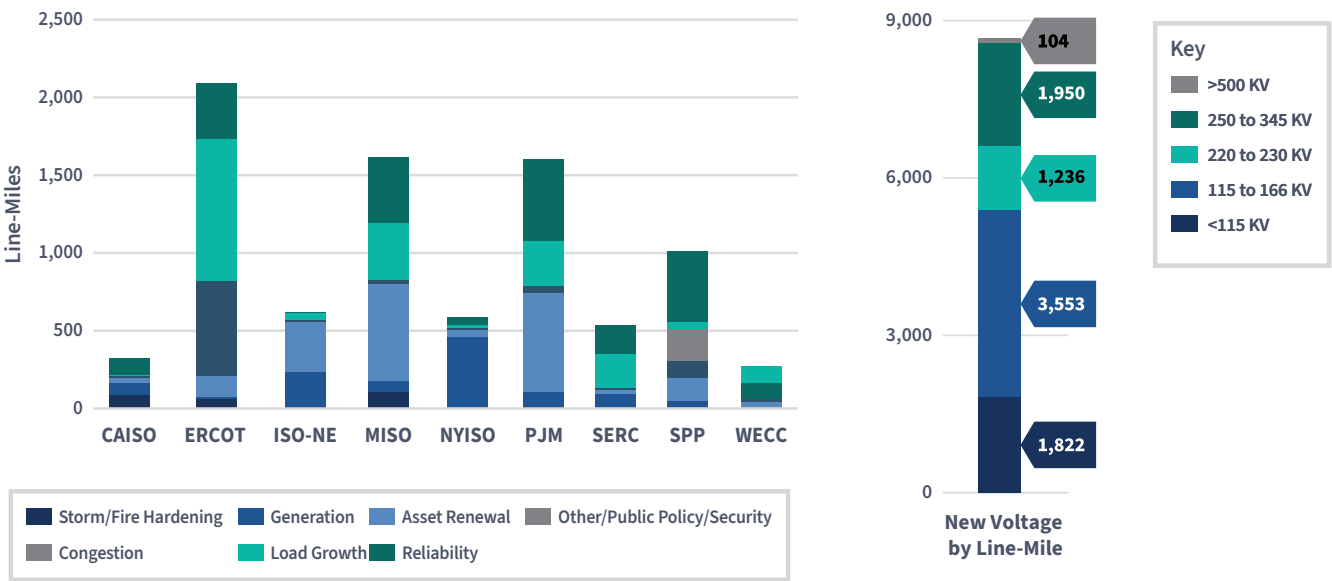
Electricity generators plan to retire 8.1 GW of nameplate capacity between summer 2025 and summer 2026, accelerating by 55% the previous-year pace of retirement. Between summer 2024 and summer 2025, 5.2 GW were retired from the U.S. power grid, the smallest amount of generation capacity retired since 2008. Coal generating capacity accounts for the largest share of planned capacity retirements (60%), followed by natural gas (38%).

Some notable large thermal plants slated for retirement include: the Elwood Energy Power Station (1,344 MW) in Illinois; Grand River Energy Center (594 MW) in Oklahoma; Sabine Power Plant (1,304 MW) in Texas; Oak Creek Units 7 and 8 (616 MW) in Wisconsin; and the AES Alamosa (1,142 MW) and Huntington Beach (226 MW) plants in California.⁵⁵

Generally, planned outages for conventional units tend to decline into the summer from a peak in April and rise again in September to a peak in October or November. As a result, total coincident capacity on outage generally declines in the summer. During July and August, forced outages and derates make up the majority or plurality of unavailable capacity.⁵⁶ Proactive grid management strategies are important to maintain grid reliability during extended planned outages as well as when unexpected, forced outages occur.

Electricity Transmission

Figure 17: New Line and Line Upgrades in Summer 2026 by Project Driver (Left) and Voltage (Right)



Source: North American Electric Transmission and Distribution Project Database, The C Three Group L.L.C.

New and upgraded transmission infrastructure supports summer reliability by alleviating constraints, connecting new generation resources, and reinforcing the grid to meet growing electricity demand. Across the country, there are 2,202 new transmission projects in service supporting grid reliability this summer, including 1,136 substation-only projects,

55 EIA, *Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory* (Mar. 2026), www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia860m/.

56 Staff analysis of NERC's Generating Availability Data System data from 2021 to 2025.

662 transmission line projects, and 404 combined projects. These projects total 8,665 line-miles, including both projects in regional transmission plans developed by RTOs and ISOs and local projects planned by individual transmission owners within those regions. Of these, 6,476 miles were completed and placed in service between October 2025 and May 2026, and 2,189 miles are expected to enter service between June and September 2026.⁵⁷ **Figure 17** breaks down new and upgraded line-miles by region and project driver. Nationwide, the primary drivers for these projects are system reliability (2,244 line-miles), asset renewal (2,019 line-miles), and load growth (1,997 line-miles).

By transmission project count, ERCOT (684), PJM (481), and MISO (450) are the most active regions for transmission development. **Figure 17** illustrates that the top drivers vary by region: ERCOT is primarily focused on load growth (44% of its line-miles) and other/policy/grid security drivers (29%); MISO is driven by a combination of asset renewal (39%) and system reliability (26%); PJM's transmission expansion is concentrated on asset renewal (39%) and system reliability (33%); and CAISO's new mileage is led by system reliability (35%) and storm and fire hardening (27%). SERC is driven by load growth (40%) and system reliability (36%). SPP and MISO are the only regions with new transmission projects developed during this period to relieve congestion, totaling 209 line-miles.

