



**U.S. Department of Energy
Electricity Advisory Committee Meeting**

**WebEx Videoconferencing Platform
June 5, 2025**

Meeting Summary

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Registered Speakers, Guests, and
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Meeting Overview

The Electricity Advisory Committee's (EAC) first meeting of 2025 was held on June 5, 2025 using a virtual format via the video conferencing platform Webex. During this meeting, the Energy Storage Subcommittee presented the *2024 Biennial Energy Storage Review (BESR)* for EAC vote. Then, the Grid Resilience for National Security (GRNS) subcommittee presented two work products for EAC votes: *Resilient Communications for Grid Security* and *Bridging the Visibility Gap through Last-Mile Digitization*. Then, the Smart Grid Subcommittee presented its problem statement – *Preparing the U.S. Power Sector for Rapidly Increasing Load Growth* – for EAC discussion. There were no public comments during the meeting. EAC Chair, Andrew Barbeau, and Office of Electricity (OE) Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS) Gil Bindewald adjourned the meeting.

All approved work products from this meeting can be found on the EAC website at [June 5, 2025 Electricity Advisory Committee Meeting | Department of Energy](#).

Welcome, Call to Order/Roll Call, and Introductions

Corinne Price, EAC Designated Federal Officer, welcomed attendees, introduced EAC leadership, took attendance, covered several housekeeping items, and officially called the meeting to order.

Andrew Barbeau made opening remarks and introduced the structure of the meeting. Mr. Barbeau noted that the EAC has operated through significant shifts in the past decade, and that the group will continue to adapt with change. He added that the EAC's work is grounded by the core issues impacting the electric industry such as natural disasters, affordability, and environmental impact and that the EAC would discuss key challenges in this meeting. Mr. Barbeau said that the subcommittees would present the following:

- Energy Storage Subcommittee work product vote
 - *2024 Biennial Energy Storage Review*
- GRNS Subcommittee work products vote
 - *Resilient Communications for Grid Security: Enabling Private Broadband Networks for Critical Infrastructure*
 - *Bridging the Visibility Gap: Advancing Grid Resiliency and National Security With Last-Mile Digitization and Enhanced Distribution-Level Tools*
- Smart Grid Subcommittee problem statement discussion
 - *Preparing the U.S. Power Sector for Rapidly Increasing Load Growth*

Mr. Barbeau then reminded the group that the EAC is most effective when it develops specific, actionable, and realistic recommendations and when DOE authentically takes recommendations into consideration. He emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between the EAC and DOE.

2024 Biennial Energy Storage Review

Jay Morrison and Julia Souder presented information on the *2024 BESR*. Mr. Morrison expressed appreciation for the subcommittee, full EAC, subcommittee Vice Chair Julia Souder, and Lisa Frantzis for structural input on the report.

Mr. Morrison summarized Congress' mandates impacting the Energy Storage subcommittee:

- ***Five Year Report on DOE Energy Storage Research Tracks:*** These five year assessments are required by section 641(e)(4) of the [Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007](#) (see page 199). This report is due in 2026 and will contain the subcommittee's guidance for DOE regarding how to structure research efforts and best expend resources on energy storage.
- ***2024 BESR:*** The BESRs are required by section 641(e)(5) of the [Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007](#) (see page 200). This report is an evaluation of DOE's progress on the Energy Storage Grand Challenge (ESGC) Strategy and Roadmap. As such, the scope of the report is based on the research course that DOE established in 2020. At the end of this report, the subcommittee includes recommendations.

The *2022 BESR* developed a comprehensive list of energy storage use cases and associated industry implementation challenges and provided direction to DOE on how to make progress on the five-year report. The Energy Storage Subcommittee reviewed the *2022 BESR* to prepare the *2024 BESR* and listed 25 key challenges for focus within four prioritized use cases:

- Facilitating an Evolving Grid
- Provision of Critical Services
- Serving Remote Communities
- Flexibility and Integration of All Loads

Mr. Morrison explained that the *2024 BESR* aims to provide specific direction to DOE so the electric industry can take advantage of DOE's applicable work. In particular, the *2024 BESR* aims to:

- Address and define storage in a broader context;
- Encourage DOE to update information on cost targets to determine whether prior cost targets are still relevant and measure progress, which will in turn help regulators and decision-makers make key decisions on technologies; and
- Increase efforts to convert research into actionable lessons learned by consolidating grant data and disseminating that data to stakeholders.

