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February 12, 2026

Adam J. Teitzman, Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 20250113-EI - Petition for a limited proceeding to approve large load tariff by Duke Energy Florida, LLC

Dear Mr. Teitzman:

Please find enclosed for filing in the above referenced docket the Direct Testimony and Exhibits of Ron Nelson. This filing is being made via the Florida Public Service Commission's web-based electronic filing portal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Walt Trierweiler
Public Counsel

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
DOCKET NO. 20250113-EI

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by electronic mail on this 12th day of February 2026, to the following:

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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for a limited proceeding to approve large load tariff by Duke Energy Florida, LLC	DOCKET NO.: 20250113-EI FILED: February 12, 2026

DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
RON NELSON
ON BEHALF
OF
THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

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RON Nelson CV... Exhibit RN-1

Response to Int. 24C... Exhibit RN-2

JLARC Report... Exhibit RN-3

2.10.26 Earnings Call.. Exhibit RN-4

I. INTRODUCTION

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS AND CURRENT POSITION.

A. My name is Ron Nelson. I am a Founding Partner of Current Energy Group ("CEG"). My business address is 4764 E Sunrise Drive Unit #508, Tucson, AZ 85718.

Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU SUBMITTING TESTIMONY?

A. I am filing testimony on behalf of the Florida Office of Public Counsel ("OPC").

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE.

A. I have worked with numerous consumer advocates, nongovernmental organizations, utilities, and public utility commissions on issues related to cost-of-service modeling, rate design, grid modernization, distributed energy resource valuation and integration, and performance-based regulation. CEG specializes in providing clients regulatory services in the areas of cost-of-service modeling, regulatory innovation, performance-based regulation, distributed energy resources ("DER"), rate design, renewable program development, grid modernization, new grid technologies, integrated resource planning, and electric vehicles . Prior to founding CEG, I briefly worked for my own sole proprietorship and at a consulting firm in various roles for six years, including as a Senior Director.

Prior to 2018, I worked for the Minnesota Attorney General's Office for almost five years, where I led that office's work on cost of service, rate design, renewable energy program design, performance-based regulation, and utility business model issues. Before that, I worked for two universities and the United States Geological Survey as an economic researcher. I have a Master of Science from Colorado State University in Agriculture and Resource Economics, and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Economics from Western Washington University, where I also minored in Mathematics. My curriculum vitae is attached as Exhibit RN-1.

Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TESTIMONY BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ("PSC" OR "COMMISSION")?

A. No.

Q. HAVE YOU TESTIFIED BEFORE OTHER REGULATORY JURISDICTIONS?

A. Yes. I have testified in over 90 proceedings in Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Vermont. The issues covered in these proceedings included marginal and embedded cost of service studies, revenue allocation, rate design, load management, renewable program design, fuel clause adjustments, formula rates, decoupling, performance-based regulation, multi-year rate plans, performance metrics, DER interconnection, flexible interconnection, preemptive DER and load upgrades, DER compensation, DER integration, EV infrastructure investments, pilot frameworks, automated metering infrastructure, prudence review, distribution system planning, capital investment plan review, and smart inverter integration, among other topics. I have also advised the Connecticut, Colorado, Hawaii, and Kentucky state utility commissions and have testified and supported clients at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC").

Q. HAVE YOU TESTIFIED PREVIOUSLY ON LARGE LOAD TARIFFS AND RELATED ISSUES?

A. Yes, I recently testified on the large load tariffs of Dominion Energy ("Dominion"), Appalachian Power Company ("Appalachian"), PPL Electric Utilities Corporation ("PPL"), and Wisconsin Energy, and I have assisted or testified on large load issues in Arizona, Colorado, South Carolina, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, and before FERC.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY.

A. My testimony on behalf of the customers of Duke Energy Florida ("DEF" or "Company") through the OPC evaluates the merits and deficiencies of the Company's large load customer proposals including the Large Load Customer Policy ("LLCP"), Large Load Customer Agreement ("LLCA"), and the Company's proposed LLC-1 tariff. My testimony recommends measures that the Commission can take to protect customers if it approves the tariff.

Q. HOW IS YOUR TESTIMONY ORGANIZED?

A. First, I provide some historical context for this case regarding recent trends in electric rates for DEF customers, the growth of data centers around the country, and the uncertain nature of data center load projections. The rest of my testimony is divided into five sections. First, I provide a summary of the Company's proposed LLCP, LLCA, and LLC-1 rate class. Second, I discuss deficiencies of the Company's proposals, particularly the lack of detailed supporting analysis and lack of sufficient consumer protections. In my third section, I discuss how the Company's cost of service study ("COSS") and cost allocation methodologies can be updated to better reflect cost-causation and further insulate existing customers from risks pertaining to large load customer growth. I then provide detailed recommendations on two critical issues the Company's large load proposal does not address: line and service extension cost allocation and flexible connections. Finally, I summarize my recommendations and conclude my testimony.

II. BACKGROUND

A. INCREMENTAL VS. EMBEDDED COST ALLOCATION APPROACHES

Q. ARE THERE ANY RATEMAKING CONCEPTS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTANDING DATA CENTERS' IMPACTS ON OTHER CUSTOMERS' RATES?

A. Yes. Average embedded cost of service, incremental cost allocation, or a combination of both are approaches that can be used to establish rates for new customers, including for new data centers and other large load customers. The cost allocation method a utility chooses to use will significantly impact both the rates that new and existing customers will pay as well as the risks new and existing customers will bear. In particular, whether existing customers are protected from short-term rate impacts and whether potential benefits to other customers materialize over the long-term are closely related to how costs are allocated to new customers. This is particularly true for new data centers or other large load customers that trigger extremely large incremental costs.

Q. CAN YOU EXPLAIN HOW THE AVERAGE EMBEDDED COST OF SERVICE METHOD WORKS REGARDING LARGE LOADS?

A. At a high level, under an embedded cost of service approach, a utility determines its total revenue requirement both for new investments required to serve large loads as well as all of its historical investments in the electric grid, functionalizes those costs into categories such as production, transmission, and distribution costs, and allocates those costs to each customer class using allocation factors. Allocation factors may be related to the number of customers, energy usage, or maximum demand of each customer class, or some other metric. The average embedded cost approach treats new customers and existing customers the same, allocating costs to each in the same manner.[1]

Q. CAN YOU EXPLAIN HOW INCREMENTAL COST OF SERVICE WORKS?

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[1] Lazar, J., Chernick, P., Marcus, W., and LeBel, M. "Electric Cost Allocation for a New Era: A Manual" at 29. Montpelier, VT: Regulatory Assistance Project. Available at: https://www.raponline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/rap-lazar-chernick-marcus-lebel-electric-cost-allocation-new-era-2020-january.pdf.

A. Utilities can also allocate costs to new customers based on the incremental cost to serve those customers. Under this approach, the new load is directly allocated the incremental cost to serve it in one or more functional categories. While the customer will pay the incremental costs for new resources, they would likely not be charged the costs of system expansion required to serve subsequent new customers or the costs of the existing system.[2] Allocating the incremental cost to new customers can protect existing customers from short-term rate increases and, potentially, insulate customers from risks of stranded assets associated with large loads. However, existing customers may not benefit from potential future rate reductions from new large loads if those costs are all directly allocated to large loads. There are many tradeoffs to these two approaches. Additionally, there are variants that can combine the two concepts, such as assigning incremental upgrades costs and refunding them later through revenue credits, a process that is used within utility distribution line extension policies.

Q. DOES THE COMPANY PROPOSE TO USE EITHER THE AVERAGE EMBEDDED OR INCREMENTAL COST OF SERVICE METHODOLOGY TO RECOVER COSTS FROM LARGE LOADS?

A. In the instant filing, the Company is proposing to maintain the average embedded cost methodology to recover all costs incurred to serve new large loads.[3]

Q. WHAT REASONS DOES THE COMPANY PROVIDE FOR USING THE AVERAGE EMBEDDED COST APPROACH?

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[2] Lazar et al. at 29.
[3] Wishart Direct at 27:3.

A. The Company primarily uses the concept of fairness to justify its proposal to use the average embedded costs for large load customers. Company witness Wishart states that embedded system costs ensures fairness across customer classes and is consistent with how the Company treats other new customers that join the system.[4] Mr. Wishart goes on to state that using the average embedded cost ratemaking approach ensures that new customers do not face discriminatory rates while paying "their fair share of total system costs."[5] Further, he states that "while data centers may be a relatively new development, there is no requirement to treat them differently than how other new customers have been treated over the past 100 years."[6]

Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH MR. WISHART'S ASSESSMENT THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO TREAT DATA CENTERS DIFFERENTLY THAN OTHER NEW CUSTOMERS?

A. I do not. As Mr. Wishart notes, there has been "unprecedented growth in the U.S. data center industry in recent years."[7] In addition, the data centers currently proposed and under construction represent new loads of unprecedented size that require unprecedented system upgrades to serve. The cost allocation paradigm we've been using for 100 years was not designed to accommodate such large and unprecedented load growth. For example, DEF states that it has received inquiries from data centers representing 13.2 GW of additional capacity.[8] If all this new data center capacity were

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[4] Wishart Direct at 27:4-6.
[5] Wishart Direct at 3:8-10.
[6] Wishart Direct at 16: 21-22.
[7] Wishart Direct at 3: 18-19.
[8] Exh. RN-2 - DEF Response to Interrogatory 24(c).

to interconnect, it would more than double the Company's 2024 net firm demand of 8.6 GW.[9] The unprecedented size and scale of data centers create new risks and mean that frameworks that have worked well to create fair cost allocation outcomes in the past will not necessarily work as well in the future.

Q. WHAT ARE THE RISKS TO OTHER CUSTOMERS FROM USING THE AVERAGE EMBEDDED COST METHODOLOGY TO ALLOCATED COSTS TO LARGE LOADS?

A. Serving new loads that could more than double the capacity of the electric grid in less than a decade will require investments in generation and transmission infrastructure at an unprecedented speed and scale. Such rapid, large-scale investment will increase prices for new generations, as costs move up the supply curve for new generation resources, raising the marginal price for supply to serve all load. This concept is well articulated in a study commissioned by the Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission ("JLARC"), a government entity in Virginia that conducts program evaluation, policy analysis, and oversight of state agencies on behalf of the Virginia legislature.[10] Virginia is the largest data center market in the world and is grappling with the complex policy challenges related to the impact of data centers on electricity prices and markets. As shown in Figure 1, below, as load increases, the marginal cost to add additional load also increases as demand for new generation resources outstrips the available supply. This concept can be seen in the recent escalating costs of new gas-

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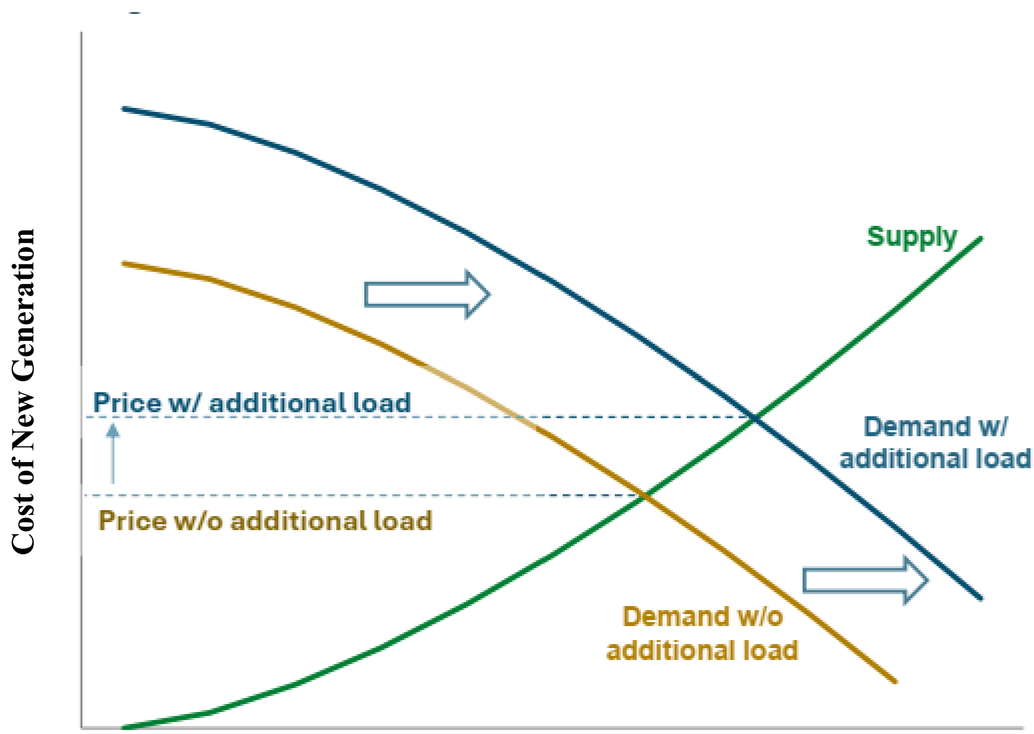
[9] DEF 2025 Ten Year Site Plan at 2-15. Available at https://www.floridapsc.com/pscfiles/website-files/PDF/Utilities/Electricgas/TenYearSitePlans//2025/Duke%20Energy%20Florida.pdf.

[10] Exh. RN- 3 - Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, Data Centers in Virginia Report. December 9, 2024 https://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt598-2.pdf ("JLARC Report").

fired power plants. Due to significant demand for new generation, as well as inflation, recent prices for combined cycle natural gas generators have increased from between \$1,116-\$1,427 per kw to \$2,000 or more per kw in just a few years.[11] Much of the increase is driven by rising electricity demand to power new data centers, creating a backlog and significant waiting lists for new generators. The result of this phenomenon is that the marginal cost to serve this unprecedented new load will be significantly higher than the average cost of historical resources serving existing customers.

Figure 1[12]



[11] The New Reality of Power Generation: An Analysis of Increasing Gas Turbine Costs in the U.S. at 4. Available at https://gridlab.org/portfolio-item/gas-tubine-cost-report/.
[12] Exh. RN-3 - JLARC Report at 80.

Q. IF THE MARGINAL COST TO SERVE NEW GENERATION IS HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE SYSTEM FIXED COSTS, WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT ON EXISTING CUSTOMERS' RATES?

A. If the marginal cost to serve a new customer is higher than the average embedded cost of the system, and average embedded costs are allocated to the new customer, there would be a shortfall between what the new customer pays and the costs they caused. The gap between costs caused and allocated would need to be paid for by existing customers, increasing their rates in the short term. Adding the new, more expensive assets to the system will raise the average costs which are allocated to all customers, which will, in turn, raise rates. This will happen even if new large loads are allocated their share of average embedded costs.

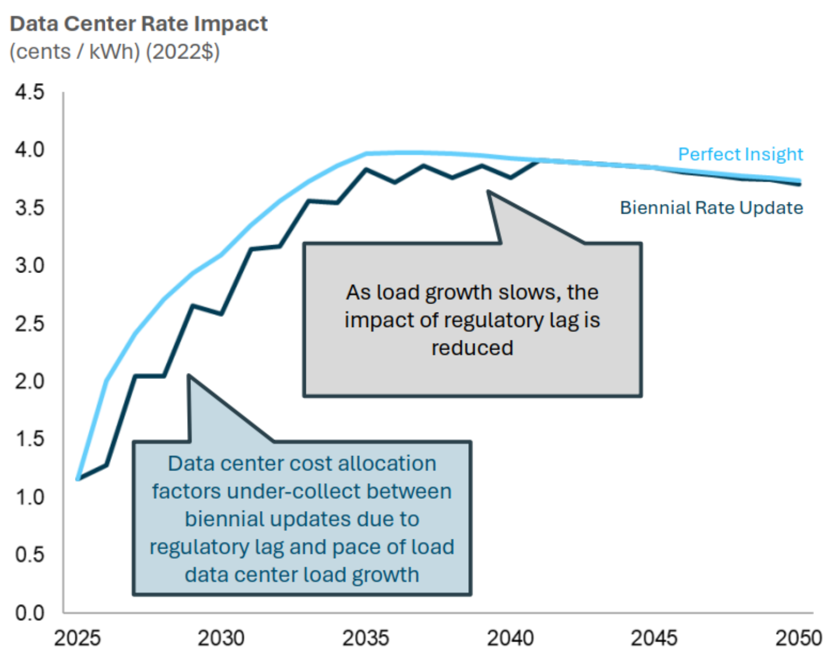
Q. ARE THERE POTENTIAL LONG-TERM BENEFITS FROM USING THE AVERAGE EMBEDDED COST ALLOCATION APPROACH?

A. Over time, if the expected load from large customers is maintained and the need to build new resources slows, rates for other customers may decline relative to what they otherwise would have been.

The reason that rates may decline (relatively) is the rate base decreases over time due to depreciation, lowering the utility's overall revenue requirement. While costs decline, the total utility sales and demand are much greater with the new large load customer than without. In other words, the system's costs are now spread out over more kilowatt-hour sales. Eventually, a point is reached in which the new large load customer's contribution to paying for the system's fixed costs becomes greater than the amount by which its marginal costs were initially subsidized by existing ratepayers. For data centers that require hundreds of megawatts of new generation resources to be added to the grid at relatively high marginal costs, this breakeven point can take a decade or longer to reach. In the meantime, under this paradigm of allocating average embedded costs, other customers pay higher rates than they would have.

The conclusion that, even assuming the forecasted load materializes and is maintained, customers may not see rate benefits for a decade-plus is consistent with what the JLARC report found. Figure 2 below shows the impact that incremental data center infrastructure requirements have over time.

Figure 2: The Influence of Regulatory Lag on Data Center Rates[13]



The figure illustrates how it can take 10 or more years for other customers to start benefiting from the addition of large load. In DEF's case, this means that other

[13] Exh. RN-3 JLARC Report at 94.

ratepayers could see a decade of increased prices before seeing potential benefits starting around 2039 from data centers; these benefits are not guaranteed, however. Whether these benefits are ever derived depends on several factors. The first is that the market again reaches an equilibrium, where investments slow and rate base declines. The second, is that the expected load is maintained for a long duration (i.e., a decade or more). The figure above also shows the jagged line for data center rate increases. The jagged lines show that if cost allocation is not updated frequently between large load classes and the residential class, the residential class subsidizes the large load customers between rate cases.

Q. GIVEN THESE RISKS, ARE OTHER JURISDICTIONS MOVING AWAY FROM THE AVERAGE EMBEDDED COST METHODOLOGY AS THE METHOD TO ASSIGN COSTS TO NEW DATA CENTERS?

A. Yes. While this market is changing quickly, we are increasingly seeing commissions and utilities move to either directly allocate a portion, or all, of the incremental costs of new generation and transmission resources directly to new data center load or develop hybrid approaches, where either a portion of incremental resources is directly allocated to data centers or where data centers are required to pay more than their average embedded costs for generation and transmission resources.

Q. WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF MOVING TOWARDS A HYBRID APPROACH FOR COST-ALLOCATION FROM LARGE LOADS?

A. While I have summarized the problems and risks from using the average embedded cost approach to allocating costs to new large loads, there are also risks from directly allocating all costs to large loads. There is the potential for large loads to bring down rates for all customers in the long term, if they pay more than the marginal cost for new generation and transmission resources. Fully allocating new resources to those loads avoids the short-term rate increases for other customers, but it also negates the potential benefits large loads can bring in the long term. New hybrid approaches to cost allocation seek the best of both worlds, avoiding short-term rate increases, while also allowing for long-term benefits. Given this, I recommend that the Commission consider these emerging approaches to balance short-term protections and long-term upside.

B. DATA CENTERS ARE INCREASING RATEPAYER BILLS BECAUSE THEY ARE TRIGGERING SIGNIFICANT INCREMENTAL COSTS

Q. HAVE DEF'S CUSTOMERS EXPERIENCED RATE INCREASES IN RECENT YEARS?

A. Yes. According to data from the Energy Information Administration, DEF's residential electric rates have increased by 23% between 2020 and 2023.[14] This increase is consistent with national trends, as electric rates have been increasing throughout the country.[15]

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[14] U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Electric Sales, Revenue, and Average Price. https://www.eia.gov/electricity/sales_revenue_price/; The average price for residential DEF customers rose from 13.49 cents/kWh to 16.63 cents/kWh over this time.

[15] U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA) Electricity Monthly Update (Jan 2026). https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/update/end-use.php.

Q. DO DATA CENTERS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO LEAD TO FURTHER RATE INCREASES FOR DEF'S CUSTOMERS?

A. Yes, they do. The theories I discussed above are being proven out in jurisdictions around the country with significant data center growth, where electricity bills are rising faster than the national average.[16] The PJM market, specifically Northern Virginia, is the area of the country with the largest data center growth and where many of the impacts are most acute.[17] In Georgia, on the heels of significant rate increases tied to the Vogtle nuclear plants, Georgia Power requested approval to spend more than $15 billion on generation resources needed to serve data center load growth.[18] Without proper safeguards, similar rate increases from data center development could be felt by DEF's customers.

Q. DID THE COMPANY SUBMIT ANY TESTIMONY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEW DATA CENTER LOAD AND ELECTRICITY RATES?

A. Yes. Company witness Wishart suggests data centers and other large load customers can help lower the average per unit cost of electricity delivered because they consistently use electricity throughout the day and across seasons, improving the overall utilization of generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure.[19] Mr. Wishart uses national data on total electric sales volumes, the average price of

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[16] Spencer Kimball and Gabriel Cortes, *Data Centers are Concentrated in these States. Here's What's Happening to Electricity Prices*, CNBC, (Nov. 17, 2025, 1:26 PM) https://www.cnbc.com/2025/11/14/data-centers-are-concentrated-in-these-states-heres-whats-happening-to-electricity-prices-.html.