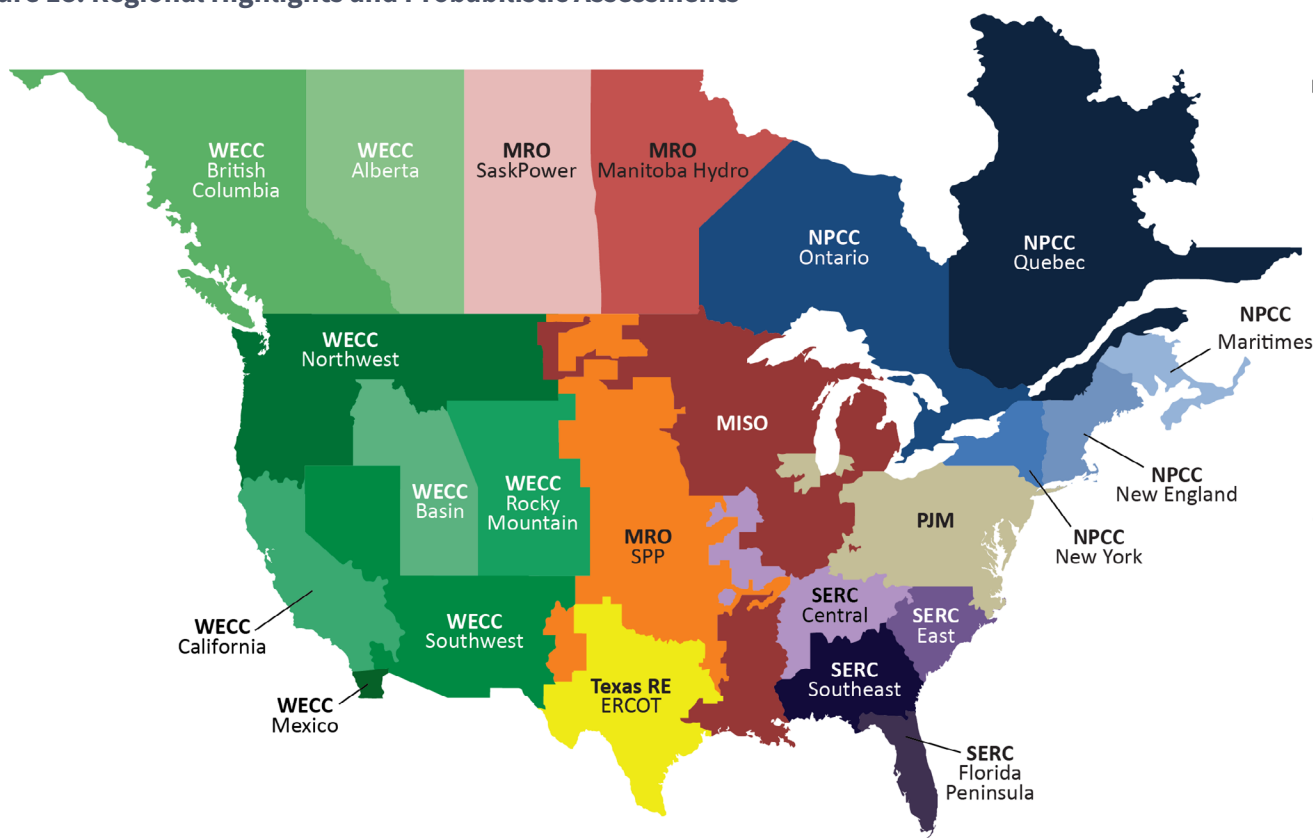
Most projects involve lines below 230 kV, accounting for 62% (or 5,375 line-miles) of new line-miles. The highest voltage lines of 500 kV or more account for 104 line-miles.

57 Transmission line-mile data is from Yes Energy's Electric Transmission and Distribution database. Projects listed include those completed between October 2025 and May 2026 and those expected to enter service between June and Sept. 2026.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS & NERC PROBABILISTIC ASSESSMENTS

NERC Regional Probabilistic Assessments

Figure 18: Regional Highlights and Probabilistic Assessments



Source: NERC

Regions may face energy shortfalls even if planning reserve margins exceed the reference margin levels.⁵⁸ To better understand this possibility, NERC assessment areas undertake probabilistic risk analysis⁵⁹ to study expected system performance and uncertainty under region-specific scenarios. In doing so, they evaluate the risk of resource adequacy shortfalls for each assessment area this summer. This section relies on the probabilistic risk analyses from NERC's summer 2026 seasonal assessment and supporting reports to assess resource adequacy. NERC's analysis shows that all assessment areas, shown in **Figure 18**, anticipate adequate supplies and reserve margins under normal conditions, but the NPCC-NE, the western part of ERCOT, and the WECC-NW may face a higher likelihood of tight supply and reliability issues during extreme conditions.⁶⁰ Below, we focus on the assessments for these three areas.

58 NERC, 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment at 10-11 (May 19, 2026), www.nerc.com/our-work/assessments.

59 A probabilistic risk analysis assesses a range of scenarios, including potential variations in resources and load that can affect grid operations and can include model parameters to mimic operator actions that could help to mitigate shortfalls in operating reserves.

60 All Regional Entities and assessment areas provide a probability-based resource adequacy risk assessment for the summer season. See NERC, 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment (May 19, 2026), www.nerc.com/our-work/assessments.

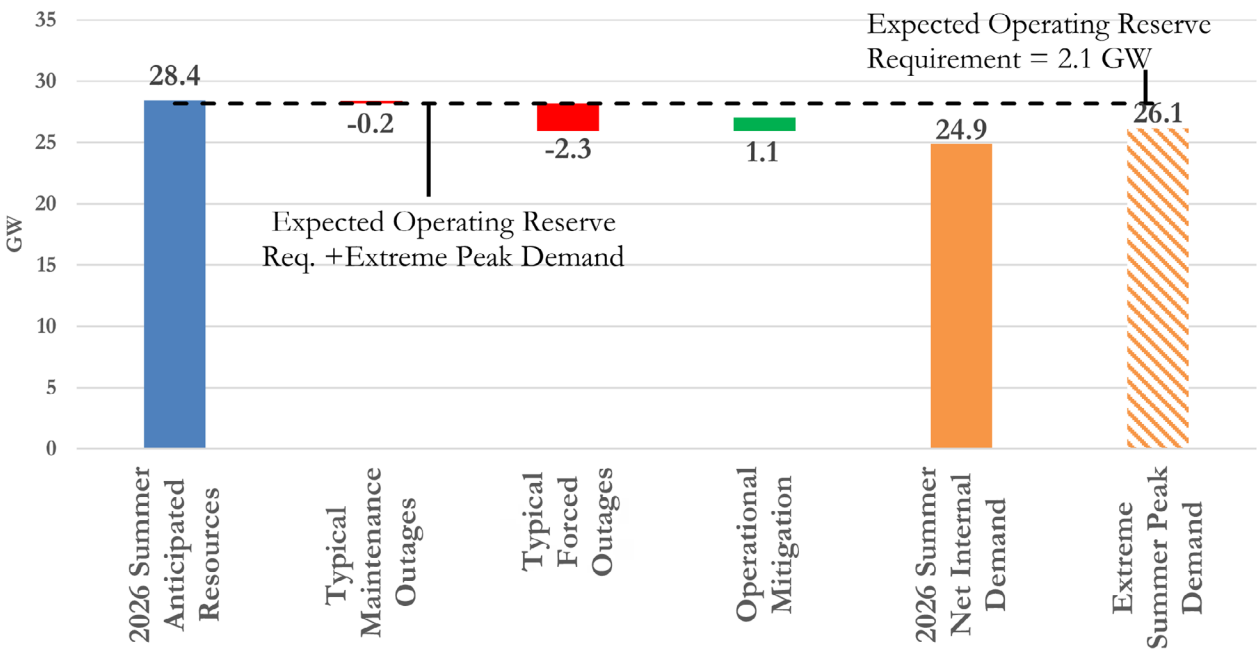
Across all assessment areas, above-normal summer peak load and resource outages could require operational mitigation measures. System operators may call on demand response resources, cancel or postpone non-critical maintenance outages of generation and transmission, and request voluntary conservation measures. If system conditions deteriorate substantially, Reliability Coordinators would declare an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA), allowing system operators to activate emergency demand response measures and increase generation imports from neighboring regions during scarcity conditions.