Julia Souder reiterated Jay Morrison's appreciation for the subcommittee. She added that diversity of technology is important. Storage meets many needs and DOE's continued leadership and support in this work will be valuable.

The approved work product can be found online via the link provided in the [Meeting Overview](#) section.

Discussion

Larry Bekkedahl noted that the Grid Storage Launchpad (GSL) at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory conducts grid storage device research, safety, packaging, availability assembly, and more and provides a real benefit to the grid. Mr. Bekkedahl said that DOE will hopefully continue this work.

Lisa Frantzis noted that the subcommittee tried to anticipate DOE's priorities in shaping the 2024 BESR and added that the subcommittee will need to continue to revisit emerging or shifting priorities.

Andrew Barbeau asked the subcommittee to explain the specific best practices or reference available models or frameworks that DOE can adopt to convert research and development into actionable lessons learned.

Alison Silverstein noted the lag between research and current practice and products. She agreed that research results should be accessible and actionable, but industry stakeholders and DOE need to shift from a retrospective approach to a forward-looking approach in grid planning. Technology, priorities, and needs are changing so rapidly that a retrospective approach can be overcome by events quickly. Ms. Silverstein said that DOE should focus on identifying multiple uses of storage technologies rather than comprehensively documenting one use.

Julia Souder agreed that maintaining a forward-looking approach is important. Ms. Souder noted that the Long Duration Energy Storage Consortium (LDESC) convenes 193 stakeholders to examine components of storage and develop lessons learned. LDESC can collaborate with DOE on this effort and looks forward to developing actionable outcomes.

Larry Bekkedahl said that DOE can also help to document and disseminate existing use cases for energy storage. For example, Portland General Electric deployed a 200 Megawatt battery to respond to a regional electricity crisis instantaneously. Mr. Bekkedahl noted that this example illustrates that batteries can be a resource for reliability.

Jay Morrison said that the Energy Storage Subcommittee identified workforce gaps and shortages as a common challenge across use cases. Mr. Morrison also said that DOE requires grantees to report back the outcomes of their grant-funded programs, and these reports are largely underutilized. DOE can consolidate and disseminate these findings to help identify the workforce and safety approaches that have succeeded or failed.

Lisa Frantzis said that batteries are not valued appropriately in the marketplace. DOE can assist with this issue by helping to share current cost information and changes in the marketplace that impact technologies.

Vote

Jay Morrison motioned to approve the 2024 BESR. Julia Souder seconded Mr. Morrison's motion.

- 25 EAC members voted to approve the 2024 BESR, thereby passing the work product

Resilient Communications for Grid Security

Todd Lucas presented the *Resilient Communications for Grid Security: Enabling Private Broadband Networks for Critical Infrastructure* work product. Mr. Lucas acknowledged significant contributions from Tom Kuhn, Paul Stockton, and members of the GRNS subcommittee. Mr. Lucas said that the electric grid is vital for national security and secure communications for voice and data is critical to the reliability of the bulk electric system and distribution systems. Key considerations include:

- Dependence on third party telecommunications networks introduces known and unknown risks into communications systems
- Cybersecurity risks (e.g., Salt Typhoon), malfunctions, and natural hazards can have catastrophic impacts, particularly if more than one of these events takes place concurrently
- Public networks pose multiple constraints for the utility sector since commercial carrier requirements do not always align with the needs of utilities
- Lack of a communication system that can provide the reliability required by utilities

Mr. Lucas summarized recommendations for the EAC:

- Support the development of privately owned wireless broadband networks
- Fund pilot programs and research grants
- Support the allocation of licensed spectrum specifically for the use of electric utilities
- Develop guidance on best practices

Tom Kuhn acknowledged the contributions of Todd Lucas and Paul Stockton to the work product and re-emphasized the importance of the topic. He said that the grid is rapidly changing and demand for electricity is rapidly increasing. The electric industry also faces a major challenge regarding increasing demands from data centers. Strains on the grid will increase the need for secure communication and interoperability. Additionally, data related to grid operations will increase dramatically, highlighting the need for private broadband communications and cybersecurity. Potential impacts of disruptions to the electric system like cyberattacks and natural disasters highlight the need for resilient communications systems. Mr. Kuhn added that the work product does not recommend resource-intensive actions but instead focuses on DOE collecting and disseminating information on existing private broadband networks, such as that of Southern Company.