[17] Exh. RN-3 - JLARC Report at 8.

[18] Georgia Power Company's Application for the Certification of the All-Source Capacity Power Purchase Agreements and Company-Owned Proposals, Docket No. 56298, https://psc.ga.gov/search/facts-document/?documentId=223493.

[19] Direct Testimony of Steven Wishart at 7: 4-9.

electricity in the US, and inflation to compare inflation-adjusted electricity prices to annual total sales volume. His data shows that from 1979 to 2004, electric sales consistently grew and the average inflation adjusted price fell, while from 2004 to 2024, electric sales and inflation adjusted prices were both steady.[20] Mr. Wishart also runs a second analysis comparing the change in sales volume and the change in average rates from 2015 to 2024 for individual utilities and finds a statistically significant negative correlation between the percentage change in sales and the percentage change in average rates.[21]

Q. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO MR. WISHART'S ANALYSES COMPARING ELECTRICITY SALES AND ELECTRICITY PRICES?

A. Mr. Wishart's analyses are of limited, if any, use in this proceeding. All else equal, Mr. Wishart is correct that increasing the utilization of existing infrastructure leads to lower electricity rates for all customers. However, as he notes, many factors influence electricity prices, and the relationship he observed "does not imply that in the future, incremental load growth will lower inflation adjusted electric rates."[22] There are reasons to believe that this relationship will look different in the future. Specifically, as Mr. Wishart states, "unprecedented growth in the U.S. data center industry" is occurring and is expected to continue accelerating.[23] Because of this, data centers will not simply increase utilization of existing infrastructure but will necessitate significant incremental investment in new infrastructure to serve them. Without reasonable

[20] Direct Testimony of Steven Wishart at 8: 1-12.
[21] Direct Testimony of Steven Wishart at 9: 6-13.
[22] Direct Testimony of Steven Wishart at 3: 18-19 and at 4:10-5:2.
[23] Direct Testimony of Steven Wishart at 8: 10-12.

changes to the regulatory framework, including cost allocation, these infrastructure upgrades will largely be socialized. This will cause an increase in rates in the short and medium term that will only lead to potential bill savings for customers if data center load is maintained for an amount of time where the embedded rates paid by these customers cover the initial incremental increase.

Q. WILL DEMAND GROWTH IN DEF'S SERVICE TERRITORY FROM DATA CENTERS NECESSITATE INVESTMENT IN NEW INFRASTRUCTURE?

DEF has stated that its current projected reserve margin would not support a 500 MW increase in load, nor would it be able to construct new resources to support 500 MW of new load by December 2028.[24] This fact alone shows that any new loads taking service under the tariff proposed in this proceeding will require the construction of incremental generation resources. While it is more challenging to make a generalization regarding transmission upgrades for DEF, given that the transmission network upgrades required to connect data centers are extremely locationally dependent and rely on the locational topology of the transmission network, there will likely be significant transmission upgrades needed to interconnect new data center load as shown in other jurisdictions.

Q. WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE TO SUGGEST THAT LARGE LOADS ARE PUTTING UPWARD PRESSURE ON GENERATION COSTS, LEADING TO RATE INCREASES?

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[24] DEF Response to Staff's data request 19-a.

A. The Independent Market Monitor for PJM released a report in June 2025, which found that data center load growth was directly responsible for the extremely high prices observed in the PJM Base Residual Action ("BRA") for capacity. In particular, the authors wrote "data center load growth is the primary reason for recent and expected capacity market conditions, including total forecast load growth, the tight supply and demand balance, and high prices. But for data center growth, both actual and forecast, the PJM Capacity Market would not have seen the tight supply demand conditions, the high prices observed in the BRA for 2025/2026 or the high prices expected for the 2026/2027 and subsequent capacity auctions."[25] PJM is ahead of many jurisdictions with seeing data center impacts because there are large hubs developing in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. However, it is likely that the generation and transmission rate increases experienced within PJM will translate to other jurisdictions as development of data centers increases in other markets.

Q. WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF TRANSMISSION UPGRADES NECESSARY TO SERVE DATA CENTERS IN PJM?

A. One report estimated that in 2024 alone, utilities in seven PJM states socialized more than $4.3 billion in transmission costs to utility customers to provide service to data centers.[26]

[25] The Independent Market Monitor for PJM, Analysis of the 2025/2026 RPM Base Residual Auction, Part G. June 3, 2025. Available at: https://www.monitoringanalytics.com/reports/reports/2025/IMM_Analysis_of_the_20252026_RPM_Base_Residual_Auction_Part_G_20250603_Revised.pdf.

[26] Mike Jacobs *Policy Brief: Connection Costs,* Union of Concerned Scientists (Sept. 2025), https://www.ucs.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/PJM%20Data%20Center%20Issue%20Brief%20-%20Sep%202025.pdf.

Q. ARE THERE JURISDICTIONS OUTSIDE OF PJM EXPERIENCING INCREASING GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION COSTS BECAUSE OF RAPID DATA CENTER-DRIVEN DEMAND GROWTH?

A. Yes. In Georgia, Georgia Power increased its estimate of how much new capacity would be needed to serve its loads in 2030 from 400 MW in 2022 to 8,500 MW in 2024.[27] Driven by rapidly increasing demand from data centers, Georgia Power filed a request to the Georgia Public Service Commission ("GPSC") for approval to acquire 9,900 MW of resources at a cost of over $15 billion.[28]

Similarly in Wisconsin, Wisconsin Electric filed an application for approval of a Very Large Customer Tariff and Bespoke Resources Tariff aimed at addressing cost allocation for data centers. The company's investor presentations show it expects to spend $19.3 billion on electric generation over the next five years,[29] a $6 billion increase relative to the five-year plan submitted just a year prior.[30]

Q. HOW ARE STATES RESPONDING TO THE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS REQUIRED TO SERVE DATA CENTER LOAD?

A. Many of the states with significant proposed data center development are moving away from their traditional cost allocation approaches to protect other ratepayers from cost

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[27] *2025 Data Center Fact Sheet,* Georgia Public Service Commission, https://psc.ga.gov/site/downloads/datacenterfactsheet.pdf.
[28] Georgia Power Company's Application for the Certification of the All-Source Capacity Power Purchase Agreements and Company-Owned Proposals, Docket No. 56298, https://psc.ga.gov/search/facts-document/?documentId=223493.
[29] WEC Energy Group Investor Update: December 2025, at 14. https://s22.q4cdn.com/994559668/files/doc_presentations/2025/Dec/05/12-2025-December-Final.pdf.
[30] WEC Energy Group Investor Update: December 2024, at 13. https://s22.q4cdn.com/994559668/files/doc_presentations/2024/Dec/06/12-2024-December-Final.pdf.

increases and also reduce the risk of stranded assets. In Georgia, Georgia Power and the Public Interest Advocacy Staff of the GPSC recently reached a stipulated agreement, the was approved by the Commission, in which Georgia Power committed to protecting ratepayers by requiring it to collect hundreds of millions of dollars per year in incremental revenues from large load customers in its next rate case.[31] These revenues would be used to offset cost increases from data centers on those customers and represent a move away from the state's traditional cost-recovery methodology.

In Wisconsin and Oregon, utilities have proposed that generation and transmission costs be directly allocated to data centers to prevent cost shifting to other customers and also reduce the risk of stranded assets.[32,33]

Arizona Public Service ("APS") recently proposed an updated cost allocation methodology in its ongoing rate case. Their approach allocates incremental generation costs to each customer class based on its contribution to the growth in peak demand.[34] APS proposes to differentiate new generation resources between generation needed to replace retiring resources and generation needed to serve new load growth. To do this, APS will compute the effective load carrying capacity ("ELCC") of retiring assets and subtract that value from the ELCC of any new generation resources. The remaining portion will be treated as serving new load growth, and the cost of all new generation

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[31] "Stipulated agreement reached to help keep electricity affordable and meet future energy demand in Georgia." *Georgia Power* (Dec. 2025). https://www.georgiapower.com/news-hub/press-releases/stipulated-agreement-reached-to-help-keep-electricity-affordable-and-meet-future-energy-demand-in-georgia.html.
[32] "Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company for Approval of its Very Large Customer and Bespoke Resources Tariffs." Docket No. 6630-TE-113 before the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. https://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=539747.
[33] Relating to large energy use facilities; and declaring an emergency., House Bill 3546 (Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2025 Regular Session). https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB3546/Enrolled.
[34] Jamie Moe, Direct Testimony, ACC Docket No. E-01345A-25-0105 at 14:21-27.

resources will be divided accordingly. APS will continue to allocate new generation costs associated with retiring assets using their traditional embedded cost methods, while generation costs associated with serving new load will be allocated according to the proportion of test year load growth in individual customer classes.[35] In this way, existing customers may be insulated from any cost-shifting due to generation costs caused by growth in large load customers.

Finally, in a contested, non-unanimous settlement agreement with a select number of non-residential customers, Florida Power & Light Company ("FPL") introduced a new rate for data centers in its last rate case. The rate includes an Incremental Generation Charge ("IGC") which recovers incremental generation costs incurred to serve the large load customer, a 20-year minimum term, a minimum take-of-pay demand charge for 70 percent of contracted demand, exit fees for early termination, and financial security requirements equal to the full IGC; these features are designed to help protect customers from cost-shifting that may occur due to the entrance of new large loads.[36] Notably, like DEF, FPL introduced this new rate class in anticipation of new data center customers, but does not have a high concentration of data centers currently.[37]

Across all these states, there is a recognition that data center demand growth is unprecedented, poses new risks, and can expose customers to increased costs in the short run and stranded assets and cost-shifting over the medium-to-long term. Because

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[35] Moe Direct at 17:13-23

[36] Order No. PSC-2026-0022-S-EI in Docket No. 20250011-EI, issued January 22, 2026. https://www.floridapsc.com/pscfiles/library/filings/2026/00561-2026/00561-2026.pdf. It is my understanding that this order is not final and is currently subject to a motion for reconsideration filed on February 6, 2026 (Doc. No. 00986-2026).

[37] "Q&A with FPL President on expected data center growth and the company's new customer protections." *FPL Newsroom* (Jan. 2026). https://newsroom.fpl.com/Q-A-with-FPL-President-on-expected-data-center-growth-and-the-companys-new-customer-protections.

of this, each of these states has introduced new laws or proposed legislation, regulatory frameworks, or cost allocation approaches aimed at addressing the incremental cost increases that data centers threaten to impose on other customers.

Q. WHAT CAN THIS COMMISSION LEARN FROM RECENT EXPERIENCES IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS?

A. Across both deregulated markets like PJM and vertically integrated markets like Florida, areas with significant demand growth from data centers and other large load customers—whether existing or forecast—have experienced increased costs and the increased risk of cost shifting and stranded assets. These jurisdictions are altering their ratemaking practices to address incremental costs with different forms of cost allocation, including direct allocation of costs. Unless the Commission puts safeguards in place to protect customers from costs related to building generation and transmission to serve new data center customers, residential and C&I rates could likewise increase in Florida because of cross-subsidies flowing from existing customers to data centers. Many commissions are tackling these challenges now, after significant development has already occurred. However, Florida has an opportunity to learn from these jurisdictions and put appropriate safeguards in place before significant data center demand materializes.

C. DATA CENTER LOAD IS UNCERTAIN AND CAN SHIFT COST RECOVERY RISK TO OTHER RATEPAYERS

Q. IS THERE A RISK THAT LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS' DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY IS OVERSTATED?

A. Yes, there is. The rapid escalation in demand for training AI models such as ChatGPT has led to significant uncertainty surrounding data centers' future electricity demand. This uncertainty has multiple underlying sources, including uncertain future demand for AI products and potential technological advancements.

Q. PLEASE ELABORATE ON WHAT YOU MEAN BY UNCERTAIN DEMAND FOR AI PRODUCTS.

A. Current forecasts for data center demand are premised on underlying demand for the products that data centers help create: artificial intelligence models like ChatGPT, Claude, and others. However, it is possible that the need for computational power—which requires electricity—is less than expected, either because forecast demand for AI products is overstated or because companies become more efficient at turning electricity into artificial intelligence.

As an example of the former, Sam Altman, the Chief Executive of OpenAI, the company that develops ChatGPT, stated that "Are we in a phase where investors as a whole are overexcited about AI? My opinion is yes," and that some investors may get "very burnt" as projections of future demand moderate.[38] As an example of the latter,

[38] Beatrice Nolan, *Wall Street isn't worried about an AI bubble. Sam Altman is.*, Fortune (Aug. 19, 2025), https://fortune.com/2025/08/19/wall-street-ai-bubble-sam-altman.

in early 2025, DeepSeek, a Chinese competitor to US-based generative AI models like ChatGPT, announced significant reductions in energy consumption following an innovative new approach to designing training algorithms.[39]

Finally, Microsoft announced, within the last couple of weeks, that it has released Maia 200, "a breakthrough inference accelerator engineered to dramatically improve the economics of AI token generation. … (It) is also the most efficient … with 30% better performance … ."[40] Microsoft's announcement demonstrates at least that (1) technology companies are investing a lot in more efficient chips and (2) the improvements in efficiency are significant leaps, not rounding errors.

Whether because future demand is less than expected, AI developers learn to use energy much more efficiently, or both, the possibility of an AI "bubble" bursting creates the risk that electric generation, transmission, and distribution assets built to serve data centers will become stranded before they are fully depreciated.

Q. YOU SAY THERE IS UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING FUTURE DEMAND FROM DATA CENTERS, BUT IS THERE ALSO UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HOW MANY DATA CENTERS WILL ULTIMATELY BE BUILT AND WHERE?

A. Yes, there is. While there is broad consensus that energy demand from data centers is set to increase rapidly, there is a wide range among those estimates. For example, the International Energy Agency projects global data center demand could double by

[39] Lauren Laws, *Why DeepSeek Could be Good News for Energy Consumption*, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Feb. 6, 2025), https://grainger.illinois.edu/news/stories/73489.
[40] See https://blogs.microsoft.com/blog/2026/01/26/maia-200-the-ai-accelerator-built-for-inference/.

2030,[41] a Lawrence Berkeley National Lab study suggests data center load tripling by 2028,[42] and a Deloitte study estimates that U.S. data center capacity could grow from 33 GW in 2024 to 176 GW by 2035.[43]

This uncertainty has been acknowledged by industry participants and data center customers alike. For example, Astrid Atkinson, a former senior director of software engineering at Google, stated that there are "five to 10 times more interconnection requests than data centers actually being built."[44] The president of a shale gas producer has likewise said he expects only 10% of data center projects that have been announced to be built.[45] Similarly, Microsoft, in testimony on Georgia Power Company's 2023 IRP Update, commented "over-forecasting demand from data centers could lead to procuring excessive carbon intensive generation," and recommended that the GPSC only approve near-term resource planning decisions based on "known, mature projects that have made firm commitments to Georgia Power."[46] Data center customers have suggested that current forecasts are inaccurate and include double counting issues, speculative loads, and low probability projects.[47]

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[41] *Energy and AI*, International Energy Agency (Apr. 10, 2025), https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/601eaec9-ba91-4623-819b-4ded331ec9e8/EnergyandAI.pdf.

[42] Arman Shehabi, et al., *2024 United States Data Center Energy Usage Report*, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, (Dec. 2024) https://escholarship.org/uc/item/32d6m0d1.

[43] Martin Stansbury et al., *Can US infrastructure Keep Up with the AI Economy?,* Deloitte (June 24, 2025), https://www.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/industry/power-and-utilities/data-center-infrastructure-artificial-intelligence.html.

[44] Brian Martucci, *A Fraction Of Proposed Data Centers Will Get Built. Utilities Are Wising Up*, Utility Dive (May 15, 2025), https://www.utilitydive.com/news/a-fraction-of-proposed-data-centers-will-get-built-utilities-are-wising-up/748214/.

[45] Energy Intelligence, *US Gas Companies Temper Data Center Demand Expectations,* 41 *Natural Gas Week* 11 (Mar. 14, 2025), https://www.energyintel.com/00000195-9503-d464-a7b7-d7bff5ce0000.

[46] Georgia Public Service Commission Docket No. 55378, Microsoft Comments on Georgia Power's 2023 Integrated Resource Plan Update at 1, 4 (Ref # 218199) (Apr. 1, 2024) https://psc.ga.gov/search/facts-document/?documentId=218199.

[47] *Joint Stakeholder Options PJM CIFP-Large Load Additions* at 3, PJM (Oct. 1, 2025), https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/committees-groups/cifp-lla/2025/20251001/20251001-item-05d---joint-stakeholder-options---amazon-calpine-constellation-google-microsoft-talen.pdf.

III. THE COMPANY'S LARGE LOAD PROPOSALS

Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE COMPANY'S LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER PROPOSALS.

A. The Company is proposing two additions to its retail tariff to prepare for future large load customers: the Large Load Customer Policy ("LLCP"), and the Large Load Customer rate class ("LLC-1"). The LLCP is a set of policies governing contracts with large load customers, which would apply to all customers with peak demand of 100 MW or higher. The LLCP sets minimum terms for the Large Load Customer Agreements ("LLCA") that such customers must sign.[48] The LLC-1 rate class is an optional rate class available to customers with 1 MW or higher peak demand, which is designed to benefit large customers with high load factors and, purportedly, to ensure fixed cost recovery through high demand charges and minimum billing demand requirements.[49]

Q. WHAT IS THE COMPANY ASKING THE COMMISSION TO APPROVE IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. My understanding is that DEF is asking the Commission to approve its additions to the retail tariff: the LLCP, LLCA, and the new LLC-1 rate class.

I treat the Company's cost of service model and the specific rates proposed for the LLC-1 rate class as largely hypothetical examples, and my understanding is that the Company is not seeking approval of its cost of service model in this proceeding.

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[48] Chatelain Direct at 7:8-15.
[49] Chatelain Direct at 14:23-15:8.

Q. WHAT ARE YOUR HIGH-LEVEL THOUGHTS ON THE PROPOSAL FROM DEF?

A. In general, I am supportive of DEF making a filing to establish a new large load rate class before it has interconnected or signed contracts with any customers. If it captures relevant details and puts substantial safeguards in place, this proceeding will allow the Commission to focus on the necessary contractual terms and conditions needed to protect existing ratepayers from bill increases and cost shifting as a result of the huge infrastructure needed to serve large load customers. That said, the unprecedented nature and risks from these new loads will necessitate changes to the utility's cost recovery paradigm, and I caution the Commission about approving any future rates for this rate class in this proceeding without more information. Finally, the Company's proposed tariffs leave too many of the cost assignment and recovery issues to judgment. For this reason, additional processes are likely needed to finalize the terms of the tariffs. The Commission should, also, require that all Energy Service Agreements or LLCAs signed under the LLCP require additional review and approval as they are executed or revised.

Q. HOW DOES THE COMPANY PROPOSE ALLOCATING COSTS TO THE NEW LARGE LOAD RATE CLASS?

A. The Company proposes to allocate costs to the LLC-1 rate class using the same average embedded cost approach that it currently uses to allocate costs to all rate classes.[50] DEF Witness Yager describes the proposed allocation method as "consistent with the currently approved class cost allocation methodology," with the exception of proposed

[50] Wishart Direct 27:3.

changes to transmission cost functionalization.[51] Ms. Yager also states that the Company does not plan to directly assign any costs to the LLC-1 class, as "DEF has historically not assigned the cost of new investments to specific new load that hypothetically could have caused those investments to be made."[52]

Q. HOW IS THE COMPANY PROPOSING TO CHANGE ITS FUNCTIONALIZATION OF TRANSMISSION COSTS?

A. As part of its LLC-1 rate design proposal, DEF is proposing to divide its transmission assets and expenses by voltage level into transmission-level voltage (230 kV or higher) and subtransmission-level voltage categories. The Company states that this change would allow some of the upgrade costs needed to serve large load customers to be allocated to the LLC-1 rate class without the use of direct assignment.[53]

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THE COMPANY'S PLAN FOR ALLOCATING COSTS TO THE LLC-1 RATE CLASS IS APPROPRIATE?

A. No. Embedded cost allocation is not an effective method for allocating the significant upfront costs associated with serving the type of large load customers the Company is preparing to accommodate. As I discussed above, data centers create large incremental costs for utilities, which the embedded cost approach would socialize across the existing customer rate classes. While the sub-functionalization of transmission costs DEF proposes would somewhat isolate these incremental costs to the LLC-1 class, this

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[51] Yager Direct at 5:1-3.
[52] Yager Direct at 7:5-8.
[53] Yager at 6:4-8.

change would still socialize the increased transmission costs across existing customers, because all rate classes rely on, and pay for, the high-voltage transmission system under the current methodology. Moreover, changing transmission cost allocation as proposed by the Company would not address the significant new generation costs that would be required.

Q. HOW DO YOU RECOMMEND THE COMPANY ALLOCATE INCREMENTAL TRANSMISSION COSTS?

A. The modifications to the Company's line extension policies and the tariff modifications that I propose in Section IV are a more effective and equitable method for allocating those costs.

Q. HOW CAN INCREMENTAL GENERATION COSTS BE ACCOUNTED FOR IN A LARGE LOAD RATE DESIGN?

A. A portion of incremental costs can be directly assigned, or incremental costs can be attributed to embedded costs using an adjustment to a production cost allocator. Recent examples of this method are the incremental generation charge in FPL's new LLCS-1 and LLCS-2 tariffs and APS's proposal for growth-based allocation of new generation resources.[54,55] These allocation methodologies both tie the allocation of incremental generation costs to the sources of new load growth, ensuring those costs are not socialized to customer groups with flat or low load growth, while also requiring that

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[54] Tiffany Cohen, Direct Testimony, PSC Docket No. 20250011-EI, at 25:19-21.
[55] Jamie Moe, Direct Testimony, ACC Docket No. E-01345A-25-0105 at 14:21-27.

large customers continue to pay at least a portion of the average embedded system costs, allowing for potential benefits of load growth to flow to other customers.