Regional Highlights

As noted above, NERC’s probabilistic assessments evaluate the risk of resource adequacy shortfalls for each assessment area this summer.

Assessment areas set seasonal risk scenarios to provide insight into unexpected events in normal or extreme conditions, but not all unique risks are captured. The scenarios generally assess the greatest risk hour(s) for Expected Unserved Energy,⁶¹ along with the varying demand and available resource profiles. The methods, scenarios considered, and assumptions differ by assessment area and may not be comparable. While all areas are expected to have adequate anticipated resources under normal summer conditions, NPCC-NE, western ERCOT, and WECC-NW assessment areas may experience challenges during extreme summer conditions.

Figure 19: NPCC-NE'S Seasonal Risk Assessment



Source: NERC, 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment

61 Expected Unserved Energy is the sum of the expected number of MWhs that will not be served in a given time period when demand exceeds available capacity. NERC, *Long Term Reliability Assessment, January 2026, Metrics for Probabilistic Evaluation Used in this Assessment* at 172-173, prod.nerc.com/globalassets/our-work/assessments/nerc_ltra_2025.pdf.

NPCC-NE. NERC’s 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment uses “waterfall” charts to illustrate probabilistic assessments for each region. **Figure 19** shows the seasonal risk assessment for NPCC-NE. The left blue column shows anticipated resources of 28.4 GW and the two orange columns on the right show the demand scenarios with normal summer peak of 24.9 GW (50/50) and the extreme summer peak of 26.1 GW (90/10).⁶² The middle red bars show the factors that can reduce resource availability, including maintenance outages (0.2 GW less available) and forced outages (2.3 GW), which are not already accounted for in anticipated resources. The middle green bar depicts potential additions of 1.1 GW in resource availability from operational mitigation actions that are available during scarcity conditions but have not been accounted for in the reserve margins. The dotted, horizontal line represents the expected operating reserve requirement of 2.1 GW plus the extreme peak demand, or the amount of power that a region would need to produce to avoid a shortfall.

NPCC-NE’s probabilistic assessment shows that established operating procedures should be adequate to maintain supply-demand balance under expected normal conditions during summer 2026. However, under the highest peak load and reduced resources scenario, the area faces elevated risk.⁶³ The extreme scenario produces an anticipated reserve margin of 11%, below the reference margin level of 13%, and short by approximately 559 MW, with numerous modeled loss-of-load events in June, July, and August.

NPCC-NE’s forecasted normal net internal demand peak of 24,882 MW is up 0.3% from last summer.⁶⁴ The forecast incorporates expected demand reductions from energy efficiency, load management, behind-the-meter solar, and other distributed generation resources. While the assessment area assumes a net interchange of about 409 MW as firm transmission, actual summer imports often approach 3,000 MW during summer peak conditions, including non-firm resources.⁶⁵ In January 2026, NPCC-NE added the New England Clean Energy Connect,⁶⁶ a 1,200 MW, 320 kV HVDC, import-only tie line, connecting Hydro-Québec to ISO-New England at an interconnection in Maine.⁶⁷ However, the higher-than-normal temperatures and drier conditions in the Québec assessment area may limit transfers into NPCC-NE, a problem exacerbated by the relatively small amount of firm transmission capacity (409 MW) projected as available for net interchange into NPCC-NE this summer.

ERCOT. ERCOT’s preliminary summer 2026 outlook indicates a strong chance of warmer and drier-than-normal conditions, with drought potentially driving high statewide electricity demand. While ERCOT expects sufficient operating reserves for the August peak load hour under normal summer conditions, rapid load growth and intermittent renewable resources increase the risk of emergency conditions during evening hours when solar generation ramps down and demand remains elevated.⁶⁸

62 A 50/50 peak load forecast is based on a 50% chance that the actual system peak load will exceed the forecasted value. A 90/10 peak load forecast is based on a 10% chance that the actual system peak load will exceed the forecasted value.

63 The study evaluated a base case reflecting 50/50 normal demand and a highest peak load scenario with a 7% probability.

64 NERC, 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment at 46, (May 19, 2026), www.nerc.com/our-work/assessments.

65 *Id.* at 21.

66 Iberdrola, *NECEC: Connecting Canada and the United States to supply renewable energy to New England*, (Accessed Apr. 23, 2026), www.iberdrola.com/about-us/what-we-do/smart-grids/necac-project-canada-united-states-and-new-england.

67 EIA, *New Transmission line connecting Hydro-Quebec to ISO-NE begins commercial operations*, (Jan. 30, 2026), www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=67105.

68 NERC, 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment at 30, (May 19, 2026), www.nerc.com/our-work/assessments.

Rapid load growth in far West Texas has created new reliability challenges.⁶⁹ High demand combined with low solar and wind output may overload transmission lines, risking thermal cascading. Additionally, significant and concentrated growth of large, energy-intensive loads such as data centers and industrial facilities pose risks⁷⁰ of sudden load loss, which can trigger frequency disturbances, voltage instability, and cascading outages.⁷¹ ERCOT has implemented new Interconnection Reliability Operating Limits in the far west as mitigation efforts. Until longer-term upgrades are in place, ERCOT relies on price-responsive demand to maintain reliability during tight supply periods.⁷²

ERCOT is implementing its operational preparedness activities, including its Real-Time Co-optimization Plus Batteries (RTC+B) program to enable improved decision making for energy dispatch, unit commitment, and reserves procurements during periods of tight supply. Also, ERCOT has improved real-time visibility into energy storage resource state of charge, enabling earlier actions when reserves appear insufficient for summer.⁷³ ERCOT anticipates no major impacts on summer grid reliability from neighboring assessment areas. However, some Switchable Generation Resources⁷⁴ totaling about 1,941 MW will be operated to serve SPP's load during the summer to meet contractual obligations. While this reduces capacity available to ERCOT under normal conditions, some of these resources could be temporarily returned to ERCOT if an EEA condition is declared.⁷⁵

WECC-NW. The WECC-NW assessment area faces reliability risks from weather, resource variability, and infrastructure constraints, with wildfire remaining a major concern.⁷⁶ As described earlier, below-average snowpack and shifting precipitation patterns reduce hydropower output, increasing reliance on flexible thermal resources and real-time monitoring to manage variability.