The approved work product can be found online via the link provided in the [Meeting Overview](#) section.

Discussion

Dave Herlong noted that redundant communications could be a useful next step in the evolution of emergency response and the third leg of mutual assistance and incident command system structure.

Paul Stockton noted that the development of this work product modeled subcommittee collaboration. Moving forward, GRNS will follow this model.

Richard Meyer noted that the recommendations in this work product are focused on the electric sector but have broader applicability to all critical utilities including oil and natural gas.

Sharon Allan made the following points regarding private networks in the utility industry:

- Utilities have attempted to own and operate private networks in the past. However, many utilities abandoned this practice in the 1990s because they could not keep up with operations and maintenance.
- Previously, DOE invested research dollars into broadband networks; however, the high cost of using broadband was a barrier to use by utilities. The economics of this practice are not practical for smaller utilities.
- Ms. Allan said that suggesting that DOE should invest in this topic gave her pause. Rather, she suggested that DOE can disseminate information related to this topic.

Ms. Allan said that the recommendations presented to the EAC are very broad, and that the business case for private networks is fragile. She acknowledged a need for the utility industry to convene and develop solutions to make communications more resilient, but the high-level recommendations may not address those solutions.

Alison Silverstein agreed with Sharon Allan's comments and reiterated the value of utilities using secure networks. Ms. Silverstein referenced participating in setting up communications for the North American Synchrophaser Initiative during which Regional Transmission Organizations developed independent networks because existing networks were insufficient for wide dataflow. Ms. Silverstein added that the work product should reference utility and industry-managed networks that are redundant and separate from privately-owned commercial networks. Rather than privately owned networks, utilities should use alternate networks capable of conveying the level of data generated by and necessary for grid operations. Ms. Silverstein said that the work product should include generation, storage, and demand response components in its scope.

Larry Bekkedahl said that most utilities cannot operate private networks. Utilities are not strong at managing network operating centers other than from the business and information technology standpoint. A private network over a common carrier could be an appropriate solution to this barrier since it offers security and does not rely on utilities to operate networks. DOE can help in investigating such solutions and disseminating information.

Tom Kuhn responded that communications are necessary for all components of the grid and acknowledged the relevance of cost versus value in this question.

Todd Lucas responded that the work product does not advocate for utilities to solely use privately owned broadband. Rather, the use of privately owned broadband is a component of a resilient communications network that incorporates privately and publicly owned networks. Mr. Lucas noted that following Hurricane Helene, Southern Company's private broadband network was the only communications network that continuously operated, which assisted with resiliency.

Louis Finkel expressed concern about DOE encouraging utilities to adopt privately owned wireless broadband networks, particularly in the context of utilities with a large landmass in rural or remote areas. Existing language in the work product indicates that DOE can regulate this area, and Mr.

Finkel does not believe DOE should be able to direct utilities in such matters.

Mark Gabriel reaffirmed that multiple communications options are a useful practice. Mr. Gabriel agreed with Louis Finkel that DOE should not regulate this practice, and that options are important to be practicable across utility types.

Andrew Barbeau suggested that the group agree on a word change to the first recommendation to move the work product forward. He noted that concerns relate to first recommendation with the word ‘encourage’ and asked if the group agreed with a word change.

Louis Finkel suggested that the EAC replace ‘encourage’ with ‘promote’.

Alison Silverstein suggested that the EAC delete the work ‘wireless’ to include all available options and technologies.

Vote

Andrew Barbeau read aloud the recommendation with modifications incorporated.

- *DOE should promote the adoption of private broadband communications technology by electric companies to enhance resilience against cyber-attacks and facilitate increased data as A.I. use expands.*

Mark Gabriel motioned to vote on the work product with the amendments, and Alison Silverstein seconded Mr. Gabriel’s motion.

26 EAC members voted to approve the amended work product, thereby passing the work product.

Bridging the Visibility Gap through Last-Mile Digitization

Dave Herlong presented the *Bridging the Visibility Gap: Advancing Grid Resiliency and National Security With Last-Mile Digitization and Enhanced Distribution-Level Tools* work product. Mr. Herlong noted that the last GRNS work product focused on distribution planning for resiliency. Over 90 percent of outages occur at the distribution level, at which grid operators have limited visibility. The hardest part of recovering from natural disasters is reviving the last part of the distribution system, which can have impacts on critical infrastructure. In general, outages are increasing which can have negative economic impacts and increase instability. Real-time monitoring could help to proactively identify risk indicators in critical loads, capacity factors, and other areas.