Q. DO YOU ALSO HAVE CONCERNS WITH THE DESIGN OF THE LLC-1 RATE ITSELF?

A. Yes. Putting the cost allocation issues aside, the analysis the Company provides to develop hypothetical rates is not detailed enough for the rate design to be approved.

Q. WHAT ARE YOUR CONCERNS WITH THE COSS PROVIDED BY THE COMPANY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

The Company's proposal, in general, suffers from a lack of detailed supporting analysis. Rather than producing a fully allocated COSS with a data-supported projection for data center growth, the Company has modified its previous COSS by adding a rough estimate of large load customer class characteristics, with no supporting analysis, and recalculating customer class allocation factors. Notably, this method does not consider any changes to the Company's costs due to system upgrades to accommodate large customers. As I've discussed at length, assuming that no incremental costs will be needed to serve a customer over 100 MW is unreasonable. As such, the Commission should ensure that no customer is able to take service under this rate, as currently proposed, as it could lead to that customer significantly underpaying its costs to serve.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR RECOMMENDATION REGARDING COST ALLOCATION APPROACHES TO THE LLC-1 RATE CLASS IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. Given that the LLC-1 rate will not take effect until January 1, 2028, there is time for the Commission to determine the appropriate cost allocation approach to better protect existing customers from rate increases associated with serving large loads. Thus, I recommend that the Commission reject the LLC-1 tariff in this proceeding and require the Company to refile the tariff in a future proceeding with a modified approach to cost allocation. This approach should seek to minimize near-term rate increases for other customers, while also providing the possibility of long-term rate relief. Methods such as the incremental generation change, approved by the Commission for FPL, as well as other hybrid approaches to cost allocation discussed above may be reasonable. The Commission should also direct the Company to work with OPC and other stakeholders in this proceeding to develop its proposed methodology prior to filing.

Q. ARE THERE OTHER CHANGES TO THE LLCP AND LLCA THAT YOU RECOMMEND?

A. Yes, there are. For the remainder of my testimony, I will focus on my recommendations for improvements to the LLCP and other tariff changes proposed by the Company. Together with a modified cost allocation approach, these changes will protect other ratepayers from the costs and risks presented by new data center load.

IV. THE COMPANY'S CHANGES TO ITS LINE EXTENSION POLICIES DO NOT SUFFICIENTLY PROTECT CUSTOMERS

Q. HOW DOES THE LLCP MODIFY THE COMPANY'S LINE EXTENSION POLICIES?

A. The LLCP states that at the Company's discretion, it may require a customer to pay up to 100% of the total estimated cost to extend service in advance. Those payments, less any calculated Contribution in Aid of Construction ("CIAC"), would be refunded to the customer over a period of up to five years.[56] The refund would be handled through the base revenues billed to the customer, with any monies not refunded after five years becoming non-refundable. The Company states that these changes are designed to protect the general body of customers from incurring costs to serve new load if that load does not materialize.[57]

Q. WHAT COSTS ARE INCLUDED IN THOSE THAT MAY BE PAID UP FRONT BY A LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER?

A. It is not clear from the Company's filing, but it appears that it would just include the extension or upgrade of existing facilities that would only be used by that customer. When asked in deposition to clarify those costs, the Company could not provide additional detail.[58]

Q. WHAT IS YOUR HIGH-LEVEL RESPONSE TO THIS PROPOSAL REGARDING CIAC?

A. At a high level, the Company's proposed approach of requiring a large-load customer to pay up front for interconnection costs, with those costs refunded over time, is reasonable and provides some customer protection if the load does not materialize.

[56] Legislative Tariff at 9.
[57] Chatelain Direct at 5:19-20.
[58] Deposition of Matthew Chatelain 65:8-66:9.

However, the Company's specific proposal gives it too much discretion in determining when a customer must pay interconnection costs up front and how much of those costs the customer must pay. Furthermore, the policy also does not apply to the vast majority of transmission costs necessary to interconnect a new large load customer and must be expanded to include all transmission and distribution costs necessary to interconnect a new large load customer.

Q. WHAT ARE THE OTHER COSTS TO INTERCONNECT LARGE LOADS THAT WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THIS POLICY?

A. The upstream transmission network upgrades triggered by a new large load would not be included in this policy. Instead, those costs would be socialized among all customers. Based on estimates from other jurisdictions with significant data center development, those costs could be in the billions of dollars.[59]

Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY TRADITIONAL TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LINE EXTENSION AND COST ALLOCATION THEORY NO LONGER HOLDS WHEN APPLIED TO LARGE LOADS?

A. Traditionally, transmission upgrades to the bulk system have been considered reliability upgrades, which are assumed to broadly benefit all customers. One assumption underlying this cost allocation logic is that capacity within the transmission network can be repurposed if it is not used by the entity that initially triggered the

[59] Mike Jacobs *Policy Brief: Connection Costs,* Union of Concerned Scientists (Sept. 2025), https://www.ucs.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/PJM%20Data%20Center%20Issue%20Brief%20-%20Sep%202025.pdf.

upgrade. With new large loads that could create an unprecedented increase in the Company's existing capacity, this assumption no longer holds true. Regulators cannot assume that transmission network capacity can be repurposed to another use, as no use currently exists—data center demand is unprecedented. For this reason alone, transmission cost allocation must be reassessed to ensure reasonable allocation.

Q. ARE THERE OTHER UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF LARGE LOADS THAT FAVOR DIRECTLY ASSIGNING TRANSMISSION COSTS TO THEM?

A. Yes. As discussed elsewhere in my testimony, there is a lot of uncertainty around whether large loads will reduce consumption or cease to operate in the future. As these loads are speculative, socializing transmission costs shifts increased risk to customers, and inappropriately incentivizes transmission operators to overbuild transmission facilities that may become stranded assets. As these assets are generally depreciated over extremely long periods, even reductions in load after 20 or 30 years will shift significant costs onto other ratepayers under the traditional cost allocation approach.

Q. ARE OTHER UTILITIES DIRECTLY ALLOCATING TRANSMISSION UPGRADE COSTS TO LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS?

A. Yes. Recently, a number of jurisdictions have required large loads to pay transmission network upgrade costs up front that would then be credited back to the customer over time. For example, in Pennsylvania, PPL requires large loads where any transmission costs necessary to serve the customer are socialized to provide a revenue guarantee equal to the socialized amount of transmission costs until those costs are paid off.[60] Additionally, PPL has historically required large load to pay CIAC to cover all transmission upgrades when connecting to the system. Also, NV Energy collects costs upfront for transmission network upgrades and refunds them as large loads materialize or retains them in the case that load does not materialize.[61]

Q. IS FERC ALSO CONSIDERING SUCH AN APPROACH TO ALLOCATING TRANSMISSION COSTS DIRECTLY TO LARGE LOADS?

A. FERC has adopted a similar approach to direct assignment of transmission costs for generators to ensure that transmission network upgrade costs required to interconnect merchant generators are not subsidized by other customers.[62] The centralized nature of large loads more closely resembles generation customers than standard residential or C&I loads, and thus, it is reasonable to treat them more akin to generators. In addition, a recent letter from the United States Department of Energy ("DOE") to FERC on large load interconnection describes a similar mechanism. In the DOE 403 Letter, principle 8 describes the necessary evolution to extend cost allocation method for generators to new large load customers.[63]

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[60] Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Docket No. R-2025-3057164, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation General Tariff Rules and Rate Schedules for Electric Service Ex. GEO-1, 418 (Sep. 30, 2025), https://www.puc.pa.gov/pcdocs/1897462.pdf.
[61] Sierra Pacific Power Company dba NV Energy, *Rule No. 9 Electric Line Extensions* (Aug. 12, 2013), https://www.nvenergy.com/publish/content/dam/nvenergy/brochures_arch/about-nvenergy/rates-regulatory/electric-rules-north/Rule_09_Electric_North.pdf.
[62] FERC Docket No. RM02-1-001, Order No. 2003-A, 106 FERC ¶ 61,220 at 4 (Mar. 5, 2004).
[63] DOE Secretary Letter Requesting Rulemaking for Interconnection of Large Loads. October 23, 2025. https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/403%20Large%20Loads%20Letter.pdf.

Q. GIVEN YOUR CONCERNS, HOW DO YOU RECOMMEND DEF ALLOCATE TRANSMISSION FACILITY COSTS UNDER THE LLCP?

A. To ensure appropriate allocation and recovery of incremental costs to serve a new large load customer, DEF should allocate all costs of transmission built to serve large load customers to such customers, including upstream network upgrades that are triggered by the customer. It should collect the costs from such customers upfront as a deposit in the form of cash or other high-quality financial security. The portion of this deposit corresponding to costs other than direct-connection facilities (i.e., network upgrades, substation upgrades, etc.) would be subject to refund through credits, over a fixed time period not to exceed 10 years, in parallel with the customer's payment of base rates. During and after the crediting period, the customer would pay full rates for use of the transmission system. The remaining portion of this deposit, which corresponds to direct-connection facilities, would be retained by the Company as nonrefundable CIAC. Any costs refunded to the customer through rate credit must not exceed their required contribution to transmission and distribution network upgrades required to interconnect each facility. This is similar to how some utility distribution line extension policies current work.

Q. WHY DO YOU RECOMMEND THIS APPROACH?

A. This approach mitigates rate impacts and stranded asset risk associated with transmission upgrades by requiring LLCP customers to pay for transmission upgrade costs up front, while receiving a credit for those costs over time. It also requires that large load customers "have skin in the game" related to the significant transmission upgrade costs needed to interconnect these facilities to prevent an incentive to overbuild transmission and protects non-participating customers if the customer reduces its load or ceases to operate prior to paying off the significant transmission upgrade costs.

V. LLCP TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Q. WHAT MEASURES DOES THE COMPANY'S LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER PROPOSAL INCLUDE TO INSULATE EXISTING CUSTOMERS FROM RISKS POSED BY POTENTIAL DATA CENTER CUSTOMERS?

A. The Company proposes to protect existing customers by requiring customers with 100 MW or more of requested peak capacity to adhere to the terms and conditions of the LLCP and sign an LLCA. The LLCP terms include: a minimum contract term of 15 years, including a negotiable ramp period; minimum demand billing requirements; upfront fees for a system impact study and system upgrades, which are partially non-refundable; security requirements; and early termination fees.

Q. IN YOUR VIEW, DOES THE COMPANY'S PROPOSAL DO ENOUGH TO ENSURE EXISTING DEF CUSTOMERS ARE NOT HARMED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS TO THE COMPANY'S SYSTEM?

A. No. The Company's LLCP and LLC-1 proposals have significant gaps where the risks inherent to large load growth can increase current customers' electricity bills. First, the proposed term language in the LLCP is not strong or specific enough, providing significant room for negotiation around upfront security deposits, ramp periods, and capacity "tranches." The LLCP's 100 MW threshold for customer applicability is also too high, creating a large gap for customers who would be eligible to get the benefits of LLC-1 rate class service without being required to sign an LLCA or fall under the other terms of the LLCP. The policy also contains no language addressing flexible connection requirements or line and service connections, two critical consumer protections in a successful large load policy. Finally, the early termination penalties in the LLCP are too low to serve as a meaningful deterrent to early market departure or prevent other DEF customers from paying for stranded grid assets.

Q. HOW IS THIS SECTION OF YOUR TESTIMONY ORGANIZED?

A. In this section, I discuss my concerns with the LLCP. There are critical shortcomings in this policy that should be remedied before approval.

A. LLCP PROVIDES INSUFFICIENT PROTECTIONS FOR EXISTING CUSTOMERS

Q. HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN THE COMPANY'S LLCP PROPOSAL?

A. The LLCP proposal is in some ways similar to FPL new LLCS-1 and LLCS-2 rate classes. The policy contains provisions for minimum contract duration, minimum monthly billing demand, collateral requirements, and early termination fees. The LLCP also allows for a negotiated ramp period, as new facilities grow to meet their contracted peak demand. However, when compared to the suite of new large load tariffs going into place around the country, the policy lacks several important consumer protection terms and contains an unacceptable level of flexibility for the Company in the terms and conditions it does contain.

Q. IN YOUR VIEW, WHAT TERMS AND CONDITIONS BELONG IN AN IDEAL LARGE LOAD TARIFF?

A. To properly insulate existing customers from the risks of inappropriately socialized grid upgrade costs and stranded or under-utilized asset costs, a well-designed large load tariff should contain the following terms and conditions:

i) Minimum contract length sufficient to ensure the recovery of all utility upgrade costs incurred to provide service;

ii) Minimum billing demand requirements;

iii) Upfront fees for system upgrade studies to discourage speculative capacity requests;

iv) Firm security collateral requirements;

v) Significant early termination fees and early termination notice requirements;

vi) Clear limits on ramp period duration and capacity reduction requests;

vii) Flexible connection requirements; and

viii) Direct assignment of line and service extension and incremental generation upgrade costs.

Taken together, a large load customer policy that incorporates all these elements and effectively incorporates these concepts into a signed contract prevents undue billing impacts on residential and small to medium commercial and industrial customers. While the LLCP proposed by DEF contains many of these provisions, they provide the Company with too much discretion in implementing them and also, for the most part, do not go far enough to protect other customers.

Q. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE COMPANY'S LLCP PROPOSAL LACK NECESSARY CONSUMER PROTECTIONS?

A. The LLCP proposal allows for too much flexibility in some of its terms and conditions and fails to address other consumer protection elements at all. To properly insulate current DEF customers, the LLCP needs more specific and more stringent terms regarding minimum billing, early termination fees, security requirements, ramping periods, and capacity tranches over the course of the contract. Additionally, the LLCP should include terms regarding flexible connection technology and direct assignment of line and service extensions. Finally, I recommend lowering the MW peak demand threshold for customers required to sign the LLCA and requiring that all signed LLCAs and ESA are filed for approved with the Commission, due to the discretion of the Company in negotiating terms that may differ from those in the contract.

Q. WHAT IS THE PEAK DEMAND THRESHOLD FOR CUSTOMERS TO SIGN THE LLCA THAT YOU RECOMMEND?

A. 100 MW is too high. While extremely large data centers are under construction, the average data center in Virginia has approximately 33 MW of demand, and those under development have an average demand of approximately 65 MW.[64] Thus, while there are some extremely large data centers under development, setting a threshold at 100 MW may exclude a significant portion of those under development. For that reason, I recommend lowering the threshold where a new customer is required to sign an LLCA to 50 MW of firm demand and also require any customers of this size and above to adhere to the LLCP terms.

1. EARLY TERMINATION FEES

Q. WHAT ARE THE LLCP'S PROVISIONS REGARDING EARLY CONTRACT TERMINATION?

A. The LLCP requires a customer terminating service prior to the end of its contract term, but after the customer has reached its full load ramp, to pay a termination fee equivalent to two years of the customer's minimum monthly billing amount, or three years of minimum bills if termination occurs during the first 12 years of the contract. Customers planning early termination must notify DEF between two and five years prior to termination. Customers wishing to terminate the contract prior to achieving full load ramp are responsible for all costs incurred to provide service.[65]

[64] Data Centers in Virginia at 5. Available at https://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt598.pdf.
[65] DEF Rate Schedule, Part XIII, Section 13.05, "Early Termination," pg. 2.

Q. DOES THE LLCP SET PARAMETERS ON WHEN A CUSTOMER MAY REQUEST EARLY TERMINATION?

A. It does not. A customer may request early contract termination at any point during the contract term so long as it gives the Company between two and five years of notice; the only consequence of the timing of early termination is the size of the termination payment.

Q. HOW DOES THIS POLICY COMPARE TO EARLY TERMINATION CONDITIONS IN LARGE LOAD TARIFFS RECENTLY APPROVED OR PROPOSED AROUND THE COUNTRY?

A. The early termination conditions proposed in DEF's LLCP are more lenient than most of the recent large load policies I have reviewed. AEP Ohio's proposed large load sub-class is similar to DEF's proposal, with an early exit fee of three years of minimum bills after the first five years of the contract. In Virginia, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative leaves the termination fee open to negotiation within the electricity supply agreement ("ESA") in its large load rate sub-class proposal. Every other large load tariff I have reviewed requires an early termination fee of either 1) all minimum monthly bills for the duration of the contract, or 2) the remaining undepreciated value of facilities whose costs have been directly assigned to the customer. Requiring either an early termination fee equivalent to all minimum monthly bills for the duration of the contract or the remaining undepreciated value of facilities whose costs have been directly allocated to the customer provides more consumer protection than the proposal by the Company, which does not adequately protect DEF's other customers from cost shifting.

Q. DOES THE LLCP'S EARLY TERMINATION POLICY PROVIDE SUFFICIENT PROTECTION FOR EXISTING DEF CUSTOMERS?

A. No, the early termination fee the Company proposes is too low to protect existing customers or prevent large load customers from avoiding the full cost of grid upgrades required to serve them. For example, consider a customer with the load profile the Company uses in proposing the LLC-1 rate class (1,000 MW of contract demand, 7.9 TWh annual load, 90% load factor), that signs an LLCA with a 15-year contract. Within the minimum billing structures contained in the LLCP and LLC-1, this customer's minimum monthly bill could be as low as $8.7 million, for an annual minimum bill of $104.4 million. In a later section, I will discuss why this figure is too low due to issues I have with the LLC-1 minimum billing policy, but for the sake of this exercise, this minimum annual bill would make the customer's early termination fee $208.8 million after twelve years of the contract, or $313.2 million at the end of the customer's ramp schedule and twelve years. Now suppose this customer achieves its full ramping schedule in year four of the contract, but market conditions have changed to make it unprofitable, and it notifies DEF it will terminate the contract in two years. At the end of those two years, year six of the original contract, the customer terminates service and pays the $313.2 million termination fee. This leaves $626.5 million in unrecovered minimum bills for this customer from the six voided contract years remaining after six years of service and three years of minimum bill termination payments, revenue that

DEF has incorporated into its long-term cost of service planning and will not be shifted to other customers.

Q. HOW DOES AN INSUFFICIENT EARLY TERMINATION FEE CREATE RISK FOR EXISTING DEF CUSTOMERS?

A. When a large load customer terminates service before a utility has recovered the costs incurred to provide that service, the physical grid assets built to serve them remain on the utility's system and in the company's rate base. If the company cannot quickly repurpose those assets, their costs will be socialized to customer groups that do not receive any benefits from them.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR RECOMMENDATION FOR THE COMMISSION REGARDING THE TERMINATION POLICY IN THE COMPANY'S PROPOSED LLCP?

A. I recommend that the Commission require the Company to amend the early termination section of its LLCP proposal to require customers to pay an early termination fee equal to the monthly minimum bills for the entire duration of their contract term, regardless of which contract year in which they elect to terminate service early.

2. <u>MINIMUM MONTHLY BILLING</u>

Q. WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM MONTHLY BILLING REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN THE COMPANY'S PROPOSED LLCP?

A. For customers on the proposed LLC-1 rate schedule, the LLCP specifies a customer's minimum bill as the sum of:

i) Monthly customer charge;

ii) Base demand charge (billing demand multiplied by the LLC-1 base demand rate);

iii) Base volumetric charge (actual monthly kWh consumption multiplied by the LLC-1 base volumetric rate); and

iv) Billing adjustments (actual monthly maximum demand and actual monthly kWh consumption multiplied by the respective demand and volumetric rates in the BA-1 tariff), and applicable taxes and fees.

The policy defines "billing demand" as the higher of actual monthly maximum demand, 90% of "grid demand" (defined as the highest monthly maximum demand in the previous 12 months), or "minimum demand" (defined as between 75% and 85% of annual contract capacity).

Q. DOES THE LLCP SPECIFY A MINIMUM BILLING VOLUME FOR LLC-1 CUSTOMERS?

A. No. The LLCP specifically states that customers on other rate schedules would be assessed a minimum billing energy volume according to their particular tariffs, but LLC-1 customers would only have a minimum demand.

Q. HOW DOES THIS MINIMUM BILLING POLICY CREATE VULNERABILITIES FOR EXISTING DEF CUSTOMERS?

A. I am concerned that the LLCP does not set a minimum energy billing volume for LLC-1 customers. If an LLC-1 customer signs an LLCA and continues its planned operations over the course of the contract, then there is no issue with the minimum billing policy. However, if such a customer exits the contract early or operates at a lower-than-expected load factor for a prolonged period, their minimum bill would drop considerably.

Q. HAVE YOU DONE AN ANALYSIS OF THE AVERAGE AND MINIMUM BILLS DIFFERENT CUSTOMER PROFILES WOULD EXPECT UNDER THE LLCP AND LLC-1 RATE DESIGN?

A. Yes. First, I developed two customer load profiles: the representative customer DEF used to simulate cost reallocation for the proposed LLC-1 rate schedule, and a customer with the same assumed load factor but the minimum contract capacity for the LLCP to apply. The two customer load profiles are presented in the table below.