To address extreme weather, variable renewable output, and growing load additions, WECC-NW is expanding weather forecasting, wildfire monitoring, conservative hydropower management, battery storage transmission upgrades, and new gas generation. WECC-NW has enhanced its resource planning to manage these impacts.⁷⁷

Reduced local generation, especially hydropower, increases dependence on imports, adding operational exposure during peak periods.⁷⁸ Finally, persistent supply chain constraints, including long equipment lead times, rising costs, and limited manufacturing capacity,⁷⁹ continue to delay infrastructure projects and reduce operational flexibility,

69 ERCOT, Notice Operations: M-A022326-01 Large Load Interconnection Studies update for Far West Texas region, (Feb. 23, 2026), www.ercot.com/services/comm/mkt_notices/M-A022326-01

70 NERC, 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment at 30, (May 19, 2026), www.nerc.com/our-work/assessments.

71 ERCOT proposed an operating guide revision (NOGRR 282) establishing frequency and voltage ride-through requirements for certain Large Electronic Loads. This will not be in place for Summer 2026. ERCOT, NOGRR 282 - Large Electronic Load Ride-Through Requirements, www.ercot.com/mktrules/issues/NOGRR282#summaryERCOT, NOGRR 282 - Large Electronic Load Ride-Through Requirements (Accessed May 14, 2025), www.ercot.com/mktrules/issues/NOGRR282#keydocs.

72 NERC, 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment at 30, (May 19, 2026), www.nerc.com/our-work/assessments.

73 ERCOT, ERCOT Goes Live with Real-Time Co-optimization Plus Batteries, press release, (Dec. 5, 2025), <https://www.ercot.com/news/release/12052025-ercot-goes-live>.

74 Switchable Generation Resources are generating units that are capable of nonsimultaneous synchronization with both the Texas Interconnection and the Eastern Interconnection.

75 NERC, 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment at 30, (May 19, 2026), <https://www.nerc.com/our-work/assessments>.

76 *Id* at 36.

77 *Ibid*.

78 *Ibid*.

79 Sonal Patel, *Transformers in 2026: Shortage, Scramble, or Self-Inflicted Crisis?*, POWER, Jan. 2, 2026, www.powermag.com/transformers-in-2026-shortage-scramble-or-self-inflicted-crisis/.

making those constraints a sustained and structural risk to reliability. According to WECC, the Northwest area supply chain constraints and economic uncertainty may impact Tier 1 resources (i.e., future capacity that is typically considered more certain because it is either under construction or has received approved planning requirements) that total 477 MW.⁸⁰ When large loads go offline, the WECC-NW assessment area may experience energy imbalance and over-frequency, increasing the need for regulation reserves requiring operator intervention.⁸¹

80 NERC, *2026 Summer Reliability Assessment* at 36 (May 19, 2026), <https://www.nerc.com/our-work/assessments>.

81 *Ibid.*



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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2026 Summer Energy Market and Electric Reliability Assessment

May 21, 2026

This report is a product of the staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission or any Commissioner.



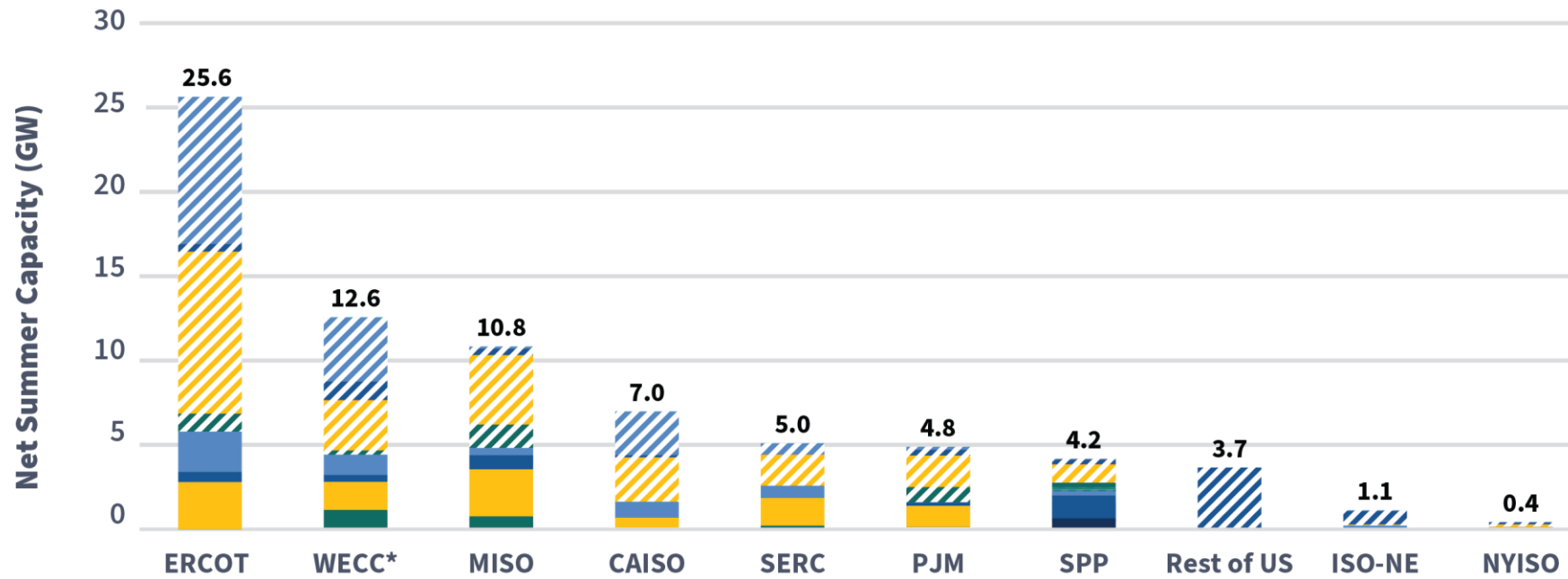
Key Findings in Summer 2026 Assessment

- High temperatures and extreme weather events are expected to challenge the electric grid.
 - Drought and low snowpack could curb hydropower generation.
 - Wildfires and hurricanes may affect some parts of the country.
- Projected generation and transmission additions will help address forecasted high electricity demand growth.
- Natural gas demand and production are both expected to increase.
- Resources and operating reserves are expected to be adequate in all NERC assessment areas under normal operating conditions.
 - Possible reliability challenges in NPCC-NE, western ERCOT, and WECC-NW under extreme operating conditions.