Recommendations in the work product note that DOE should:

- Encourage additional investments in intelligent sensors and edge computing as active control points
- Use Artificial Intelligence and machine learning for advanced predictive maintenance
- Create and promote interoperability standards
- Convene utilities, technology firms, and state agencies to align on best practices
- Foster public-private partnerships for faster deployment to close the visibility gap,

improve power quality, and reduce financial impacts to sustained power outages

The approved work product can be found online via the link provided in the [Meeting Overview](#) section.

Discussion

Mario Hurtado asked Dave Herlong to clarify whether the work product calls for DOE to conduct additional research and development versus promoting the topic and convening stakeholders. He inquired, “does the work product call for advances in technology or advances in deployment and understanding of available tools.”

Dave Herlong responded that the work product is more focused on promoting the topic and convening stakeholders. The work product does not call for additional funding from DOE. Rather, it recommends that DOE encourage the industry to act on last-mile digitization.

Paul Stockton suggested that last-mile digitization should be threat-informed to build resilience.

Dave Herlong responded that cybersecurity considerations are incorporated into the work product.

Alison Silverstein noted that technology already exists for this purpose and has been partially deployed during the smart grid initiatives of the 2010s. The work product should be about deployment and institutionalizing last-mile digitization practices, identifying early wins, opportunities for use cases, and best practices for technology.

Dave Herlong agreed that the work product is about deployment and institutionalization, and not further research and development.

Sharon Allan provided the following insights:

- DOE used to fund a co-hosted website with Virginia Technological Institute (i.e., Virginia Tech) where utilities could post business cases for commission approval. This repository allowed utilities to access best practices and use cases from other utilities. However, DOE does not fund this initiative anymore.
- While promoting interoperability standards is valuable, the subcommittee should continue adding language about testing interoperable equipment and technologies to the relevant recommendation.

Tom Kuhn supported Sharon Allan’s amendments. Mr. Kuhn noted that electric customers expect quicker reconnection following outages than in the past, which further highlights the importance of the work product. Public private partnerships are also critical; for instance, the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council provides a venue where government and industry can discuss lessons learned and successful approaches to common challenges. These would be useful concepts to apply to last-mile digitization.

Lisa Frantzis noted prior work in which she convened stakeholders to discuss distributed energy resources and cybersecurity and later approached policymakers and regulators to align on priorities. It is important that DOE understands industry priorities and assists in advancing those priorities in meaningful ways.

Based on Sharon Allen’s recommendations, it was suggested that the EAC revise the first two bullets under the Standardization and Stakeholder Collaboration recommendation. The first bullet should incorporate ‘and testing’ after ‘promote the development and adoption of consistent technical standards,’ and ‘implementation pathways’ should be added to the end of the second bullet.

Vote

Andrew Barbeau read aloud the recommendations with modifications incorporated.

- *As these tools and insights develop, promote the development and adoption of consistent technical standards and testing for last-mile grid modernization to improve efficiency and interoperability across utilities.*
- *Convene consumer- and investor-owned utilities, technology providers, State Energy Offices, and Public Utility Commissions to align on interoperability, best practices, and implementation pathways.*

Alison Silverstein motioned to vote on the work product with the amendments. Tom Kuhn seconded Ms. Silverstein’s motion.

26 EAC members voted to approve the work product, thereby passing the work product.

Problem Statement: Preparing the U.S. Power Sector for Rapidly Increasing Load Growth

Andrew Barbeau reiterated the process for developing work products:

- Subcommittee develops a problem statement
- Subcommittee deliberates the problem statement with full EAC
- Subcommittee develops a work product with recommendations
- EAC votes to pass the recommendations

Mr. Barbeau explained that the Smart Grid subcommittee developed a problem statement on Rapidly Increasing Load Growth including critical gaps, needs, and topics for consideration and will deliberate the problem statement with the full EAC.

Karen Wayland presented the Smart Grid Subcommittee problem statement. The problem statement discusses what DOE can do to help prepare the power sector for a new era of rapidly increasing load growth. The problem statement includes key context and issue areas with which the subcommittee will develop recommendations for DOE, and includes the following information:

- Data centers, transportation electrification, building electrification, manufacturing, and other developments increase load growth.
- It is important to engage with a well-rounded group of stakeholders when approaching this issue, including but not limited to traditional utilities, grid operators, and organizations across generation, transmission, and distribution.