Table 1. Customer Profiles

Customer Profile	Proposal	Minimum kW
Customer	1	1
Peak Demand MW	1,000	100
Annual MWh	7,884,000	788,400
Contract Demand	1,000	100
Grid Demand	900	90
Minimum Demand (75%)	750	75
Minimum Demand (85%)	850	85
Load Factor	90%	90%

I then calculated average bills for the two customer load profiles using the LLC-1 rate design. For the purposes of this example, I used a billing demand of 90% of contract demand. I then compared the average bill results to the minimum bills these customers would be assessed under the LLCP with no monthly kWh consumption, to show the revenue recovery risk the lack of minimum billing volume creates when a customer does not fulfill their contract term. The billing results are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Average and Minimum Bill Comparison

	1,000 MW Customer	100 MW Customer
Average Bill		
Customer Charge	$ 1,106.80	$ 1,106.80
Demand Charge	$ 10,440,000.00	$ 1,044,000.00
Volumetric Charge	$ 36,713,160.00	$ 3,671,316.00
Total Bill	$ 47,154,266.80	$ 4,716,422.80
Minimum Bill		
Customer Charge	$ 1,106.80	$ 1,106.80
Demand Charge	$ 8,700,000.00	$ 870,000.00
Volumetric Charge	$ -	$ -
Total Bill	$ 8,701,106.80	$ 871,106.80
Billing Difference	$ (38,453,160.00)	$ (3,845,316.00)

Regardless of the prospective customer size, the minimum bill for a customer with no load that results from the proposed minimum billing policy in the LLCP is 82% lower than the average bill for that customer. The discrepancy regarding average billing is in part due to issues with the LLC-1 rate design, which in this scenario would recover 78% of customer costs through volumetric charges. I will address my concerns with the LLC-1 rate proposal in a later section. But the fundamental issue leading to this recovery risk is the lack of minimum billing volume for LLC-1 customers. As I discussed above, the LLCP bases a customer's early termination payment on its minimum monthly bill. If the minimum bill does not include a minimum billing volume, then early termination payments will be insufficient to recover the cost of stranded assets built to serve the exiting customer.

Q. ARE THERE EXAMPLES OF RECENT LARGE LOAD TARIFFS THAT REQUIRE A MINIMUM BILLING VOLUME?

A. Yes. Last year, both Appalachian and Dominion proposed new or updated large load rate classes in Virginia.[66,67] Both of these tariffs include a minimum energy charge equal to 60% of contracted demand, multiplied by monthly billing hours.

Q. WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND WITH REGARD TO THE LLCP'S MINIMUM MONTHLY BILLING PROVISIONS?

A. I recommend the Commission direct DEF to include in the LLCP a minimum monthly billing volume for LLC-1 customers equivalent to monthly operations at a 60% load factor compared to the customer's contract capacity in addition to the minimum demand charge proposed by the Company.

3. <u>SECURITY COLLATERAL</u>

Q. WHAT IS THE COMPANY'S PROPOSAL FOR SECURITY COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE LLCP?

A. The LLCP as proposed would require a security amount, in the form of cash or a letter of credit, equal to a percentage of the customer's termination payment obligation. The

[66] William Castle, Direct Testimony, Exhibit (WKC) Schedule 1, VA SCC Docket No. PUR-2025-00057, pg. 6.
[67] VA SCC, Final Order, VA SCC Docket No. PUR-2025-00058, pg. 25.

security percentage would be determined based on size of the termination payment and the credit rating of the customer. The only firm parameter for the security percentage is that if a customer's termination payment exceeds $100 million, the percentage must be at least 10%.

Q. IN YOUR OPINION, DOES THE SECURITY COLLATERAL POLICY DO ENOUGH TO PROTECT DEF CUSTOMERS?

A. No. I see two areas for concern with the security policy in the LLCP. First, the language allows far too much case-by-case negotiation with too much discretion by DEF to socialize to the general body of customers costs that the large load customer negotiates to avoid. There are few details in the policy, with the only fixed term being the 10% security percentage threshold at an early termination fee of $100 million. Beyond that, the Company can set whatever security percentage it negotiates with the customer, with no input from the Commission, outside stakeholders, or other customer groups. Second, while the policy is light on details, what details are included would result in security collateral amounts too low to protect existing customers from harm. This is partly because the amount is tied to a customer's early termination payment, which is too low under the proposed LLCP, as I explained above. I am also concerned that the negotiated security percentages envisioned in the policy are too low. By setting a low floor of 10% for the security percentage at the $100 million termination fee level, the Company suggests that security percentages for smaller customers could be even lower.

Q. HOW DOES THE COMPANY'S SECURITY COLLATERAL PROPOSAL COMPARE TO OTHER RECENT LARGE LOAD TARIFFS?

A. Compared to the suite of early termination fee policies discussed above, there is a broader range of security collateral provisions in recent large load tariffs. Four of the utilities I have surveyed have weaker terms than the Company's proposal in that they do not specify a collateral requirement or leave it entirely to the utility's discretion: Ameren Missouri, Wisconsin Electric Power Company, Consumer's Energy in Michigan, and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative in Virginia. However, the utilities that do have specific security policies have significantly higher requirements, ranging at the low end from three months of estimated bills up to 50% of minimum charges for the entire contract term, with the most common policy requiring a cash deposit or letter of credit equivalent to two years of monthly bills.[68]

Q. HAVE YOU PERFORMED ANALYSIS ON SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DIFFERENT LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER PROFILES?

A. Yes. I calculated what the required security collateral would be for two potential customers: the representative customer DEF used to simulate the proposed LLC-1 class billing determinants (1,000 MW peak demand, 7.9 TWh annual load, 90% load factor), and a customer with the same load factor and peak demand just large enough for the LLCP to apply to it (100 MW peak demand, 788 GWh annual load, 90% load factor). For both customers, I calculated the average monthly bill, minimum monthly bill, early

[68] Public Service Company of Colorado requires three months of estimated bills; Appalachian, Indiana Michigan Power Company, and Evergy Kansas and Missouri require 24 months of either minimum or maximum bills; Dominion requires $1.5 million per MW of capacity; AEP Ohio requires 50% of remaining minimum charges; Portland General Electric requires a deposit plus a letter of credit equal to the early exit fee.

termination payments before and after contract year 12, and security collateral requirement at 10% security percentage before and after contract year 12. The results of these calculations are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Security Collateral Requirements

	1,000 MW Customer	100 MW Customer
Average Bill	$ 45,414,267	$ 4,542,423
Minimum Bill	$ 8,701,107	$ 871,107
Exit Fee before Y12	$ 313,239,845	$ 31,359,845
Exit Fee after Y12	$ 208,826,563	$ 20,906,563
Security before Y12	$ 31,323,984	$ 3,135,984
Security after Y12	$ 20,882,656	$ 2,090,656

These results show that, even during the first 12 years of a contract, the security collateral required through the proposed method would be less than one average monthly bill for a 90% load factor customer, regardless of the customer's peak demand. Moreover, the minimum-sized LLCP customer's termination fees are well below the threshold where a 10% security deposit would be required, meaning its security collateral requirement could be negotiated even lower. Given the speculation around data centers, this is unacceptable, because if the collateral requirement is not high enough, other customers could be left paying for costs that cannot be recovered from a customer that goes out of business.

Q. WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS DO YOU HAVE TO REMEDY THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE PROPOSED SECURITY COLLATERAL REQUIREMENT POLICY?

A. To protect existing DEF customers, the LLCP should have more specific parameters for security collateral, and those parameters should result in higher security requirements than the policy currently envisions. While I understand the Company's desire to maintain some flexibility in negotiating collateral amounts for specific customers, the initial parameters for negotiation need to be well defined and much higher. I recommend the LLCP be amended to require security collateral equal to 24 months of minimum bills, based on a customer's planned peak post-ramp period demand.

4. <u>LOAD RAMP PERIOD</u>

Q. DOES THE COMPANY'S LLCP PROPOSAL PLACE PARAMETERS ON A CUSTOMER'S LOAD RAMP SCHEDULE?

A. No. The LLCP states that the contract term may include a load ramp period, after which time the minimum monthly bill policy would take effect and the early termination calculation would transition from the actual costs incurred to provide service to the minimum monthly bill-based calculation described above. The LLCP also references, in the minimum monthly bill section, the possibility of a customer's contract capacity being "phased in tranches," thus changing over the course of the contract term.

Q. IN THE OTHER LARGE LOAD TARIFFS YOU HAVE REVIEWED, IS IT COMMON FOR THE LOAD RAMP PERIOD TO HAVE A SPECIFIED LIMIT ON ITS DURATION?

A. Yes. Of the large load tariffs I have reviewed that discuss load ramp period, each places a limit on the load ramp period of between three and five years. I believe setting this expectation prior to negotiating an LLCA with a prospective large load customer provides security for existing customers by ensuring the cost of necessary grid upgrades is recovered in as timely a manner as possible.

Q. WHY DOES THE TIMING OF GRID UPGRADE COST RECOVERY MATTER TO EXISTING UTILITY CUSTOMERS?

A. The timing of cost recovery matters to existing customers because revenue from the increased load from large load customers is one of the primary rationales the Company relies on to justify the substantial investments required to serve them. As I discuss above, one of the assumptions behind using the embedded cost allocation to socialize the cost of such investments is that rates will eventually go down for existing customers because of the large amount of new load. Those benefits will not accrue to existing customers until the new load is realized. While I recommend not allocating the cost of these upgrades through embedded costs, if the Commission nonetheless does approve this method, then placing a limit on the load ramp period will encourage more timely realization of load. I recommend that the Commission require that the LLCP be amended to set a five-year limit on the load ramp period.

VI. THE COMPANY'S PROPOSAL LACKS THE OPTION FOR FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS.

A. Flexible connections, also called non-firm capacity service, refers to a connection to the grid that can be flexibly interrupted as needed by the grid operator. This is typically done because of grid congestion or capacity constraints.

Q. WHY ARE FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS RELEVANT TO THE DISCUSSION OF NEW LARGE CUSTOMER LOAD GROWTH?

A. The risk and costs of serving new large loads can be further mitigated by connecting these large loads flexibly. Flexible connections allow loads to connect with a mixture of firm and non-firm capacity. The firm capacity delivers uninterrupted grid power to serve a portion of the customer's load, while the non-firm capacity is served when power is available, utilizing on-site generation or demand flexibility to reduce demand during times of grid constraints. This non-firm load is integrated into the utility's operations. In practice, flexible connections rely on more advanced monitoring and control approaches than traditional interruptible tariffs and provide system operators more confidence in relying on these resources.[69] Additionally, flexible connections have different dispatch requirements than traditional interruptible customers, including but not limited to economic dispatch considerations.

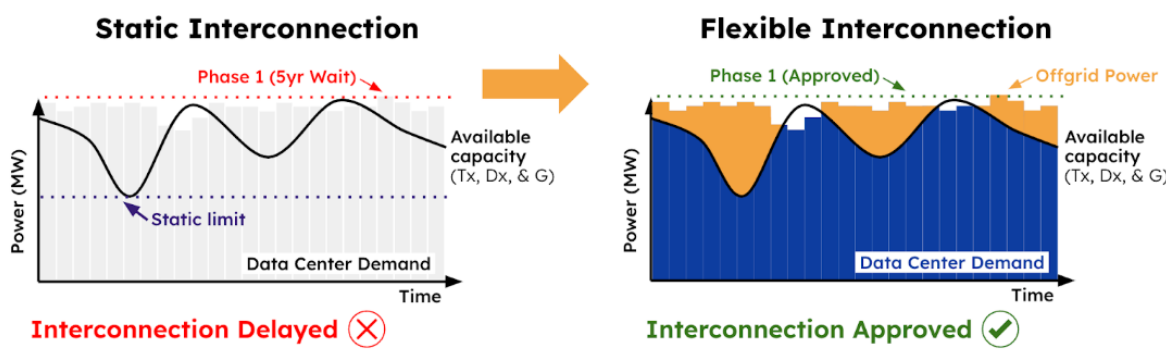
A. BENEFITS OF FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS

Q. HOW DO FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS DEFER AND AVOID SYSTEM INVESTMENT?

[69] E.g., https://www.camus.energy/blog/flexible-data-centers-a-faster-more-affordable-path-to-power.

A. Non-firm or flexible connection defers or avoids system upgrades and/or increases distribution and transmission system utilization generally by limiting demand from customers when they have the potential to create grid overloads.[70] The approach increases grid utilization, which can mitigate or defer the need for current and future generation, transmission, and distribution system upgrades. For example, Figure 3 illustrates a situation where a data center would be unable to connect without a capacity upgrade with a five-year construction lead-time. Rather than waiting for that infrastructure, the data center could utilize flexible connection to connect, initially modifying its net load using behind the meter generation, or curtailment when capacity is unavailable.

Figure 3: Data center flexible connection example[71]



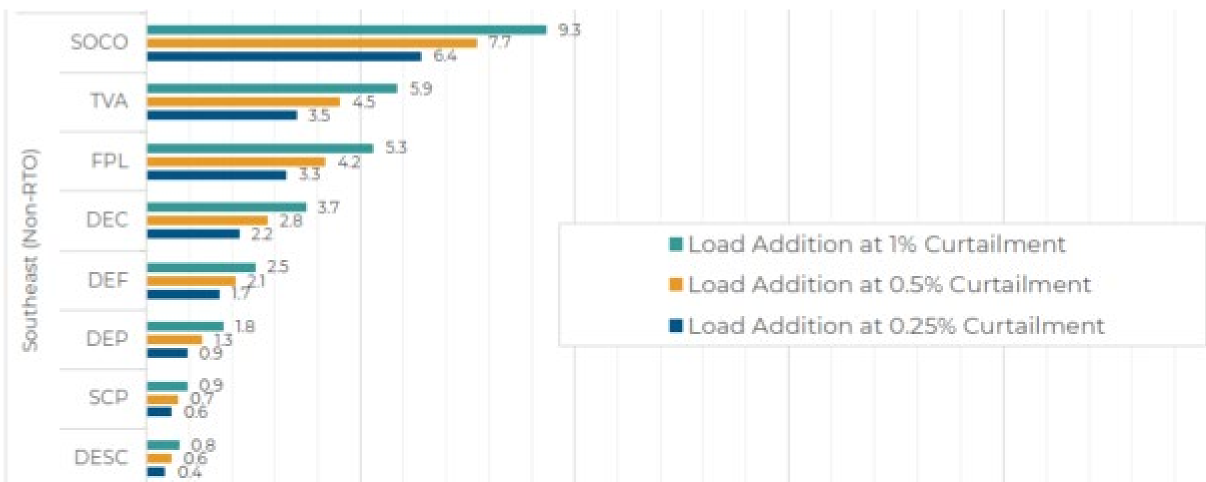
Q. Is there significant potential for flexible connections to reduce the costs and risks or large customer connections?

Q. Yes. According to a recent study by Duke University looking at curtailment enabled headroom, curtailment of new large loads in the top 0.5 percent of load hours could

[70] "Principles of Access for Flexible Interconnection Solutions" at 3, *Electric Power Research Institute* (July 2020), available at https://www.epri.com/research/products/000000003002018506 ("EPRI Principles") at 3.
[71] EPRI Principles.

enable nearly 100 GW of capacity of new connected load across the country without increasing system peak loads or requiring new infrastructure.[72] Within DEF's territory alone, curtailing load during the top 1 percent of load hours could support approximately 2.5 GW of additional load to interconnect, as shown in Figure 4.[73] This is despite the limited number of large load customers in DEF's territory today. As DEF interconnects new data center customers, the value of flexibility is likely to grow further.

Figure 4: The Potential for Flexibility to Enable Significant New Interconnection[74]



B. USE OF FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS IS GROWING

Q. ARE OTHER UTILITIES AND JURISDICTIONS PURSUING FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS?

[72] Tyler H. Norris et al., "Rethinking Load Growth: Assessing the Potential for Integration of Large Flexible Loads in US Power Systems", *Duke University Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability*, 18–20 (2025) available at http://bit.ly/4kW5JEh.
[73] Norris et al. at 4 (Figure 1).
[74] Norris et al. at 4 (Figure 1).

A. Yes, growing efforts are underway to enable flexible, non-firm connection for large data centers, among other large energy users.[75] Utilities as varied as Entergy Arkansas,[76] Salt River Project,[77] and Black Hills Power[78] already offer interruptible service agreements for cryptocurrency customers, which point to the promise of the practice. Utilities like Idaho Power,[79] El Paso Electric,[80] and Chelan County Public Utility District[81] have expanded this from cryptocurrency customers to data center customers. Other utilities are beginning to pilot non-firm connection programs that demonstrate flexible capabilities for large load customers. For example, Pacific Gas & Electric ("PG&E") has implemented a pilot program called Flex Connect, enabling large loads to connect to the grid without needing to wait for capacity upgrades.[82] PG&E has, to date, enrolled EV Direct Current Fast Chargers and front-of-the-meter batteries, but intends to expand this capability to other end uses, such as flexible connections that enable capacity deferral.[83] The type of underlying non-firm connection capability of the Flex Connect program could also enable data centers to flexibly connect, albeit with additional considerations.[84]

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[75] Norris et al. at 11.
[76] "Rate Schedule No. 69: Large Power High Load Density Service (LPHLDS)," Arkansas Public Service Commission, December 2023, https://www.entergyarkansas.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/eal_lphlds.pdf.
[77] "Standard Electric Price Plans," Salt River Project, November 2025, at 162, https://www.srpnet.com/assets/srpnet/pdf/price-plans/2024/2025-Ratebook.pdf.
[78] "Schedule of Rates for Electric Service Available in the Entire Territory Served by Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power Company D/B/A Black Hills Energy," Black Hills Power, June 2025, at 37, https://www.blackhillsenergy.com/sites/blackhillsenergy.com/files/clfp_electric.pdf.
[79] "Schedule 20 - Speculative High-Density Load," Idaho Public Utilities Commission, 2024, https://docs.idahopower.com/pdfs/AboutUs/RatesRegulatory/Tariffs/20.pdf.
[80] "Schedule No. 33A - Large Economic Development Service Rate," Public Utility Commission of Texas, August 2025, https://interchange.puc.texas.gov/Documents/56903_57_1527749.PDF.
[81] "Rate Schedules: Small Data Centers and Similar Loads - Rate Schedule 36," P.U.D. Chelan County, August 2025, https://www.chelanpud.org/my-pud-services/rates-and-policies/rate-schedules.
[82] Pacific Gas & Electric Corp., *New PG&E Service Offering Makes it Easier and Faster to Connect EV Chargers, EV Fleets, and Big Batteries to the Grid* (Apr. 28, 2025), http://bit.ly/4ngfkaz.
[83] *Id*.
[84] Maeve Allsup, *PG&E is Laying the Groundwork for Flexible Data Center Interconnection*, Latitude Media (Nov. 15, 2024), http://bit.ly/3HQCeoZ.

Q. ARE THERE ANY REGIONAL TRANSMISSION OPERATORS THAT ARE PROPOSING TO USE FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS?

A. Yes. The Southwest Power Pool ("SPP") has recently proposed using flexible connections for large customers. SPP has proposed several non-firm connection offerings across its jurisdiction to connect loads larger than 10 MW.[85] The offerings allow for large load to connect without firm generation or transmission capacity. One of the flexible connection offerings, the Conditional High Impact Large Load Service , is developed for large customers to transfer to firm service within five years. In addition, SPP has proposed the Generation Supported High-Impact Large Load tariff that allows large load customers to utilize behind-the-meter and local generation resources to service their own load. SPP will study the load and generation together. The large customer can elect to have partial service permanently (i.e., non-firm transmission or generation capacity) and rely on their own resources.[86] The ability to allow large customers to rely on their own resources is a significant offering from SPP because it will create a pathway to dramatically reduce cost shifting from large customers to other customers, while reducing the need for transmission and generation buildout. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas ("ERCOT") has similarly been directed to establish standards for interconnecting large loads that would require those customers

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[85] See "Large Load Stakeholder Engagement Forum," Southwest Power Pool, Inc., July 1, 2025. Materials available at https://www.spp.org/Documents/74189/large%20load%20stakeholder%20engagement%20forum%20meeting%20materials%2020250701.zip.

[86] Large Load Stakeholder Engagement Forum.

to be ready to either deploy on-site backup generating facilities or curtail load when directed to by ERCOT.[87]

Q. HAS FERC RECENTLY ORDERED ACTIONS RELATED TO FLEXIBLE OPTIONS FOR LARGE LOADS?

A. Yes. On December 18, 2025, FERC issued an Order that, among other things, directed PJM to revise its Tariff to establish flexible connection options for certain transmission-interconnected customers. The Order provides in part:

> We also direct PJM to establish three new transmission services that reflect that Eligible Customers taking service on behalf of Co-Located Load are willing and able to limit their energy withdrawals from the transmission system under certain conditions. Specifically, we direct PJM to revise its Tariff to allow Eligible Customers seeking to take NITS on behalf of Co-Located Load to, at their option, take a new interim, non-firm transmission service until all Network Upgrades necessary to provide NITS are complete. We further direct PJM to offer two other new transmission services—a Firm Contract Demand transmission service and a Non-Firm Contract Demand transmission service—that an Eligible Customer can choose to take on behalf of a Co-Located Load instead of taking NITS. These new transmission service options reflect a Co-Located Load's ability to limit withdrawals from the transmission system and potentially avoid costly and inefficient transmission system buildout that may not be necessary.[88]

[87] "Utilities Code Chapter 37. Certificates of Convenience and Necessity," accessed December 16, 2025, https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/UT/htm/UT.37.htm.

[88] Docket No. EL25-49-000, ORDER ON SHOW CAUSE PROCEEDING, DIRECTING COMPLIANCE FILINGS, ESTABLISHING PAPER HEARING, AND GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART COMPLAINT, 193 FERC ¶ 61,217 at 160 (December 18, 2025).