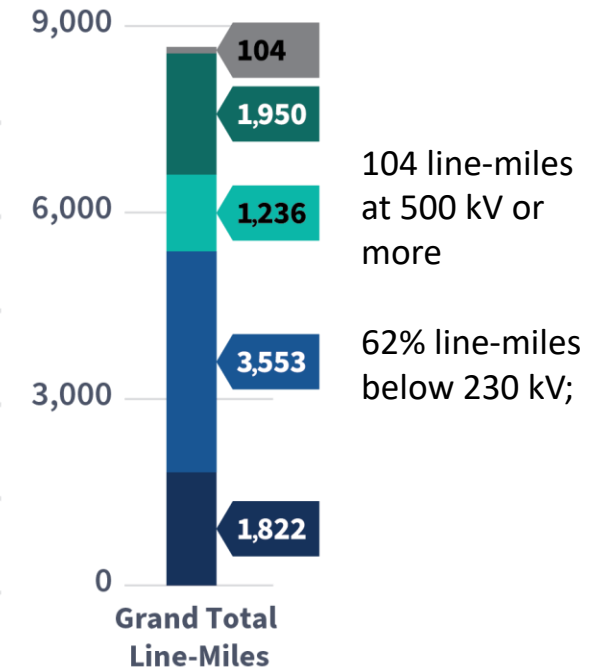


Generators Expected to Add 75 GW of Net Summer Capacity New Transmission Capacity Mostly for Reliability and Asset Renewal

Electricity Capacity Additions



Transmission New Line-Miles



Natural Gas, Expected Solar, Expected Wind, Expected Oil, Expected Batteries, Expected Other, Expected
 Natural Gas, Completed Solar, Completed Wind, Completed Oil, Completed Batteries, Completed Other, Completed

>500 KV 250 to 345 KV
 220 to 230 KV 115 to 166 KV
 <115 KV

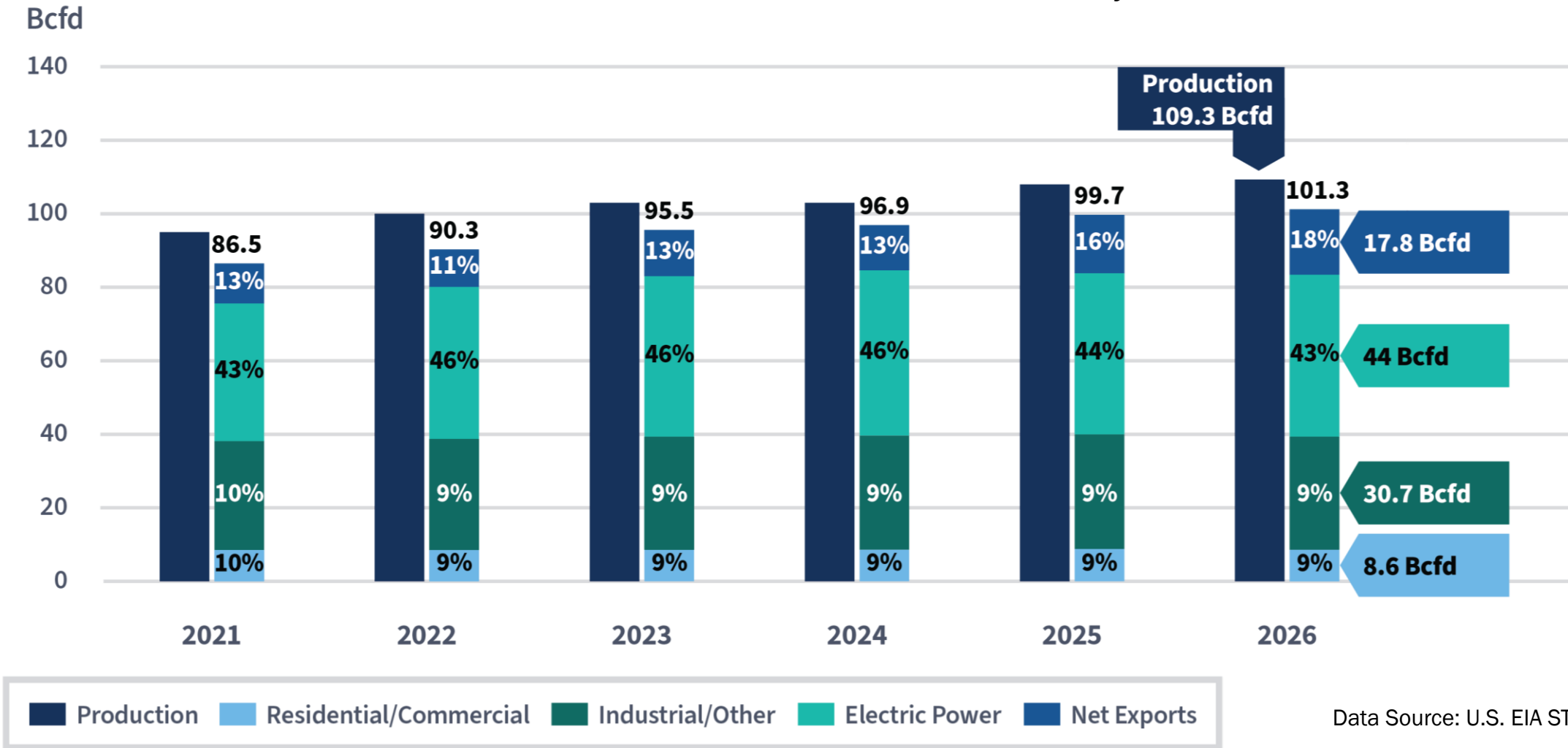
Data Source: U.S. EIA Form 860M and *North American Electric Transmission and Distribution Project Database, The C Three Group L.L.C*