- The subcommittee’s approach to the grid of the future will be technology neutral, user neutral, and use case neutral to maximize flexibility. This approach will span the distribution and transmission system.
- Data centers must engage with utilities to assist with grid planning.
- There is a growing mismatch between load growth and stakeholders’ abilities to meet load growth, which highlights the need for energy abundance and new resource integration.
- Ms. Wayland noted that stakeholders need:
 - Updated forecasting tools and models to better understand how user groups and regions contribute to load;
 - Updated load profiles of new energy users;
 - Upgraded grid investments and cost allocation frameworks ;
 - Planning approaches that integrate customer resources (e.g., distributed energy resources);
 - Cost-effective methods to integrate mixed resources in an interoperable manner, including local resource timing and safety considerations; and
 - Technical requirements for a delivery system that integrates grid edge resources and loads and includes decentralized coordination that is resilient to cyber-attacks and communications failures.

Kirsten Verclas added her thanks to subcommittee members for contributing to the problem statement.

Discussion

Lynne Kiesling connected concepts in the Smart Grid Subcommittee problem statement to the 2024 BESR. She said that forecasting tools and models are also important for storage technologies as they behave differently from other resources and can apply to a variety of use cases. From the load and supply forecasting perspective, targeted forecasting tools for batteries and storage would benefit all the initiatives the EAC is considering.

Mark Gabriel said that hyper-localization of resources is changing the dynamic of grid operations. Integrating these considerations from the delivery system to the grid edge is critical.

Paul Stockton said that from a GRNS perspective, the growing risk of China manipulating grid perspectives is important to consider. Mr. Stockton said that GRNS members can contribute to the work product to incorporate this risk.

Andrew Barbeau asked the EAC to note any key considerations for the Smart Grid Subcommittee to incorporate in the work product.

Louis Finkel said that the subcommittee should consider supply chain constraints. Turbines, wind, and solar resources currently have long lead times. There is also a shortage of qualified Engineering-Procurement-Construction (EPC) companies in the United States which can delay deploying new generation resources.

Julia Souder agreed with Lynne Kiesling's points regarding resource adequacy and the practice of looking for commonalities across EAC work products. It will be important for the EAC to consider integration and interoperability across subcommittee conversations and work products.

Andrew Barbeau said that following this discussion, the subcommittee will develop a work product with recommendations and coordinate with other subcommittees as needed.

Public Comment Period

There were no requests for public comment.

Meeting Adjournment

Andrew Barbeau thanked the EAC for helping to make the meeting as productive as possible and thanked the subcommittees for their work in developing work products in time for a June 2025 vote. The three work products approved for release to DOE are:

- 2024 Biennial Energy Storage Review
- Bridging the Visibility Gap/ Last-Mile Digitization
- Resilient Communication for Grid Security

In alignment with the EAC's work product development process and pre-discussed timeline, DOE may present a formal response to the EAC's recommendations on the approved work products at the next full EAC meeting. At the next full EAC meeting, the EAC will also review and vote on the Smart Grid Subcommittee work product and recommendations.

Mr. Barbeau extended special thanks to the following individuals who retired from DOE:

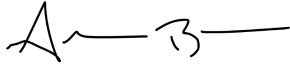
- Jayne Faith, the former Designated Federal Officer for the EAC, was diligent in shepherding the EAC events, meetings, and leadership subcommittee in a seamless manner.
- Joe Paladino, the former Senior Advisor for OE's Grid Controls and Communications Division, was instrumental in initiatives relevant to the EAC including the Section 8008 and Smart Grid Systems reports.

To close the meeting, Gil Bindewald thanked the EAC members for their time. He extended special thanks to Corinne Price, Designated Federal Officer for the EAC, and to Pat Hoffman who recently retired from DOE. Mr. Bindewald acknowledged the individuals departing the EAC and thanked them for their service.

Lisa Frantzis motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Julia Souder seconded the motion.

Signature Page

Respectfully submitted and certified as accurate,



Andrew Barbeau
Chair
DOE Electricity Advisory Committee

6/27/2025

Date



Corinne Price
Office of Electricity
Designated Federal Officer
DOE Electricity Advisory Committee

06/27/2025

Date