The Order directed PJM to make a compliance filing to revise its Tariff within 60 days.[89]

C. DATA CENTER CUSTOMERS ARE RECEPTIVE TO FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS

Q. DOES THE COMPANY'S LARGE LOAD PROPOSAL INCLUDE ANY DISCUSSION OF FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS?

A. No, it does not.

Q. DOES MR. WISHART DISCUSS FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS?

A. Yes, he does. In his deposition, Mr. Wishart agrees that load flexibility can be beneficial for the grid and for data centers. While Mr. Wishart agrees it would be a good option to explore in the future, he would not recommend the proposed tariff incorporate flexible connections for large customers because he is not aware of any data centers currently signing up for interruptible rates.[90]

Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH MR. WISHART'S CHARACTERIZATION OF DATA CENTER CUSTOMERS' DEMAND FOR FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS?

A. No, I do not. Although he states that he is unfamiliar with any data center customers expressing interest in flexibility, more than one hyperscaler has publicly expressed interest for the idea. For example, in August 2025, Google announced new utility agreements with Indiana Michigan Power and Tennessee Valley Authority that

[89] Docket No. EL25-49-000, Order at 2.
[90] Deposition of Steven Wishart at 79:8 - 80:5.

implemented flexible demand capabilities.[91] Additionally, Mr. Wishart did not mention any available tariff offered by a utility to provide flexible connections for data centers. If there is no tariff available, it is essentially impossible for a data center to express interest.

Q. DOES DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH IMPLEMENTING SUCH METHODS?

A. Yes. On February 10, 2026, Duke Energy CEO Harry Sideris was asked on the company's Q4 2025 earnings call if it was "evaluating interruptibility or flexibility as kind of one of the characteristics as a way to speed up interconnection? Is that something that you think data centers would be willing to consider or something that you're exploring as you firm up the ESAs?"[92] In response, he stated:

> Yes, we absolutely have done that with the contracts that we have signed. That's been one of the provisions. It helps us get them online faster. They've been open to doing it because it does give them that speed to the power that they need. And it also helps us, as we discussed, benefits to the customers in the fact that it's going to maintain reliability, having that ability to curtail their load or have them go on their backup generation for 50 hours or so a year. So very constructive discussions, and that's in our contracts that we have signed.[93]

Although the Company has not included flexibility in its proposal, it is clear that this is neither driven by a lack of experience nor by a lack of interest on the part of data centers.

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[91] Michael Terrell. "How we're making data centers more flexible to benefit power grids" *Google* (August 4, 2025). https://blog.google/innovation-and-ai/infrastructure-and-cloud/global-network/how-were-making-data-centers-more-flexible-to-benefit-power-grids/.

[92] Exh. RN-4 – "Earnings call transcript: Duke Energy Q4 2025 beats expectations, stock rises." February 10, 2026 at 27.

[93] Exh. RN-4 – "Earnings call transcript" at 27-28.

Q. COULD BEHIND-THE-METER ("BTM") RESOURCES BE A SOURCE OF FURTHER FLEXIBILITY?

A. Yes. Many large load customers have BTM resources but most utilities lack process for integrating these resources into planning and operations. The recent FERC co-location order noted similar and has required PJM to create solutions for integrating BTM data center resources.

Q. DO LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS OFTEN HAVE GENERATION RESOURCES BEHIND THE METER?

A. Yes. Nearly all data centers have on-site backup power, in the form of diesel generators, that can supply power in the event of power outages.[94] However, most backup generators today are only allowed, by air permits, to run in emergency or testing situations.[95] As such, these generators cannot be used for demand response or enable robust flexible connections. Lower-emission generators, with additional emissions equipment, alternative fuels, or even energy storage are available that would enable backup generation to run for longer duration enable flexible connection strategies.[96]

Q. ARE THERE EXAMPLES OF LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS RELYING ENTIRELY ON BEHIND THE METER RESOURCES?

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[94] Exh. RN-3 - JLARC Report at 58.
[95] Exh. RN-3 - JLARC Report at 60.
[96] Exh. RN-3 - JLARC Report at 38, 60-61.

A. Yes, behind the meter projects are becoming an increasingly popular way to rapidly meet new electricity demand from data centers,[97] and may meet up to one third of incremental data center demand over the next five years.[98] Several recent data centers have announced that they will be powered entirely by BTM resources.[99] For example, in September 2025, Oracle and OpenAI announced plans to open three new data centers, and two of the three will be powered entirely by BTM resources.[100]

Flexibility tariffs that allow BTM will likely attract data centers with the right terms and conditions, including relying on the BTM resources to avoid utility additions. This has the benefit of putting the majority of the financial burden on the data center and not creating joint assets shared by all customers.

Q. DOES THE COMPANY'S PROPOSAL INCLUDE ANY DISCUSSION OF BTM RESOURCES?

A. No, it does not.

Q. WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND TO THE COMMISSION WITH REGARD TO FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS?

A. The Commission should require the development of a flexible connection tariff for data centers in a separate proceeding, and not approve DEF's proposal until flexible connection options have been approved.

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[97] Kimberly Steele, *Data Center Market Defies Early 2025 Turbulence*, JLI (Oct. 14, 2025), https://www.jll.com/en-us/newsroom/data-center-market-defies-early-2025-turbulence.

[98] Scott Clavenna, *Behind-the-meter Generation Is Picking Up Traction*, Latitude Media, (Oct. 22, 2025), https://www.latitudemedia.com/news/behind-the-meter-generation-is-picking-up-traction/.

[99] *Id.*

[100] Oracle Fact Sheet: Stargate Data Centers, (Sep. 23, 2025), https://arrington.house.gov/uploadedfiles/final_oracle_oai_data_center_fact_sheet_092225b.pdf.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. In my testimony I make the following recommendations to the Commission:

1. The Commission should reject without prejudice the Company's LLC-1 rate design proposal, and require the Company to propose a new large load customer rate design in its next rate proceeding that:

    a. Is supported by a fully allocated cost of service model that includes the projected costs to serve large load additions;

    b. Includes an incremental generation charge; and

    c. Includes a minimum monthly billing energy volume.

2. The Commission should modify the Company's LLCP proposal in this proceeding to include:

    a. A minimum billing energy volume in its minimum billing section;

    b. The early termination fee should be equivalent to either i) the minimum monthly billing amount for the remainder of the contract period, or ii) the undepreciated value of generation and transmission assets directly serving the customer;

    c. The security collateral section should set clear and specific parameters for collateral requirements, with the initial presumption of collateral equivalent to 24 months of estimated monthly bills;

    d. A customer's ramping period should not exceed five years; and

e. A requirement that all new facilities over 50 MW of firm demand adhere to the terms of the LLCP and sign an LLCA.

3. The Commission should direct the Company to develop a direct assignment allocation method for transmission costs related to large load customers. This allocation method should:

    a. Allocate all costs of transmission upgrades built to serve large load customers, including upstream upgrades triggered by their addition, to such customers; and

    b. Collect upfront deposits from such customers covering the cost of required transmission upgrades, to be in part, for the portion not related to direct-connection facilities, refunded over a fixed period through credits in parallel with the customer's base rates, with the rest retained by the Company in the form of CIAC funds.

4. The Commission should direct the Company to develop, in a separate proceeding, a flexible connection policy for data centers and other large load customers, and should not approve any parts of the Company's current proposal until such a flexible connection policy has been approved.

5. Require that all future LLCAs or ESAs signed by the Company with loads over 100 MW be filed with the Commission for review and approval.

Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

A. Yes, it does at this time. The fact that I do not address any other particular issues in my testimony or am silent with respect to any portions of DEF's Petition or direct testimony in this proceeding should not be interpreted as an approval of any position taken by DEF.

Ron Nelson

Partner, (360) 201-2827, rnelson@currentenergy.group

Education

MS, Agricultural and Resource Economics
Colorado State University, 2013

BA, Environmental Economics
Western Washington University, 2006

Work Experience

Founding Partner, Current Energy Group (May 2024 – Present)

- Subject matter and testimony expert in advanced rate design, embedded and marginal cost of service modeling, performance-based regulation, gas decarbonization, and DER integration and compensation.
- Designing and implementing policies and programs to decarbonize energy systems including deployment of distributed energy resources, demand-side management programs, energy storage and grid integration.

Founder, Volt-Watt Consulting LLC (2024 – Present)

Senior Director, Strategen Consulting, (2018 –February 2024)

- Expert witness and advisor that has testified across 20 states in over 80 proceedings and supported multiple state commissions in various proceedings

Economist, Minnesota Attorney General's Office (2013-2017)

- Provided expert testimony on cost of service modeling, rate design, grid modernization and utility business models.
- Analyzing issues related to conservation incentive programs, value of solar, grid modernization, performance-based regulation, renewable energy program design, and MISO.
- Reviewed and made recommendation to improve gas company pipeline replacement programs, demand response tariffs, performance metrics, and rate designs

Graduate Research Associate, Colorado State University (2011-2013)

Select Publications

DER Integration Framework: Regulatory Innovation for DER Compensation and Cost Allocation. McDonnell, Nelson, and Mims Frick. January 2025. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.
Report

Demand Charges in the Electricity Sector. Speetles, LeBel, Nelson, Zimny-Schmitt, Stright, and McLaren. Funded by the DOE: Office of Electricity. Forthcoming

"A Regulator's Blueprint for 21st Century Has Utility Planning," A Report for Advanced Energy United (2023)
Report
Led the development of a report that provided a blueprint for state public utility commissions that are interested in developing gas utility planning requirements to improve transparency into gas utility resource and capital investment plans.

Nonpipeline Alternative Analysis Framework for the Colorado Public Utilities Commission on Behalf of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (2023)
Report, Report
Through a collaboration with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, led the development of two reports that first examined the existing regulatory approaches for non-pipeline alternatives, and then proposed a regulatory framework.

Consumers Energy Gas Bill Impact Analysis: A Case Study of the Effects of Planned Capital Expenditures and Electrification Trends on Behalf of Advanced Energy United (2023)
White Paper
Quantified the impact of gas utility capital improvement projects on customer rates Consumers Energy gas in Michigan. The paper found that Michigan residential customers with Consumers Energy can expect to see their gas bills steadily increase over the next decade – up to 49% over 2021 levels – due to projected utility capital expenditures and electrification trends.

Select Projects

Represent Maryland OPC in PC44 DSP and Interconnection Working Groups. 2022-Present. The DSP has been working on a process for stakeholder engagement and review of Maryland utilities distribution system planning processes. The interconnection has designed and implemented a new DER cost allocation approach called the Maryland Cost Allocation Mechanism (MCAM). The ultimately adopted MCAM was designed by Ron and prices hosting capacity by location and scarcity.

GridLab CHARGED Initiative - Flexible Connections, DER Planning, and Advance Rate Design Working Groups – Represent clients in Minnesota, Massachusetts, and Illinois in interconnection, flexible interconnection, interagency rates working group, long term system planning processes, and proactive planning processes. 2021-Present

Maine's Governor's Energy Office: Working in collaboration with Central Maine Power to design and implement non-firm import and export tariffs. 2024

Puerto Rico Energy Bureau – Facilitator and presenter for the Smart Inverter Implementation Working Group. Case No. NEPR-MI-2019-0009. 2024-Present

Puerto Rico Energy Bureau – Support on various regulatory matters. 2024-Present

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission: Advanced Rate Design Proceeding. Docket No. 201-90323. 2020-2021. Documents available here.

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission -Consulted on PBR, rate design, community solar gardens program design, and DER integration. 2018-2024

Kentucky Public Service Commission – Trained staff on cost of service, rate design, distribution system planning, and DER integration. Supported the Commission on all Net Energy Metering Dockets from 2020-2024.

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative. Supported on power supply and advanced rate design roadmap. 2023

Xcel C&I Rate Design. Ron used the cost duration model and other embedded cost results to inform a C&I critical peak pricing rate proposal on behalf of Fresh Energy. The MN PUC eventually required Xcel to pilot Ron's proposal across 100s of its customers.
MPUC Docket No. E002/M-20-86

California Energy Storage Alliance. Supported CESA in the SCE Wholesale Distribution Access Tariff Proceeding at FERC. 2019

Expert Testimony

91. Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company for Approval of its Very Large Customer and Bespoke Resources Tariffs. Docket No. 6630-TE-113. On Behalf of Walnut Way Conservation Corp.
Large Load Tariffs, Flexible Connection, and Cost Allocation
Direct

90. Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. PPL Electric Utilities Corporation. Docket No. R-2025-3057164. On Behalf of Environmental Intervenors.
Large Load Tariffs, Flexible Connection, and Cost Allocation

89. In the Matter of Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC Authority to Adjust and Increase its Electric Rates and Charges. Docket No. 2025-172-E. On Behalf of Sierra Club.
Large Load Tariffs, Flexible Connection, and Cost Allocation
Direct Surrebuttal

88. In the Matter of Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Authority to Adjust and Increase its Electric Rates and Charges. Docket No. 2025-154-E. On Behalf of Sierra Club.
Large Load Tariffs, Flexible Connection, and Cost Allocation
Direct Surrebuttal

87. Application of Appalachian Power Company for approval of Revisions to the Terms and Conditions of Rate Schedules L.P.S.. Case No. PUR-2025-00057. On Behalf of Sierra Club.
Large Load Tariffs, Flexible Connection, and Cost Allocation
Direct

86. Commonwealth Edison Company. Petition for Establishment of Performance Metrics Under Section 16-108.18(e) of the Public Utilities Act. Docket No. 25-0514. On Behalf of the Joint Non-Governmental Organizations.
Performance Metrics
Direct Rebuttal

85. Application of Virginia Electric & Power Company for a 2025 biennial review of the rates, terms, and conditions for the provision of generation, distribution, and transmission services pursuant to Virginia Code 56-585.1. Case No. PUR-2025-00058. On Behalf of Sierra Club.
Large Load Tariffs, Flexible Connection, and Cost Allocation
Direct

85. Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Monson-Palmer-Longmeadow (Northwest) Capital Investment Project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021). Case No. D.P.U 25-31. On Behalf of The Office of the Attorney General.
Distribution System Planning, Interconnection, DER Integration
Direct

84. Application of Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy for authority to adjust its annual revenue requirement for general rates charged to all classes of electric customers and for relief properly related thereto, Docket No. 25-02016. On Behalf of Western Resource Advocates.
Embedded and Marginal Cost of Service, Large Load Line Extensions and Cost Allocation
Direct

83. Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and Regulations of Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. for Electric Service, Case 25-E-0072. On behalf of the Environmental Defense Fund.

Rate Design
Direct

83. Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for Approval of its Second Distributed Energy Resources Management Plan. Docket No. P-2024-3049223. On Behalf of the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate.
DERMS, DER Cost Allocation, DERMS Alternatives, Cost-Benefit Analysis

82, In the Matter of the Application of the Yankee Gas Services Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to Amend Its Rate Schedules. Docket No. 24-12-01. On Behalf of the Connecticut State Office of Consumer Advocate.
Rate Design and Cost of Service
Direct Surrebuttal

81. Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval to Offer Optional Electric Vehicle Time-of-Use Rates. Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for Approval to offer Optional Electric Vehicle Time-of-Use Rates. On Behalf of the Massachusetts AGO (with Andy Eiden).
EV TOU Rate Design, Submetering
Direct

80. In the Matter of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power for Authority to Increase its Retail Electric Utility Rates in Utah and for Approval of its Proposed Electric Service Schedules and Electric Service Regulations. On Behalf of the Utah Office of Consumer Services.
Embedded Cost of Service Study, Flexible Connections, Rate Design
Direct Surrebuttal

79. In the Matter of the Applications of The Dayton Power and Light Company for Approval of Phase 2 of Its Smart Grid Plan and for Approval of Certain Accounting Methods. Case No. 24-0112-EL-GRD. On Behalf of Office of Consumer Counsel.
Grid Modernization Rider Proposal
Direct

78. Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for Approval of its Second Distributed Energy Resources Management Plan. Docket No. R-2024 -3049223. On Behalf of PA OCA.
DERMS Implementation, Flexible Interconnection, Export Tariffs, Smart Inverters
Direct

77. Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. PECO Gas Company – Electric Division. Docket No. R-2024-03046932. On Behalf of PA OCA.
Weather Normalization Adjustment

76. Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. PECO Energy Company – Electric Division. Docket No. R-2024-3046931. On Behalf of PA OCA.

EV Program Design and Load Management

75. Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, INC's Application for adjustment to Its retail rates and changes for electric distribution service and other tariff revisions. On Behalf of Maryland OPC.
Cost of Service, Rate Design
Direct Rebuttal

74. Order Requiring Ameren Illinois Company to Refile an Initial Multi-Year Integrated Grid Plan and Initiating Proceeding to Determine Whether the Plan is Reasonable and Complies with the Public Utilities Act. May 13, 2024. Docket No. 22-0487. On Behalf of Environmental Law and Policy Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, Union of Concerned Scientists, and Vote Solar.
Marginal Cost of Service, Proactive Hosting Capacity
Direct

73. Order Requiring Commonwealth Edison Company to Refile an Initial Multi-Year Integrated Grid Plan and Initiating Proceeding to Determine Whether the Plan is Reasonable and Complies with the Public Utilities Act. May 22, 2023. Docket No. 22-0486. On Behalf of Environmental Law and Policy Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, Union of Concerned Scientists, and Vote Solar.
Marginal Cost of Service, Proactive Hosting Capacity, Peak Load Reduction Programs
Direct Rebuttal

72. PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., Revisions to Incorporate Cost Responsibility Assignments for Regional Transmission Expansion Plan Baseline Upgrades (Jan. 10, 2024), Docket No. ER24-843, Accession No. 20240110-5117. Affidavit on behalf of Maryland OPC
Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation
Affidavit

71. Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to F.L. c. 164 for approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates for Electric Service and a Performance-based Ratemaking Plan. DPU 23-150.
Cost of service and Rate Design
Direct

70. Easton Utilities Commission's Application for Authority to Increase Its Rates and Charges for Electric Service and Gas Service. On behalf of Maryland OPC. Case No. 9719.
Cost of service and Rate Design
Direct

69. In the Matter of the Tariff Revisions Designated as TA544-8 Filed by Chugach Electric Association, INC. U-23-047. On behalf of AARP.
Cost of service and Rate Design
Direct

68. Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan. D.P.U. 24-12, Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan. D.P.U. 24-11, Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan. D.P.U. 24-10. On behalf of the MA AGO
Grid Planning and DER Integration
Direct

67. In the Matter of the Application of Potomac Electric Power Company for and Electric Multi-Year Plan for the Distribution of Electric Energy Case No. 9702. On behalf of Maryland OPC.
Electric Rate Design and Forecasting
Direct

66. In the Matter of the Application of Nevada Power Company, d/b/a NV Energy, files pursuant to NRS 704.110 (3) and (4), addressing its annual revenue requirement for general rates charged to all classes of customers. On behalf of SWEEP.
Electric TOU Rate Design
Testimony

65. In the Matter of Advice No. 1923 – Electric of Public Service Company of Colorado to Revise its Colorado P.U.C. No. 8 – Electric Tariff to Reset the General Rate Schedule Adjustments, to Place into Effect Revised Base Rates, and to Implement Other Phase II Tariff Proposals to Become Effective June 15, 2023. On behalf of WRA.
Electric TOU Rate Design
Testimony

64. Application of Baltimore Gas and Electric Company for a Second Electric and Gas Multi-Year Plan Case No. 9692. On behalf of Maryland OPC
Electric and Gas Rate Design, Gas Transition, Bill Impacts
Direct

63. Massachusetts Electric Company Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, Capital Investment Project Filing: D.P.U. 22-170, 23-06, 23-09, and 23-12 On Behalf of the MA AGO w/ Panelists Jorge Camacho and Eli Asher
DER Integration, Interconnection and Cost Allocation
Direct | Surrebuttal

62. Order Requiring Commonwealth Edison Company to file an Initial Multi-Year Integrated Grid Plan and Initiating Proceeding to Determine Whether the Plan is Reasonable and Complies with the Public Utilities Act. Docket No. 22-0486. On Behalf of Environmental Law and Policy Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, Union of Concerned Scientists, and Vote Solar.
Hosting Capacity, Value of DER, Peak Load Reduction, Flexible Interconnection, DERMS

Direct

61. Ameren Illinois Company. Proposed General Increase in Rates and Revisions to Other Terms and Conditions of Service. Docket No. 23-0067. On Behalf of Environmental Law and Policy Center, Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council, Illinois State Public Interest Research Group, Inc.
Gas Transition, Capital Planning, Line Extensions, Non-Pipeline Alternatives, Bill Impacts, Gas System Planning, PBR, Rate Design
Direct Rebuttal

60. Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission V. Philadelphia Gas Works. Docket No. R-2022-3034264. On Behalf of The Office of Consumer Advocate
Weather Normalization Adjustment and Decoupling

59. DEP and DEC EVSE Program. Docket No. 2022-158-E. On Behalf of The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
EV Program Design
Direct | Surrebuttal

58. Petition of Philadelphia Gas Works for Approval on Less than Statutory Notice of Tariff Supplement Revising Weather Normalization Adjustment. Docket No. 2022-3034264. On Behalf of the Office of the Consumer Advocate
Weather Normalization Adjustment

57. In the Matter of Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC, for Adjustment of Rates and Charges Applicable to Electric Service in North Carolina and for Performance Based Regulation. Docket No. E-2, Sub 1300. On Behalf of the North Carolina Attorney General's Office
Cost of Service, Rate Design, Performance-Based Regulation
Direct

56. Application of Public Service Company of Oklahoma, an Oklahoma Corporation, for an Adjustment in its Rates and Charges and the Electric Service Rules, Regulations, and Conditions of Service for Electric Service in the State of Oklahoma and to Approve a Formula Based Rate Proposal . On Behalf of AARP
Cost of Service and Rate Design
Responsive Testimony

55. Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. 2022 Electric Rate Increase Application. On Behalf of AARP
Cost of Service and Rate Design
Direct | Surrebuttal

54. Northern Indiana Public Service Company Rate Case. On Behalf of Citizens Action Coalition
Cost of Service and Rate Design
Direct

53. Central Maine Power Company: Request for Approval of Distribution Rate Increase and Rate Design Changes Pursuant to 35-A M.R.S. Section 307, Docket 2022-00152, On Behalf of the Governor's Energy Office w/Panelists Caroline Palmer and Nikhil Balakumar. On Behalf of the Governor's Energy Office
Marginal Cost of Service, Performance-Based Regulation, Distribution System Planning
Direct

52. Georgia Power Company's 2022 Rate Case. DOCKET NO.: 44280. On Behalf of Americans for Affordable and Clean Energy
Electric Vehicle Rate Design
Direct

51. In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in Minnesota (Docket No 21-630), On Behalf of the Citizen's Utility Board of Minnesota
Rate Riders, Fuel Clause Risk Sharing, and MYRP Structure
Direct | Rebuttal

50. In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in Minnesota (Docket No 21-630), On Behalf of the Clean Energy Organizations
Advanced Rate Design, Regulatory Sandbox, TOU Rate Design
Direct | Surrebuttal

49. NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Capital Investment Project Filing: D.P.U. 22-51 through 55 On Behalf of the MA AGO w/ Panelists Jorge Camacho and Eli Asher
DER Integration, Interconnection and Cost Allocation
Direct | Surrebuttal

48. Massachusetts Electric Company Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, Capital Investment Project Filing: Shutesbury (D.P.U. 22-61) On Behalf of the MA AGO w/ Panelists Jorge Camacho and Eli Asher
DER Integration, Interconnection and Cost Allocation
Direct

47. In the Matter of Delmarva Power and Light Company's Application for an Electric Multi-Year Plan (Case No. 9681) On Behalf of the Office of People's Counsel w/ Panelist Jorge Camacho
Distribution System Planning, Capital Investment Plan, Multi-Year Rate Plan Structure, Revenue Decoupling
Direct (No. 21) | Rebuttal (No. 23)

46. Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Marion-Fairhaven capital project proposal under the Provisional

Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U 20-75-B (2021) (D.P.U. 22-47) On Behalf of the MA AGO w/ Panelists Jorge Camacho, Eli Asher, and Fred Schaefer
DER Integration, Interconnection and Cost Allocation
Direct | Surrebuttal

45. Petition for Approval of Beneficial Electrification Plan under the Electric Vehicle Act, 20 ILCS 627/45 and New EV Charging Delivery Classes under the Public Utilities Act, Article IX. (Docket No. 22-0432 and 22-0442) On Behalf of NRDC, Sierra Club, EDF, RHA and Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)
Electric Vehicle Rate Design and Energy Management Systems

44. Petition for Approval of Beneficial Electrification Plan pursuant to Section 45 of the Electric Vehicle Act (Docket No. 22-0431 and 22-0443) On Behalf of NRDC, Sierra Club, EDF, and RHA
Electric Vehicle Rate Design and Energy Management Systems

43. In the Matter of the Application of Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company for an Order of the Commission Authorizing Applicant to Modify Its Rates, Charges, and Tariffs for Retail Electric Service in Oklahoma
Cost of service, rate design, formula rate plan
Direct | Stipulation

42. Petition for Establishment of Performance Metrics Under Section 16-108.18(e) of the Public Utilities Act, Commonwealth Edison Company, Docket No. 22-0067 On Behalf of NRDC
Demand Response and Electric Vehicle Performance Metrics
Direct | Rebuttal

41. Petition for Establishment of Performance Metrics Under Section 16-108.18(e) of the Public Utilities Act, Ameren Illinois Company, Docket No. 22-0063 On Behalf of NRDC
Demand Response and Electric Vehicle Performance Metrics
Direct | Rebuttal

40. In the matter of the application of CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY for authority to increase its rates for the distribution of natural gas and for other relief. U-21148. On Behalf of NRDC
Performance-based regulation and gas decarbonization
Direct

39. Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Marion-Fairhaven capital project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U 20-75-B (2021)
DER integration, Flexible interconnection, Capital Investment Project
Direct | Surrebuttal

38. In the Matter of the Application of Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company for an Order of the Commission Authorizing Applicant to Modify Its Rates, Charges, and Tariffs for Retail Electric Service in Oklahoma
Cost of service, rate design, formula rate plan
Direct | Stipulation

37. In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Utility Service in Minnesota. Docket No. E-015/GR-21-335. On Behalf of CUB Minnesota
Cost recovery, cost of service, and revenue apportionment
Direct | Surrebuttal

36. In the matter of the application of CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY for authority to increase its rates for the distribution of natural gas and for other relief. U-21148. On Behalf of NRDC
Performance-based regulation and gas decarbonization
Direct

35. Phase 2: Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program, Electric Vehicle Demand Charge Alternative Proposal, and Residential Electric Vehicle Time-of-Use Rate Proposal (D.P.U 21-92) On Behalf of the Attorney General's Office
EV Program Design and Load Management
Direct

34. Phase 2: Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of its Phase III Electric Vehicle Market Development Program and Electric Vehicle Demand Charge Alternative Proposal (D.P.U 21-91) On Behalf of the Attorney General's Office
EV Program Design and Load Management
Direct

33. Phase 2: Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Phase II Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program and Electric Vehicle Demand Charge Alternative Proposal (D.P.U 21-90) On Behalf of the Attorney General's Office
EV Program Design and Load Management
Direct

32. Phase 1: Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program, Electric Vehicle Demand Charge Alternative Proposal, and Residential Electric Vehicle Time-of-Use Rate Proposal (D.P.U 21-92) On Behalf of the Attorney General's Office
EV Program Design and Load Management
Direct

31. Phase 1: Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of its Phase III Electric Vehicle Market Development Program and Electric Vehicle Demand Charge Alternative Proposal (D.P.U 21-91) On Behalf of the Attorney General's Office
EV Program Design and Load Management
Direct

30. Phase 1: Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Phase II Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program and Electric Vehicle Demand Charge Alternative Proposal (D.P.U 21-90) On Behalf of the Attorney General's Office
EV Program Design and Load Management
Direct

29. In the Matter of the Petitions for Recovery of Certain Gas Costs (DKT: 21-138, 21-235, 21-610, 21-611) On Behalf of The Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota
Prudency Review
Direct

28. In the Matter of the Application of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas for Authority to Increase Rates for Natural Gas Utility Service in Minnesota (Docket No. 21-435) On Behalf of the Clean Energy Organizations
Rate Design and Line Extension Policy
Direct

27. In the Matter of the Petitions for Recovery of Certain Gas Costs (DKT: 21-138, 21-235, 21-610, 21-611) On Behalf of The Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota
Prudency Review
Direct

26. Green Mountain Power (DKT: 2021-3707-PET) On Behalf of Green Mountain Power
Multi-Year Rate Plan
Prefiled Direct Testimony

25. Public Service of Oklahoma (DKT: 202100055) On Behalf of AARP
ECOSS and Rate Design
Responsive Testimony

24. Duquesne Light Company (DKT: R-2021-3024750) On Behalf of the PA OCA
Transportation Electrification, Load Control
Direct | Surrebuttal (note: please type in the docket number, the testimony cannot be directly referenced)

23. PECO (DKT: R-2021-3024601) On Behalf of the PA OCA
Transportation Electrification, Load Control

Direct (note: please type in the docket number, the testimony cannot be directly referenced)

22. Mountain Power (DKT: 20-035-04) On Behalf of the Utah Office of Consumer Services
Embedded COS, Rate Design, and AMI Rollout
Direct

21. Minnesota Power* On Behalf of the MN CUB
ECOSS and low-income rate design

20. Pennsylvania Power and Light: DER Management Petition (DKT: P-2019-3010128) On Behalf of the PA OCA
DER integration
Direct | Surrebuttal (note: please type in the docket number, the testimony cannot be directly referenced)

19. Public Service of New Hampshire (dba Eversource Energy) (DKT: DE 19-057) On Behalf of the NH OCA
Embedded and marginal COS, Rate Design, and PBR
Direct

18. Liberty Utilities (DKT: DE 19-064) On Behalf of the NH OCA
Marginal COS, Rate Design, decoupling and PBR
Direct *Settled before direct was filed

17. Oklahoma Gas and Electric (DKT: 201800140) On Behalf of AARP
Rate Design and CCOSS
Direct

16. Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio (DKT: 18-0298-GA-AIR) On Behalf of the Environmental Law and Policy Center
CCOSS and Rate Design
Direct | Supplemental | Case link

15. Commonwealth Edison (DKT: 18-0753) On Behalf of the IL AG
Distributed Generation Rebates and Smart Inverter Specifications
Direct | Rebuttal | Case link

14. Ameren Illinois Company (DKT: 18-0537) On Behalf of the IL AG
Distributed Generation Rebates and Smart Inverter Specifications
Direct | Rebuttal | Case file

13. Public Service Company of Oklahoma (DKT: 201800096) On Behalf of AARP
Formula Rates, Performance Metrics, Rate Design, and CCOSS
Direct

12. Oklahoma Gas and Electric (DKT: 201700496) On Behalf of AARP
CCOSS and Revenue Apportionment
Responsive | Case link

11. Minnesota Power (DKT: E-002/GR-16-664) On Behalf of the MN OAG
CCOSS, Rate Design, and the Utility Business Model
Surrebuttal | Rebuttal: | Testimony | Case Link

10. Minnesota Power (DKT: E-002/GR-16-664) On Behalf of the MN OAG
CCOSS, Rate Design, and the Utility Business Model
Surrebuttal | Rebuttal: | Testimony | Case Link

9. Otter Tail Power (DKT: E-002/GR-15-1033) On Behalf of the MN OAG
Marginal and Embedded CCOSS and Rate Design
Opening Statement | Direct | Rebuttal | Case link

8. Xcel Energy (DKT: E-002/GR-15-826) On Behalf of the MN OAG
CCOSS, Rate Design, and Performance-Based Regulation
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7. Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. (DKT: G-011/GR-15-736) On Behalf of the MN OAG
CCOSS and Rate Design
Direct : | Rebuttal | Surrebuttal | Case link

6. CenterPoint Energy (DKT: E-002/GR-15-424) On Behalf of the MN OAG
CCOSS and Rate Design
Opening Statement | Direct | Rebuttal | Surrebuttal | Case link

5. Dakota Energy Association (DKT: E-002/GR-14-482) On Behalf of the MN OAG
CCOSS and Rate Design
Direct | Rebuttal | Surrebuttal | Case link

4. Xcel Energy (DKT: E-002/GR-13-868) On Behalf of the MN OAG
CCOSS and Rate Design
Direct | Rebuttal | Surrebuttal: Case Link

3. Xcel Energy, Minnesota Energy Resources Corp, CenterPoint Energy (DKT: 21-138)
Natural Gas Prudence Testimony
Case Details | Direct

2. Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. (DKT: G-011/GR-13-617) On Behalf of the MN OAG
CCOSS
Direct | Surrebuttal | Case Link

1. CenterPoint Energy (DKT: G-008/GR-13-316) On Behalf of the MN OAG
CCOSS
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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition by Duke Energy Florida, LLC, for a limited proceeding to approve large load tariff

Docket No. 20250113-EI

Dated: February 10, 2026

DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC'S RESPONSE TO CITIZENS' SECOND SET OF INTERROGATORIES (NOS. 24-36)

Duke Energy Florida, LLC, ("DEF") hereby responds to the Citizens of the State of Florida, through the Office of Public Counsel's ("Citizens" or "OPC"), Second Set of Interrogatories to DEF (Nos. 24-36) as follows:

INTERROGATORIES

For the following interrogatories please refer to DEF's proposed Large Load Customer Policy:

24. Refer to DEF Witness Yager's Direct Testimony at 5:5-13.

a. Explain how the hypothetical sales, load factor, and 12-CP demand assumptions for the LLC rate class were developed. Provide any workpapers used in developing these assumptions in an unlocked Excel workbook with formulas intact.

b. Did DEF perform any modeling of annual hourly load for potential LLC rate class customers? Please provide any 8,760 hourly annual load projections used in such an analysis in an unlocked Excel workbook with formulas intact.

c. Provide a list of prospective data center or other applicable large-load customers currently in any stage of project development within DEF's service territory. This list should include, to the extent information is available:

i. Line of business (e.g. data center, hyper-scaler, AI training, etc.)

ii. Requested capacity requirements

iii. Expected load and capacity utilization ratios

iv. Nameplate capacity, fuel type, and number of onsite generators

v. Service delivery voltage

vi. Stage of development (e.g. submitted capacity request, completed feasibility study, signed electricity supply agreement, enhancement construction in progress, etc.)

vii. Dollar amount and purpose of any contribution in advance of construction

d. Provide a description of current DEF customers under existing rate classes that would be eligible for the proposed LLC-1 class, including:

i. Average billing demand

ii. Annual and 8,760 hourly load

iii. Nameplate capacity, fuel type, and number of onsite generators

iv. Service delivery voltage

e. Provide a description of current DEF customers under existing rate classes that would be covered by the proposed LLCP, including:

i. Average billing demand

ii. Annual and 8,760 hourly load

iii. Nameplate capacity, fuel type, and number of onsite generators

iv. Service delivery voltage

Response:

a. Please refer to DEF's response to question 15, subpart a. of Staff's first set of Interrogatories.

b. Please refer to cells D34 and D35 of attachment Exhibit MJC-1 – Development of LLC-1 Unit Costs.xlsx, provided as a response to #29. These numbers are the kWh sales assumptions from Exhibit KY-1 and a formula that calculates a requisite kW demand billing determinant assuming a consistent 90% load factor, which is in line with expected data center or other applicable large-load customers.

c. Total number of large load projects: **19**
Line of business: **Data center/AI training**
Requested capacity requirements: **13.2 GW**
Expected load and capacity utilization ratios: **80-90% Load Factor**
Nameplate capacity, fuel type, and number of onsite generators: **Unknown at this time**
Service delivery voltage: **230 kV**
Stage of development: **Initial transmission capacity check requested (10), Transmission assessment complete (8)**

Dollar amount and purpose of any contribution in advance of construction: **None requested at this point.**

d. Please refer to DEF's response to question 13 of Staff's first set of Interrogatories.

e. The Company does not currently have any customers that are taking firm service with billing demand of 100 MW or more.

25. Refer to DEF Witness Wishart's Direct Testimony at 23:3-5, and Part XIII of the proposed Large Load Customer Policy, sections 13.02-13.03.

a. What reasoning did DEF use in not placing a limit on a customer's load ramp period?

b. 13.03 states "Minimum Demand shall be between 75% and 85% of annual contract capacity." Under what circumstances would minimum demand be 85% of annual contract capacity, and what circumstances would cause it to be 75% of annual contract capacity?

<u>Response:</u>

a. The Company wants the customer to provide their actual expected ramp and timelines. A limit could require resource planning that is unrealistically accelerated due to an arbitrary policy limit, whereas maybe if a ramp could be extended, beneficial planning and cost management could be achieved. The agreed upon load ramp in an executed LLCA is a very important element for large load projects.

b. The minimum demand will be specified by the Company at a given point in time and will apply to all customers that sign at that time. It will begin at 75% and the range provides flexibility in the event minimum demand needs to be adjusted, driven by costs that arise from the Company's obligation to serve large load customers.

26. Refer to the proposed LLC-1 tariff, Sheet No. 6.190, "Determination of Billing Demand." This section states "Billing Demand shall not be less than the greater of: (1) 90% of the maximum monthly 30-minute kW demand during the preceding 11 billing months, (2) 75% of the Contract Demand, or (3) 1,000 kW."

a. Using the definition of minimum demand set in section 13.03 of the Large Load Customer Policy, if a customer's minimum demand were 85% of annual contract capacity, would part (2) of the billing demand definition of the LLC-1 tariff be 85% of contract demand?

<u>Response:</u>

In this particular scenario, Minimum Demand would be 85% for that specific customer, per the terms in the LLCA, but the definition of Billing Demand in the LLC-1 rate schedule

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF ORANGE

I hereby certify that on this 27 day of January, 2026, before me, an officer duly authorized in the State and County aforesaid to take acknowledgments, personally appeared **MARC HOENSTINE**, who is personally known to me, or provided FL DL as identification, and he acknowledged before me that he provided the answers to interrogatory numbers 24c from CITIZENS' SECOND SET OF INTERROGATORIES (Nos. 24-36) TO DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC in Docket No. 20250113-EI, and that the responses are true and correct based on his personal knowledge.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal in the State and County aforesaid as of this 28 day of January, 2026.

Marc Hoenstine

Marc Hoenstine

Joshua Bladow

Notary Public
State of Florida

JOSHUA BLADOW
Notary Public - State of Florida
Commission # HH 736117
My Comm. Expires Oct 29, 2029

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA

My Commission Expires:

10/29/29

Virginia Data Center Study

Electric Infrastructure and Customer Rate Impacts

Prepared on behalf of the Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC)

December 2024

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Energy+Environmental Economics

Acknowledgements and Disclaimers

+ This work was funded by the Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC). The authors of this study would like to acknowledge the contributions of JLARC staff and staff from the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center (WCC), who provided the data center load growth scenarios as well as timely input, data, and perspectives throughout the engagement.

+ The authors would like to also thank the experts interviewed for this work, including representatives from load serving entities (Dominion Energy (Dominion), Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC), Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC)), and several data center companies (Amazon, Cloud HQ, Compass, Google, Meta, QTS, and Stack) for providing their perspectives and insights data center growth, operations, and cost of service studies.

+ It is important to note that although this analysis does examine system impacts throughout Virginia including within Dominion's service territory and the broader PJM region, this modeling exercise has significant differences in scope and intent from Dominion's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The analysis described herein is exploratory in nature and is solely intended to examine the implications of different load growth pathways under different levels of decarbonization ambition in Virginia. This study is not intended to serve the same purpose as an Integrated Resource Planning modeling exercise and should not be interpreted as such nor is it meant to model the PJM market precisely.

+ Our analysis is highly technical and reflects industry best practices and as such may not be as accessible to a general lay audience, but we have endeavored to strike a balance between the detail and transparency needed to precisely describe our analysis and modeling vs. being accessible to a broader, more non-technical audience.

+ Lastly, the analysis presented in this report are solely reflective of E3's views and perspectives in the context of the scope of work; all conclusions and takeaways in this report are our own.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

Table of Acronyms

CCGT	Combined-cycle gas turbine
COSS	Cost of Service Study
DOM Zone	Dominion Transmission Zone
E3	Energy + Environmental Economics
ELCC	Effective Load Carrying Capability
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Energy Service Agreement
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
GHG	Greenhouse gas
IOU	Investor-Owned Utility
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
JLARC	Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission
LDV	Light-duty vehicle
LOLE	Loss-of-load expectation
LMP	Locational Marginal Price
LSE	Load Serving Entity
MDV	Medium-duty vehicle
MEC	Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative
NOVEC	Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative

Table of Acronyms (continued)

OSW	Offshore wind
PJM	PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
REC	Renewable Energy Certificate
RGGI	Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standard
RTO	Regional Transmission Organization
SCC	State Corporation Commission
SMR	Small Modular Reactor
VCEA	Virginia Clean Economy Act
VEPCO	Virginia Electric and Power Company
WCC	Weldon Cooper Center

Executive Summary

Energy+Environmental Economics

About This Report

+ **E3 was engaged by the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC) in Virginia to examine the impacts of data center growth on the state's electric infrastructure needs and associated costs, as well as the distribution of these costs across customer classes. This report summarizes E3's analysis and findings from this study.**

+ **JLARC conducts program evaluation, policy analysis, and oversight of state agencies on behalf of the Virginia General Assembly. This study is part of a broader set of analyses JLARC conducted on data center growth in the state of Virginia.**

+ **This report summarizes:**
  - The background of the study and E3's scope of work
  - The Virginia data center outlook and load growth projections provided by WCC
  - The grid impact modeling and analysis E3 performed to evaluate the impact of data center load growth on Virginia's electric infrastructure needs and associated costs
  - The rate impact analysis E3 performed to evaluate the current energy cost allocation mechanism used by major utilities in Virginia, potential impact of data center load growth on residential customer rates, and recommended policy enhancements and/or considerations

Who is E3?

Technical & Strategic Consulting specializing in the Energy Transition…

125+ full-time consultants | 30 years of deep expertise | Engineering, Economics, Mathematics, Public Policy…


San Francisco


New York


Boston


Calgary


Denver

E3 Clients

300+ projects per year across our diverse client base

E3 Project Examples

Data center analysis working with utilities, regulators, independent power produces, and data center companies on strategy, siting, rate design, power supply, and grid impacts

Integrated System Planning supporting a wide range of North American utilities with system planning at the distribution and bulk system level across investor-owned and public power utilities

Policy analysis supporting many state regulatory bodies and energy agencies across the U.S.