**WECC refers to WECC without CAISO.*



Natural Gas Production and Demand Continue Growth

U.S. Summer Natural Gas Production and Demand by Sector

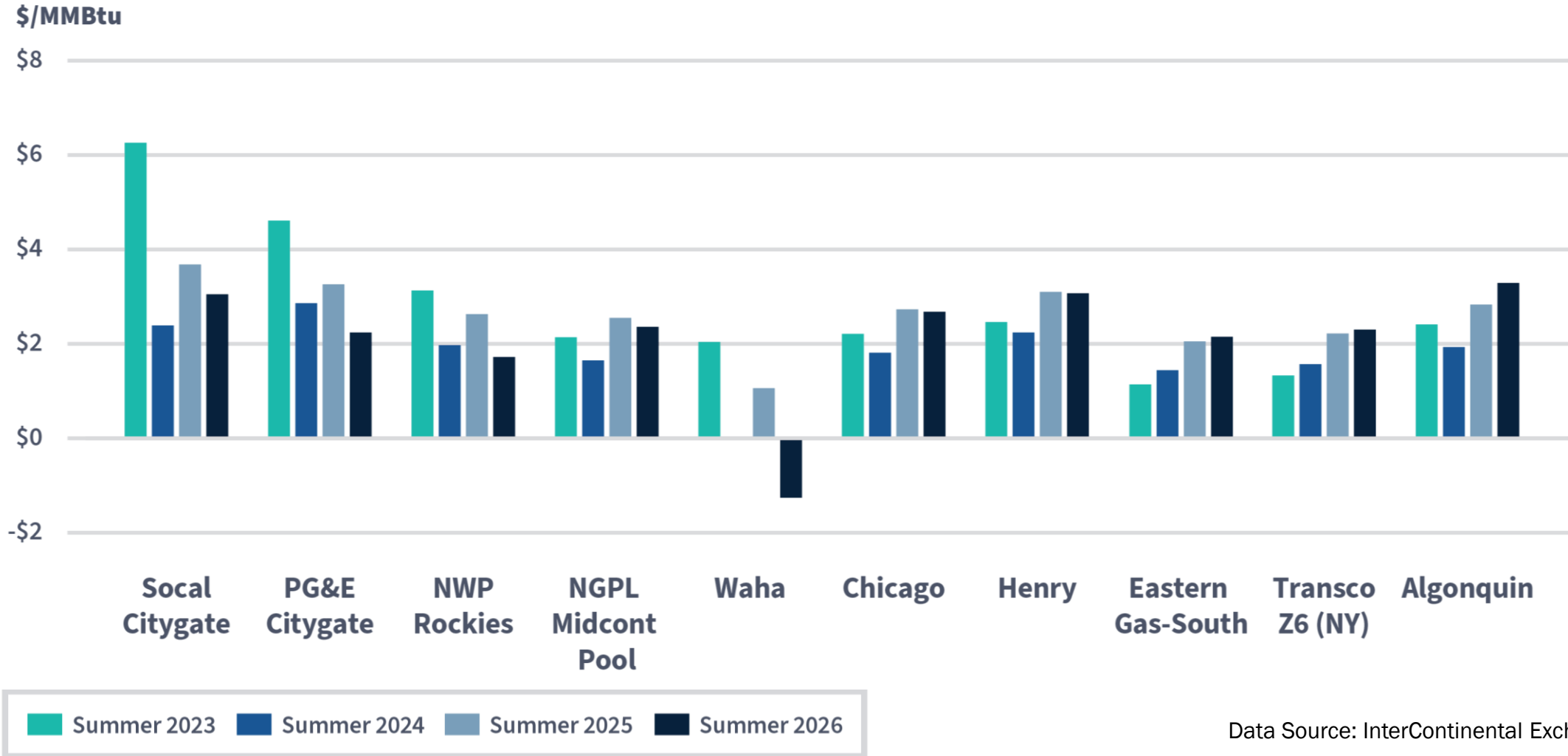


Data Source: U.S. EIA STEO Table 5a

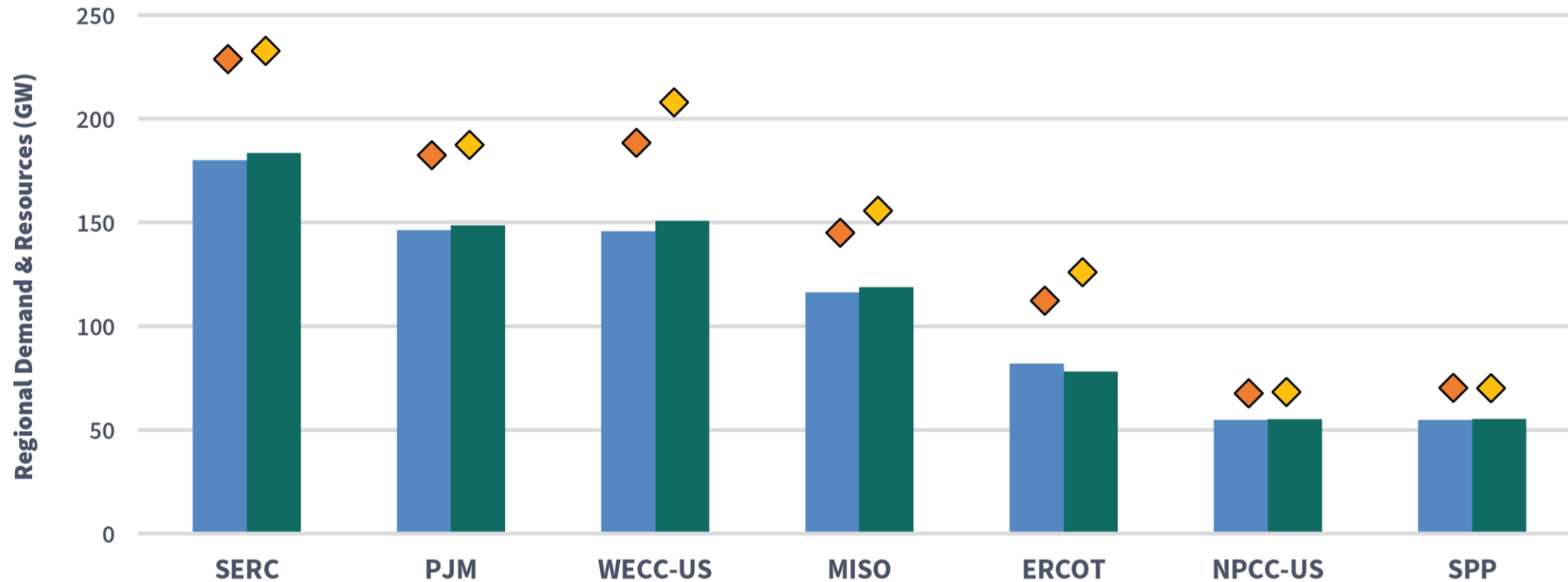


Natural Gas Prices Decrease at Western Hubs and Increase at Eastern Hubs

U.S. Summer Natural Gas Prices



NERC Forecasted Electricity Demand and Resources Summers 2025 and 2026



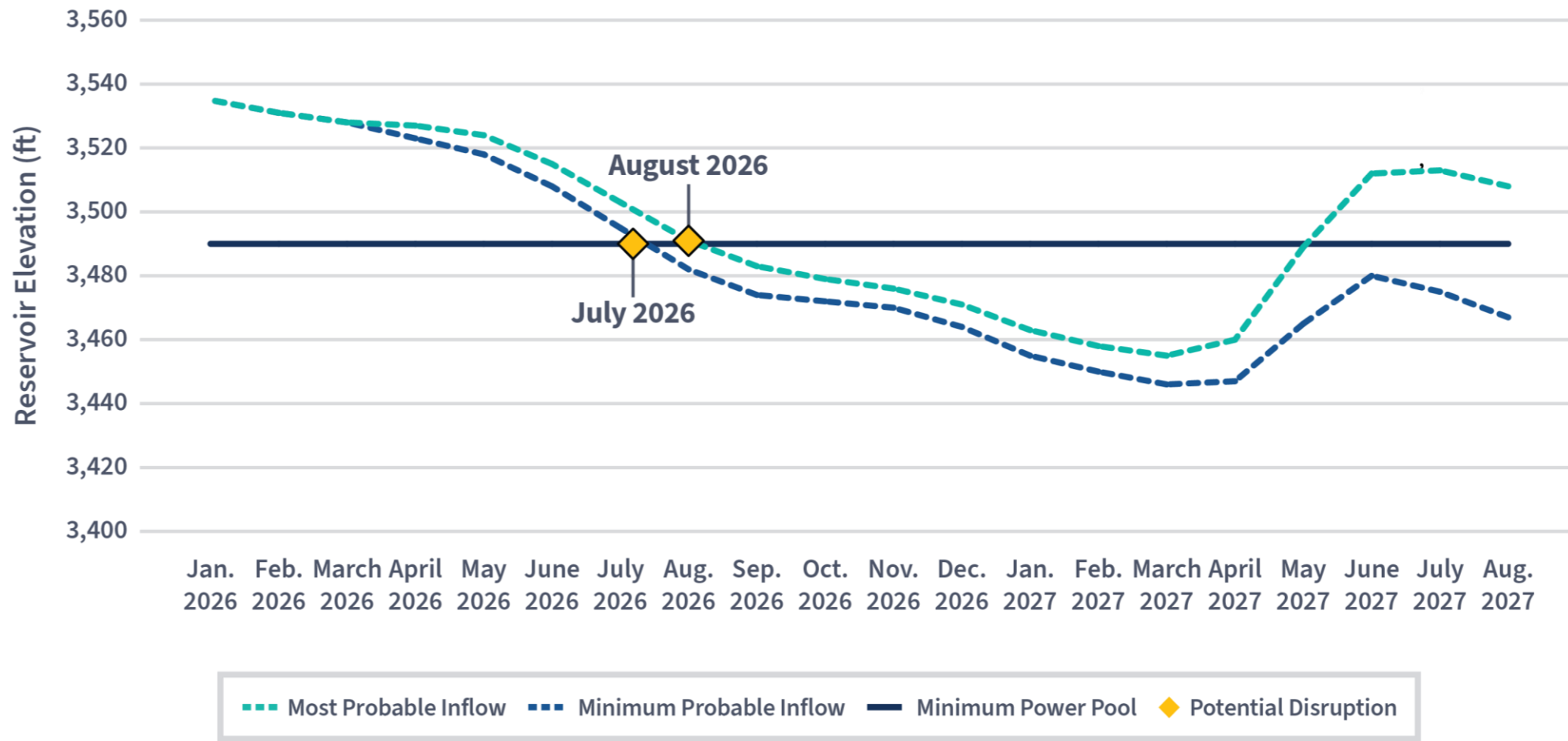
Net Internal Demand 2025 Net Internal Demand 2026 Resources & Net Transfers 2025 Resources & Net Transfers 2026

Source: NERC, 2026 Summer Reliability Assessment



Notable Reliability Risk: Colorado River at Critical Level in 2026

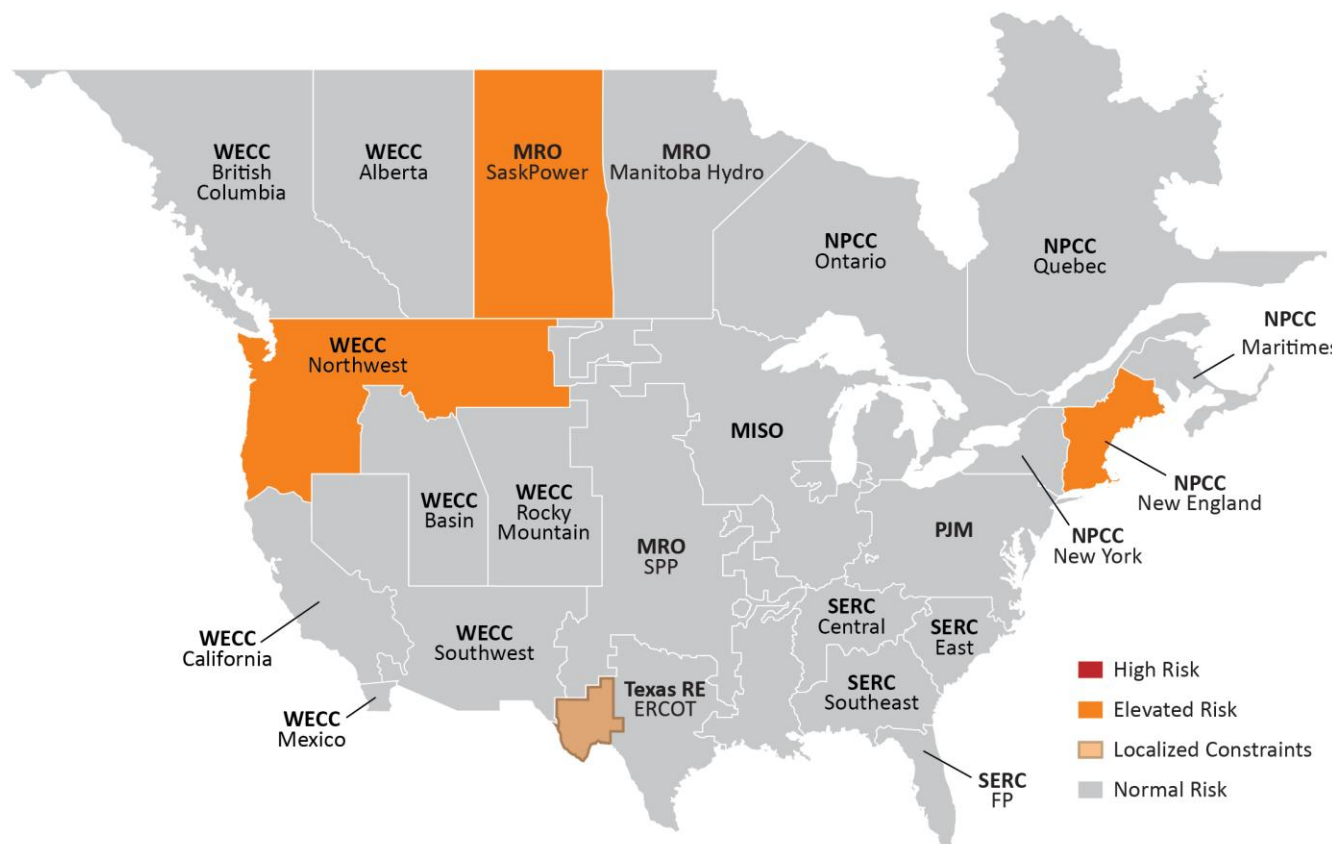
Forecast Reservoir Elevations at Glen Canyon Dam