Market design and expansion analysis working with ISOs/RTOs directly (ERCOT, MISO, AESO, etc.) on design issues including resource adequacy and capacity accreditation as well as analyzing and supporting Western U.S. market expansion between CAISO EDAM and SPP Markets+

Supporting project developers, asset owners, and investors with strategic and market advisory services across **all major power asset classes like renewables, energy storage, gas, transmission, etc.**

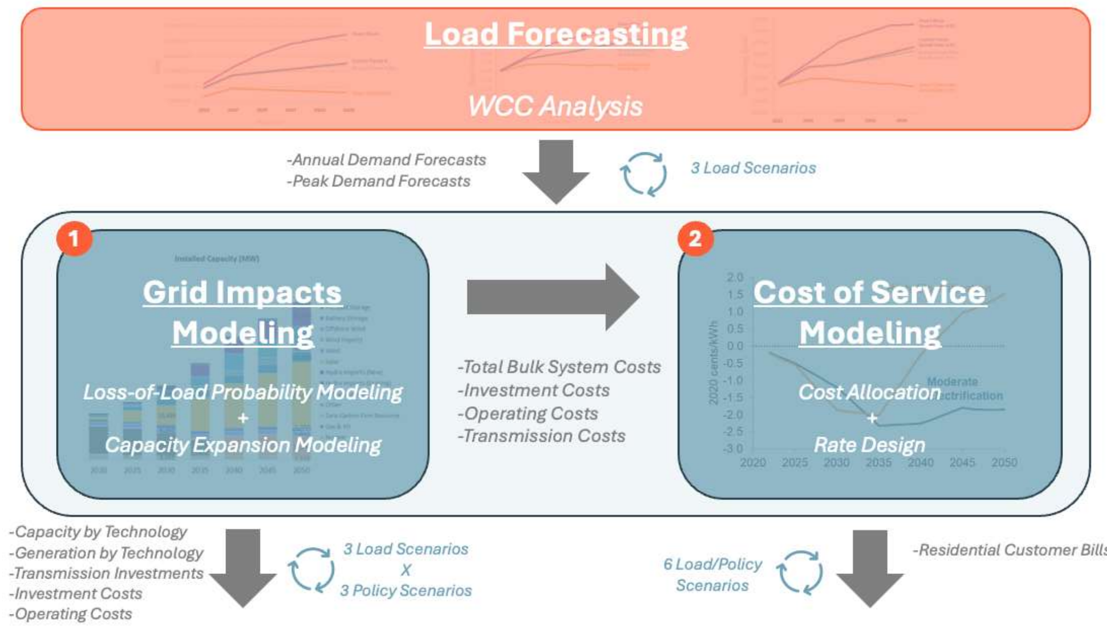
Study Background

- **Northern Virginia has the highest concentration of data centers globally and remains the fastest-growing market**
  - About 70 percent of **global internet traffic** flows through northern Virginia, according to certain estimates[1]
  - Most facilities are served by Dominion Energy (VEPCO), the state's largest investor-owned utility
- **The recent rapid expansion of the data center industry, which is highly power intensive has driven a significant rise in electricity demand in Virginia**
- **Data center growth is impacting the broader PJM region as well**
  - PJM capacity market auction prices recently hit record highs, due in part to market design changes such as to capacity accreditation and a significant expected increase in energy demand from data centers, combined with supply challenges such as from power plant retirements and congested, slow moving generation interconnection queues
- **In parallel, Virginia is working to achieve an ambitious energy transition**
  - Under the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) of 2020, investor-owned utilities, such as Dominion Energy, must transition to 100% zero-carbon generation portfolios
  - Dominion and other LSEs are also modernizing an aging grid to achieve multiple objectives one of which is renewable generation integration
- **Given this broader energy landscape, Virginia faces a two-pronged challenge: 1) meeting surging data center growth while 2) also rapidly decarbonizing its electricity supply to meet the goals of the VCEA**
- **E3 has conducted this study to (1) identify the infrastructure investments required to maintain reliability and achieve state policy goals, and (2) to examine current ratemaking and cost allocation practices to assess the associated ratepayer impacts**

[1] Source: https://www.novaregion.org/1598/Data-Centers; https://www.vedp.org/news/dawn-data

Scope of Work and Analytical Framework

- E3 was commissioned by JLARC to examine the impacts of data center growth on electric infrastructure needs and associated costs, as well as the distribution of these costs across customer classes
- Data center growth projections under a Moderate and Unconstrained scenario were provided by WCC as inputs into E3's analysis
- E3 leveraged its in-house electric sector models, RECAP[1] and RESOLVE[2], to identify the least-cost portfolios to meet load growth while also achieving policy goals and maintaining reliability
- Electric sector infrastructure investments were then assessed through a Cost of Service framework to examine existing and modified rate designs and the distributional impacts of these investments under different methods



The Grid Impacts Modeling included the entire PJM region while focusing on data center load growth projections from WCC for the DOM transmission zone. The Cost of Service assessment then focused on three load-serving entities within the DOM transmission zone (Dominion, Mecklenburg electric co-op (MEC), and Northern Virginia electric co-op (NOVEC)).

[1] https://www.ethree.com/tools/recap-renewable-energy-capacity-planning-model/
[2] https://www.ethree.com/tools/resolve/

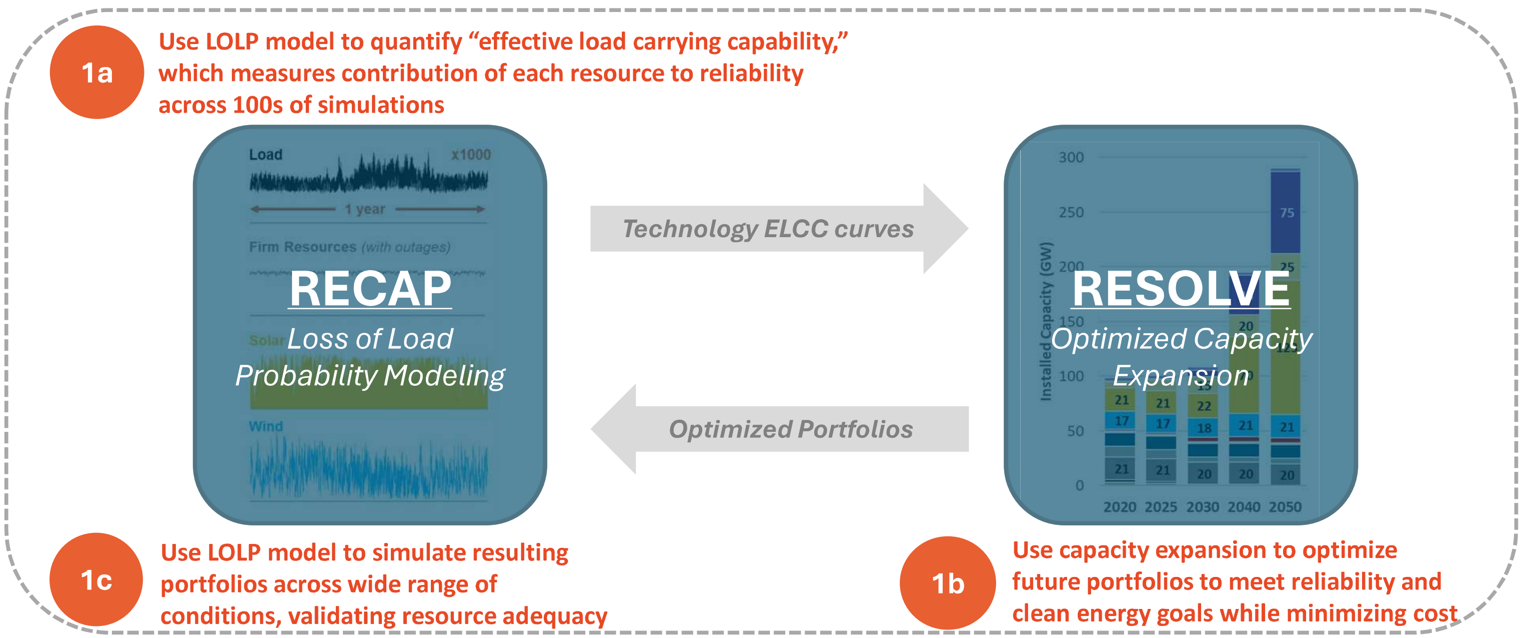
Electric Infrastructure Study Overview

Key Objective of Infrastructure Analysis: Examine electricity system infrastructure and associated investments required to meet the VCEA goals under a wide range of potential data center-driven load growth scenarios

*To perform this work, E3 leveraged a **capacity expansion model** in tandem with a **loss of load probability model**, in order to ensure the resulting portfolios are reliable over a broad range of weather conditions.*

E3 modeled the entire PJM region within its capacity expansion framework to allow more detailed examination of the interaction between Virginia and the broader market in the context of rapid data center growth. However, by design we did not model the PJM market construct precisely in terms of price formation of energy and capacity prices.

This analytical framework identifies the total infrastructure requirements but does not distinguish between utility-owned infrastructure vs. 3rd party owned vs. "behind-the-meter" generation at data center facilities.



Rate Impact Study Overview

Key Objective of Rate Impact Analysis: Determine if current rate and fee structures lead to an equitable distribution of costs between data centers and other customers

How does the magnitude and pace of data center growth in Virginia influence these cost components?

Where do data center rates exist on this spectrum?

What is the range of equitable outcomes?

Marginal Costs | New Costs | Contribution to System Fixed Costs

Data Centers must pay at least their marginal costs of service to avoid shifting the burden inequitably to existing customers

New costs may be direct (e.g., administrative) or indirect (e.g., network upgrades) and may be difficult to quantify or assign

Contributions by data centers to system fixed costs benefit existing customers; however, excessive contributions are inequitable to data centers

Scenario Design Considerations

The analytical framework for this study intended to capture key sources of uncertainty along two dimensions:

1. **Load growth uncertainty |** To address uncertainty around how quickly new data center loads can be constructed and interconnected to the system, this study examined three bookends: a counterfactual “No New Data Centers” load projection, a High (Unconstrained) Data Center Growth projection, and a Moderate (half of Unconstrained) projection.
   - The High (Unconstrained) projection assumes that data center facilities can be sited, built, and interconnected as fast as the market desires; in practice, constraints on the pace of infrastructure development may limit how quickly these facilities can add electric demand to the system.
2. **Level of decarbonization ambition |** To address uncertainty around the implementation of Virginia decarbonization policy and facilitate understanding of the impact of current state policy, this study examined three cases: a counterfactual No Policy scenario for each load projection, an IOU-Only VCEA case (consistent with current law), and a Statewide VCEA scenario in which all statewide sales are subject to similar requirements as set forth in the VCEA. Key sources of uncertainty include:
   - **Accelerated Renewable Energy Buyers Program** | The VCEA indicates that commercial or industrial customers are able to purchase their own Renewable Energy Credits from projects within the PJM region, and their sales would be exempt from the VCEA requirements; this would effectively have the impact of lowering the in-state requirements and potentially leading to a shift in resources from Virginia to neighboring PJM states.
     - Data center customers are also exploring the concept of co-location with generating facilities or “bring-your-own-generation”; our electric system infrastructure modeling is focused on the total quantity of infrastructure required in the state, which would not meaningfully change regardless of whether the infrastructure is built by the utility or the data center customer, though it may have implications for cost allocation and ratemaking.
   - **Applicability of VCEA to Electric Cooperatives |** The VCEA only applies to the retail sales of Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs), and therefore any data centers that choose to purchase their energy from electric co-ops would not be subject to the VCEA requirements. We examined a set of IOU-only VCEA cases (consistent with current law) in which a significant share of new data center loads are met by co-ops which are exempt from the VCEA requirements. However, tech companies that purchase their power from electric co-ops may still have similar levels of decarbonization ambition; as a result, we also examined Statewide VCEA cases which assume that sufficient clean energy is installed to supply all statewide sales with VCEA-compliant electricity, regardless of provider.

Overview of Scenarios and Sensitivities (1/2)

Scenarios for this analysis were constructed to examine the impacts of data centers on the Virginia electric system along two dimensions:

1. **Levels of data center growth**
   - [Counterfactual] No Data Center Growth ("S1" cases)
   - Moderate (half of Unconstrained) Data Center Growth ("S2" cases)
   - Unconstrained Data Center Growth ("S3" cases)
2. **Levels of VCEA achievement**
   - [Counterfactual] No VCEA Compliance ("A" cases)
   - Achievement of VCEA by Investor-Owned Utilities ("B" cases)
     - The VCEA only applies to investor-owned utilities, and electric co-operatives are exempt from the VCEA requirements; in other words, the "B" cases are consistent with current law.*
   - Full Statewide Achievement of VCEA ("C" cases)
     - By 2045 around 62% of the projected data center loads in Virginia are served by co-operatives in WCC's forecast; E3 examined the full statewide achievement cases for better understanding of a potential bookend scenario

All scenarios include current "on-the-books" federal policies, including the Inflation Reduction Act and EPA carbon dioxide regulations, as well as current state policies and targets in the rest of PJM; exploring scenarios incorporating potential changes to currently enacted policies and rules was outside the scope of this study

VCEA Achievement →

Higher Data Center Growth ↓

S1A *No data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA*	**S1B** *No data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA* *(current requirements)*	**S1C** *No data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA* *(beyond current requirements)*
S2A *Moderate data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA*	**S2B** *Moderate data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA*	**S2C** *Moderate data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA*
S3A *Unconstrained data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA*	**S3B** *Unconstrained data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA*	**S3C** *Unconstrained data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA*

*All references to VCEA compliance scenarios in the JLARC Report refer to existing VCEA requirements, or the "B" scenarios. Full statewide achievement of the VCEA in the "C" scenarios is strictly exploratory and only for reference in the E3 Report.

Overview of Scenarios and Sensitivities (2/2)

- **Across all core scenarios analyzed, constraints were implemented within the model to reflect the feasibility of building out new resources in Virginia within a given timeframe, based on historical pace of build, expected constraints on in-state development such as availability of land, and other factors**
  - Under the most aggressive scenario combining unconstrained data center growth with statewide VCEA achievement (**S3C**), which goes beyond current legislated requirements, E3 also examined bookend sensitivities in which specific constraints were relaxed:
    - **High In-State Renewables**: Higher levels of onshore wind available and accelerated deployment of offshore wind allowed in Virginia and North Carolina
    - **Regional Coordination**: Relaxed constraints on transmission build-out post-2035
    - **Nuclear Renaissance**: No constraints on nuclear build-out post-2035 such as on small modular reactors

VCEA Achievement →

Higher Data Center Growth ↓

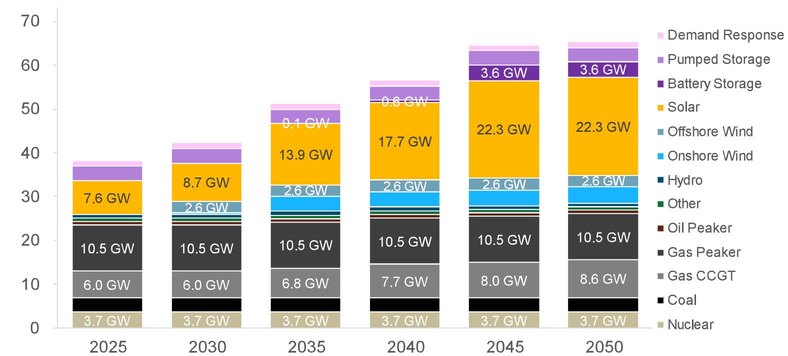
S1A *No data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA*	**S1B** *No data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA* *(current requirements)*	**S1C** *No data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA* *(beyond current requirements)*
S2A *Moderate data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA*	**S2B** *Moderate data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA*	**S2C** *Moderate data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA*
S3A *Unconstrained data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA*	**S3B** *Unconstrained data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA*	**S3C** *Unconstrained data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA*

Key Findings | Electric Infrastructure (1/4)

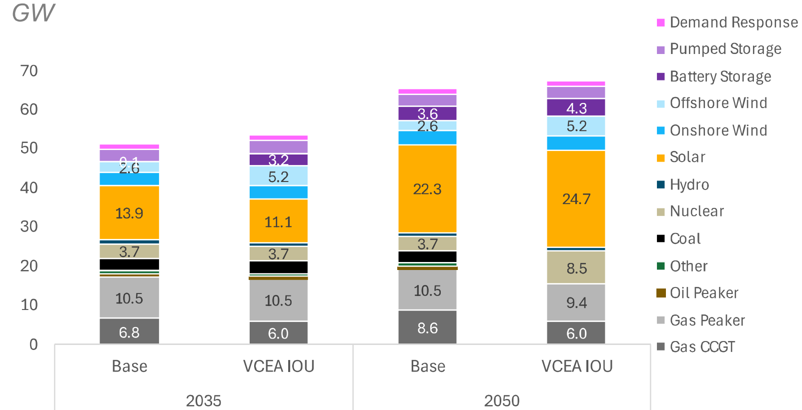
Achievement of VCEA Goals without Data Center Growth

1. **In the No Growth scenario without the VCEA, Virginia is projected to meet new demands through an expansion of solar and battery energy storage capacity, coupled with a moderate increase in natural gas generation capacity to meet reliability needs**
2. **In the No Growth scenario, achievement of the VCEA is projected to drive the development of new nuclear capacity (in the form of SMRs), additional solar builds, as well as conversion of gas facilities to hydrogen to meet system reliability needs**
    1) Incremental investments in renewable capacity driven by the VCEA are moderate and not outsized relative to planned and economic-driven investments
        1) Solar and battery storage are projected to be an economic part of Virginia's portfolio, with or without the VCEA
        2) In the near to medium term, the VCEA technology targets also drive the build-out of additional offshore wind, reducing the state's reliance on natural gas
    2) In the longer term, the VCEA requires the retirement of all carbon-emitting generation by 2045, which leads to a build-out of substantial amounts of nuclear capacity to replace generation from coal and gas, as well as a conversion of gas-fired units to hydrogen to remain online for electric system reliability needs, i.e. maintaining acceptable loss of load probability on a system level

Virginia Installed Capacity (S1A)
GW



Virginia Installed Capacity [1]
GW



[1] Unless otherwise noted, all gas capacity shown for VCEA cases in 2050 throughout this report represents gas resources that are converted to run hydrogen for compliance with state policy.

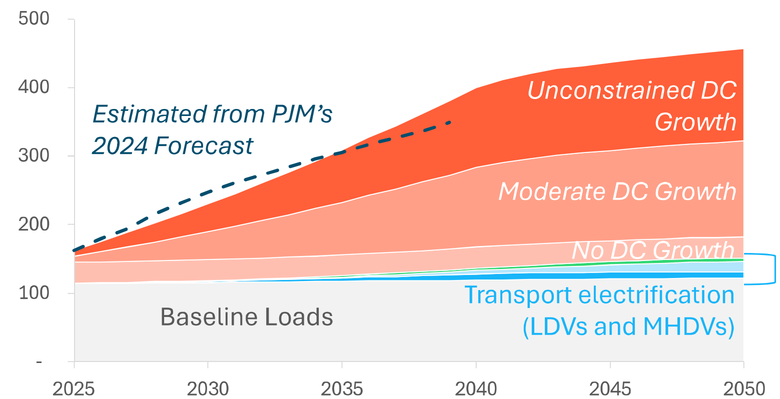
Key Findings | Electric Infrastructure (2/4)

Impacts of Data Center Growth on Total Demand and System Reliability Needs

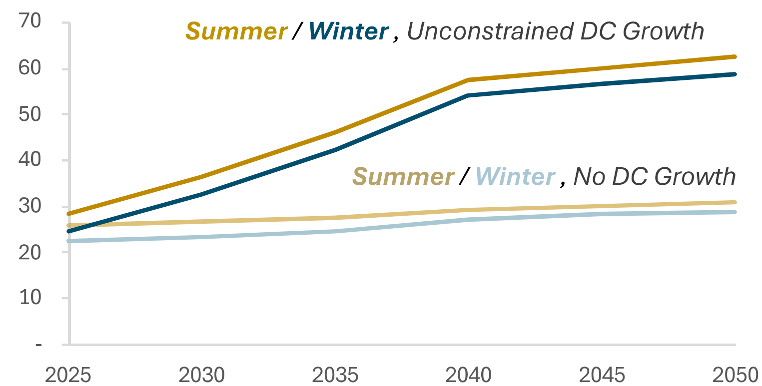
3. **If current trends continue, data center load growth could lead to as large as a tripling of electric sector demand in Virginia in the Unconstrained Data Center Growth scenarios, relative to today's levels, by 2050**

4. **This level of large and sustained demand growth driven by a single large customer type would be unprecedented in recent U.S. history, and would place significant pressure on system planners' ability to build sufficient generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure to keep pace**
   1) Peak demand in Virginia could increase to over 60 GW, requiring substantial investments in new infrastructure
   2) While data center computing loads do not vary significantly between seasons or within a day, the sheer volume of data center growth shifts the timing of reliability needs to times when total facility demand is marginally higher due to cooling needs, in the summer afternoons and evenings
   3) The high cooling demand of data centers which typical peak in afternoon summer hours, creates opportunities for synergistic pairings of solar and battery storage although their reliability contributions eventually saturate. Large quantities of firm, dispatchable capacity will also be needed to meet demand growth reliably

Virginia - Annual Load Projection (TWh)



Virginia - System 1-in-2 Peak Projection (GW)

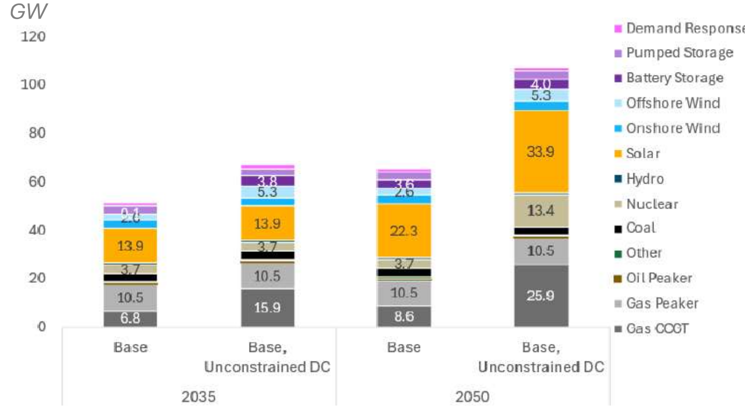


Key Findings | Electric Infrastructure (3/4)

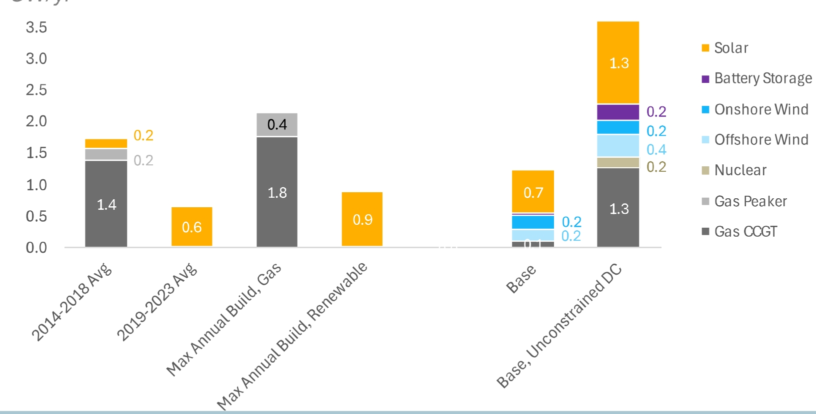
Impacts of Data Center Growth on Electric Infrastructure Needs

5. **In the absence of state policy, data center load growth is projected to drive a build-out of a diverse mix of resources, including gas, solar, nuclear, offshore wind, and battery storage**
6. **Without the VCEA in place, data center growth could lead to a significant increase in the region's reliance on gas generation**
   1) This expansion of gas capacity and generation would also lead to up to an ~80% increase in electric sector GHG emissions in the state; however, current EPA regulations would limit the run-times of new gas units and lead to a significant build-out of low-carbon generation as well, including new nuclear generation to meet baseload energy demands
7. **Meeting demand growth would require sustaining a very high pace of new capacity additions through 2040, including new resources that have not been widely deployed today such as SMRs and offshore wind**
   1) The pace of needed, continual electric infrastructure development is high compared to recent history (3.6 GW/yr needed on average over the next 15 years, compared to a historical single-year high of 2.2 GW/yr)
   2) As a result, infrastructure constraints could act as a constraint on data center growth in the near to medium term

Virginia Installed Capacity
GW



Annual Build Rate, Virginia [1]
GW/yr



[1] Scenario build rates represent the annual average build rate between 2025-2040.