Bureau of Reclamation 24-Month Study Projections, April 2026



2026 Summer Reliability Assessment Highlights and Risk Map



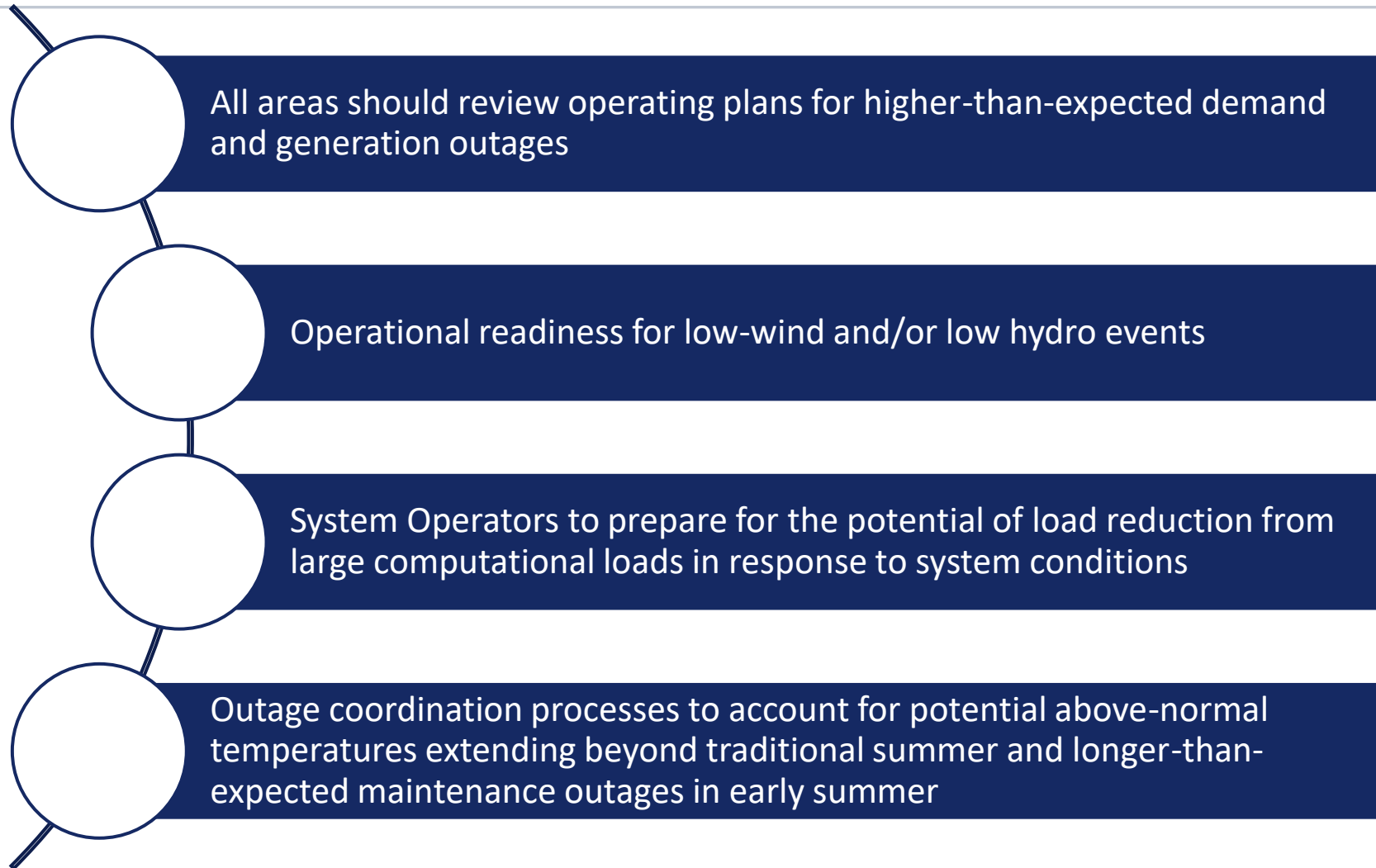
Risk Area Summary

- Elevated risk areas could experience supply shortfalls in extreme conditions
 - **NPCC New England:** Lower expected firm transfers heighten risk of supply shortages
 - **WECC Northwest:** Supply may be insufficient if low hydro conditions coincide with extreme demand
- **Texas RE-ERCOT** is at normal risk level however system constraints can limit supplying all load in the far west zone when local resource output is low

Highlights

- Increased summer capacity has improved the overall outlook
- Rapid growth in electricity demand continues
- Large computational loads pose operational challenges

2026 SRA Recommendations



While resources that support summer peak demand have increased and reduced summer season risk, risk of energy shortfalls during the spring, fall, and winter is increasing.



2026 Summer Energy Market and Electric Reliability Assessment

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