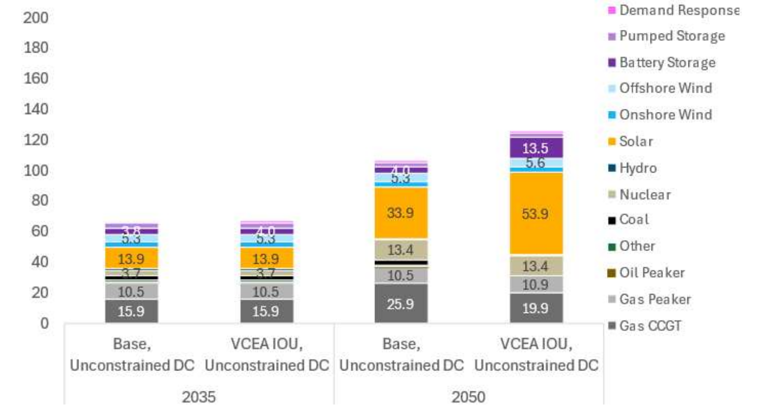
Key Findings | Electric Infrastructure (4/4)

Achievement of VCEA Goals with Data Center Growth

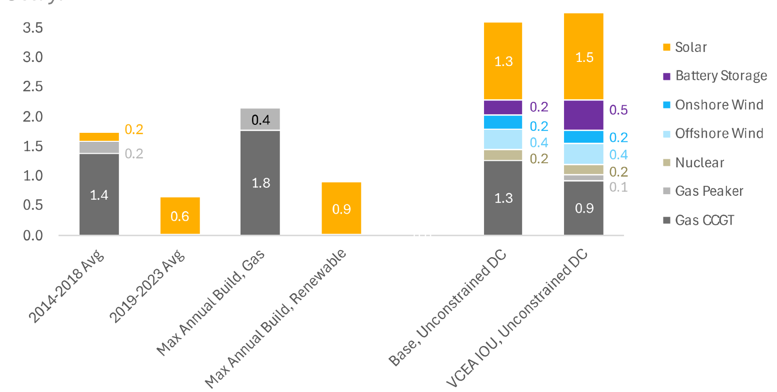
8. With the VCEA in place, Virginia would likely require unprecedented investments to accelerate the deployment of both existing and emerging clean energy resources

1) Under high levels of data center growth, achievement of the VCEA would drive a sustained acceleration of solar deployment compared to recent history (1.5 GW/yr over the next 15 years, compared to a single-year high of 0.9 GW/yr)
2) Achievement of the VCEA would also require transformative investments in several long lead-time resources by 2050, including new nuclear capacity (10 GW), hydrogen-capable combustion turbines (31 GW of new builds and retrofits) and associated production and delivery infrastructure, as well as new transmission capacity (8.7 GW) and a significant increase in the state's reliance on market purchases
   1) Building out one of these resources at the scale envisioned under this scenario would be challenging but potentially feasible with a significant investment of time and resources; however, building out each of these resources at this scale in parallel would require a sustained mobilization of capital and planning staff
3) In total, meeting unconstrained demand growth with clean energy would require a build-out of over 3.8 GW/yr between 2025-2040, including new nuclear, hydrogen, and offshore wind, compared to a single-year high of 2.2 GW/yr

Virginia Installed Capacity [1]
GW



Annual Build Rate, Virginia [2]
GW/yr



[1] Unless otherwise noted, all gas capacity shown for VCEA cases in 2050 throughout this report represents gas resources that are converted to run hydrogen for compliance with state policy.
[2] Scenario build rates represent the annual average build rate between 2025-2040.

Key Findings | Retail Rate Equity

1. **Current rates appropriately apportion costs to classes and customers responsible for incurring them including large loads like data centers, which means there has been no historic cost shifting based on our analysis**
2. **Load growth is expected to increase system costs in Virginia with some effects directly attributable to new large loads (i.e., data centers)**
3. **Fixed costs associated with generation and transmission are difficult to effectively assign; these represent the largest sources of potential ratepayer inequity with data center growth vs. distribution costs that can be more easily assigned to specific customers**
    1) Generally, specific load interconnection costs (such as at the distribution level) are easily assessed and recovered; likewise, incremental variable costs associated with energy or demand, can also be effectively measured and assigned
    2) Periodic adjustment of retail rate design and cost allocation factors will mitigate some impacts of potential and unintended cross-subsidization between rate classes; however, without frequent and precise adjustments and/or significant rate reform, the cumulative impact of data center load growth is projected to cause cost shifts between ratepayers that may be inequitable
4. **Ultimately, while it is possible to scale the existing, embedded (average cost based on existing infrastructure) rate structure to accommodate data center loads accounting for the marginal costs to serve that new load in a manner that is equitable for existing ratepayers, the cost shifting risk from a variety of sources makes the path to navigate that transition complex and potentially narrow**
    1) One such source of risk, beyond the scope of this study, would be the impacts of the scale of investments (and associated risk of those investments) on utility balance sheets, which has the potential to raise borrowing costs and thus increase costs for existing ratepayers
    2) Adjustments to rate structures can be implemented to reduce risks and improve proper apportioning of costs while still promoting strong economic development and allowing access to potential benefits associated with data center growth; tools to mitigate rate impact might include: Improving frequency of updates for cost allocation factors; assessing additional charges for data centers that further balance costs; improving forecasting of data center demand through features like a waitlist for service that can derisk load attrition; implementation of long-term service commitments that may include more significant minimum charges, ramping provisions, exit fees, and/or contract length; promoting self supply of resources; or more direct assignment of new infrastructure costs as well as increased credit or collateral protection for the utility and its ratepayers

Key Sources of Uncertainty | Infrastructure

Scenario analysis was performed to examine uncertainty surrounding load growth trajectories as well as the impacts of VCEA compliance. However, there are many sources of uncertainty that warrant further exploration that were not examined within this study.

Key sources of uncertainty that would impact the infrastructure findings include but are not limited to:

- **Magnitude and timing of computing loads |** This study examined two scenarios for future computing load growth provided to E3 by the Weldon Cooper Center at UVA. The study assumed that data center loads in Virginia continue to primarily consist of flat, inflexible/non-interruptible load, due to the attractiveness of low latency infrastructure in Virginia. However, advances in chip efficiency, overall data center design and power usage, and/or ability to utilize on-site or adjacent generation resources could reduce the amount of power that needs to be supplied to data centers. Additionally, some portion of projected data center load may be used for artificial intelligence training, which is expected to be a much more flexible load relative to conventional computing because it may have less stringent latency requirements as well as response time in addition to future AI driven workloads that may also not require stringent latency requirements with flexibility on completion timing.
- **Federal and regional policy uncertainty |** This study kept demand growth in the rest of the PJM region consistent across scenarios, leveraging PJM's publicly available forecast, e.g. it includes data center load growth across the region. Additionally, the modeling assumed that all states meet their currently legislated policies and do not alter their policy ambition, and that existing federal policies (e.g. Inflation Reduction Act, EPA carbon limits) remain in place. As an interconnected market, any shifts in the overall supply and demand balance in the rest of PJM will impact Virginia's own infrastructure needs and associated costs as well as the overall PJM market prices for energy and capacity along with regional renewable energy credit or environmental attribute prices.
- **Resource costs |** This study leveraged publicly available cost projections to represent the costs of future technologies, relying primarily on the Annual Technology Baseline "Mid" trajectory published by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, with adjustments to reflect regional and state-specific costs for materials, labor, etc. The trajectory of future technology costs is uncertain, and that uncertainty grows over time; this study did not explore the sensitivity of results to changes in the future costs of technologies.
- **Resource availability and pace of deployment |** This study applied near-term constraints that limited the pace of technology additions to historical maxima; after 2035, the model was unconstrained in its build-out of resources (although costs are escalated within a given region as lower-cost sites are exhausted). However, siting, permitting, and interconnection processes are time-intensive and the pace of resource additions may continue to be limited by regional, state, and/or local constraints on development. E3 notes that all new bulk system infrastructure, including nuclear, new natural gas, new renewables, energy storage, and new transmission, each face constraints on their development.
- **Emerging technologies |** This study assumed that new nuclear power plants, and in the VCEA case, hydrogen-fired combustion plants, would be available after 2035. However, neither of these technologies has been deployed at commercial scale to-date, and if either or both of these resources do not become commercially available, this would alter Virginia's portfolio under each scenario. Each of these technologies also faces even greater cost uncertainty than technologies that are available today given their readiness levels.
- **Transmission and imports |** Related to policy uncertainty in the rest of PJM, this study assumes that Virginia is able to continue – and in many scenarios, expand – its reliance on imported capacity and energy from the PJM market. If the market is more constrained than projected, Virginia may not be able to expand its trading capabilities across the region.

Key Sources of Uncertainty | Retail Rate Equity

Scenario analysis was performed to examine uncertainty surrounding load growth trajectories as well as the impacts of VCEA compliance; however, there are a number of sources of uncertainty that warrant further exploration that were not examined within this study.

In addition to the sources of uncertainty detailed above for the infrastructure analysis, key sources of uncertainty that would impact the retail rate equity findings include but are not limited to:

+ **Risk of load departures |** There is a fundamental misalignment in the timescales of investments being made in generation and transmission infrastructure relative to the lifetime of data center facilities. Electric infrastructure consists of long lifetime assets (often 30+years) whose costs are allocated to electric ratepayers across many decades. However, data center facilities depreciate quickly, and this presents risks that companies and facilities choose to leave the region or that their demand shrinks considerably, in which case infrastructure would be "overbuilt" and remaining customers on the system – including residential ratepayers – would be required to pay significantly more in order for the utility to recover the costs of its investments.

+ **Impacts on PJM market prices |** Although this study captured Virginia's position within the broader PJM market, the model assumes that the market is able to reach equilibrium in the long run. However, constraints on the pace of infrastructure development, coupled with high levels of data center growth, has the potential to place continued strain on region-wide capacity, energy, and renewable energy credit prices. The resulting market scarcity, and corresponding increases in prices, could place additional pressure on non-data center customers. This may also trigger various market reforms and actions by other market participants that impact price formation in the PJM market which was not analyzed.

+ **Impacts of expenditures on utility balance sheets |** The scale of investments required to meet data center load growth can place significant pressure on an investor owned utility's balance sheet or a public utility's borrowing ability as it brings on more capital to finance these investments. This may in turn lead to increasing costs given the scale of the capital and perceived risk around the utilization and recovery of the costs including a fair return on these infrastructure investments, which could impact all utility ratepayers.

+ **Rate design of utilities not examined in this study |** While this study performed a detailed review of rate design for utilities where major data center development is expected to occur, like NOVEC and Dominion, there may be other utilities in Virginia that manage data center costs and load growth in ways not considered herein including novel structures.

Study Background

Energy+Environmental Economics

Data Center Growth in Virginia

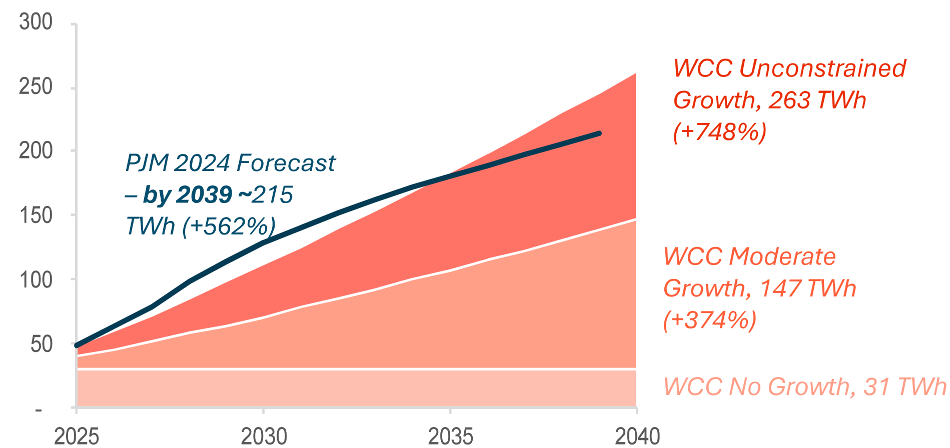
+ **Northern Virginia has the highest concentration of data centers globally and remains the fastest-growing market**
  - About 70 percent of **global internet traffic** flows through northern Virginia, according to certain estimates[1]
  - Most facilities are served by Dominion Energy, an investor-owned utility that is the state's largest load serving entity (LSE)
  - The rest of the state is a secondary market, with the central and southern regions seeing increasing development, served by Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC) and other non-profit co-ops
+ **The recent boom in data center growth has driven a significant uptick in energy demand in Virginia**
  - Dominion's 2024 IRP highlighted that metered data center demand growth doubled from 2017 to 2020 and again from 2020 to 2024
  - This growth is not expected to subside soon, with Dominion forecasting data center peak demand reaching 9 GW (contributing to a 25% increase above current total system peak) in the next 10 years
  - However, there is significant uncertainty around key variables that could greatly reduce demand forecasts, such as processor efficiency improvements and new technologies such as liquid cooling
+ **Data center growth is impacting the broader PJM region as well**
  - PJM capacity market auction prices recently hit record highs, due in part to a significant increase in energy demand from data centers, combined with supply challenges such as from power plant retirements and congested interconnection queues
  - These increased costs can lead to higher rates for customers across the region, including neighboring states
+ **Geographically, data center demand is and will likely continue to be highly uneven, with data centers tending to cluster, suggesting Virginia will continue to be a major market**

[1] Source: https://www.novaregion.org/1598/Data-Centers; https://www.vedp.org/news/dawn-data

Data Center Growth Scenarios

+ **UVA's WCC researches a wide variety of issues and provides data and services to communities, governments and public sector leaders, with particular expertise in Virginia energy markets, policy and demand forecasting**
+ **WCC developed load projections for 3 data center growth scenarios**
  - The Unconstrained and No Growth scenarios serving as bookends to illustrate the difference between a sustained unconstrained growth BAU scenario vs. a counterfactual of no growth post 2023
  - The WCC scenario projections focused on data center growth in Virginia, assuming it is all located in the DOM transmission zone (including customers of Dominion, NOVEC, and Rappahannock)
    - The PJM public forecast was used for data centers outside DOM and VA - in AEP, APS, and East – and kept constant across scenarios
  - The WCC "Unconstrained" projections are generally aligned with the public 2024 PJM load forecast
+ **WCC also provided load projections for Virginia for baseline loads and vehicle electrification loads by utility, in order to capture the rest of the Commonwealth's system with the same level of detail**

Virginia - **Data Center Load Projections**
Annual Load, TWh

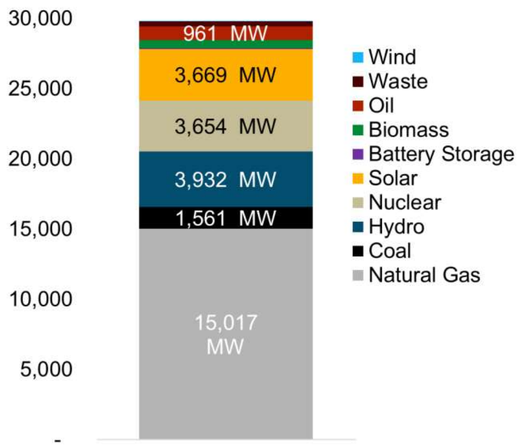


Note: WCC data center growth projections were developed for Virginia, assuming all growth occurs in the DOM transmission zone. Unless otherwise specified, all references to demand and infrastructure build-out in the Dominion area or "DOM Zone" throughout this deck refer to the entire **Dominion transmission zone** within PJM, not just sales and generation provided by the Dominion utility.

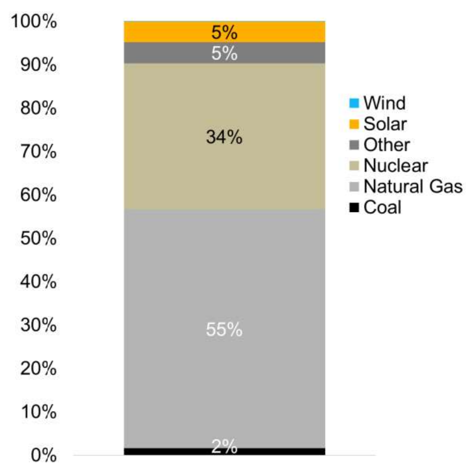
Electric Resource Mix in Virginia | 2023

- Virginia's existing resource mix is largely natural gas, representing 50% of the installed capacity and 55% of in-state generation in 2023
- Nuclear was the second largest segment representing 12% of installed capacity and 34% of generation in 2023
- While renewables are only a minority of Virginia's existing resource mix, solar and storage makes up a large share of capacity in the Interconnection Queue (55% solar; 33% storage)

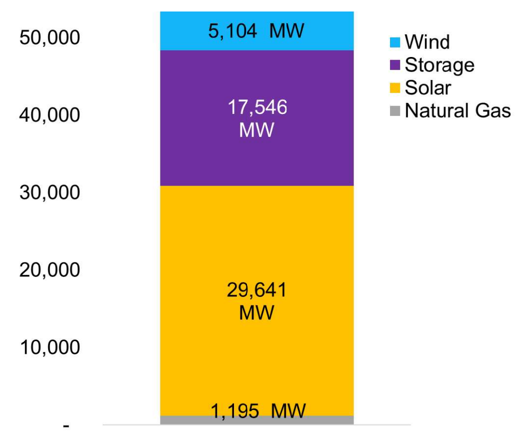
Virginia Existing Capacity 2023 [1]
MW



Virginia Annual Generation 2023 [2]
% of generation mix



Virginia Queued Capacity "Active" in PJM Queue as of April 1, 2024 [2]
MW



[1] EIA, 2023 [2] https://pjm.com/-/media/library/reports-notices/state-specific-reports/2023/virginia.ashx

Policy Landscape in Virginia

+ **In 2020, the Virginia legislature passed the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA), which commits the state to an ambitious clean energy transition via several key provisions:**
  - Zero-Carbon Electricity: Established a mandatory renewable portfolio standard (RPS) program requiring the investor-owned utilities such as Dominion Energy and American Electric Power (AEP) to deliver electricity from renewable and other zero-carbon sources by 2045 and 2050 respectively
    - 100% of sales not met by non-renewable forms of zero-carbon electricity (e.g. nuclear) must be supplied by renewables
    - Of the zero-carbon electricity supplied by renewables, 75 percent of generation must be supplied by in-state projects; the remaining 25 percent can be supplied in the form of "unbundled" RECs purchased from out of state renewable projects
    - 16 GW of in-state solar and onshore wind, 5 GW of offshore wind and 3 GW of energy storage were determined to be "in the public interest"
    - Requires the retirement of existing fossil fuel plants by 2045 except when addressing specific reliability concerns; prior to 2045; requires the SCC to consider the social cost of carbon when considering construction of a new generating facility
  - Established schedule of noncompliance deficiency payments, starting at $45 to $75 per MWh and increasing by 1% annually after 2021
  - The legislation also includes important provisions to advance Environmental Justice and Energy Efficiency objectives, which are not modeled and are beyond the scope of this study
+ **Status of VCEA Compliance and Planning**
  - Utilities in the state, including Dominion, have expressed concerns about costs and implementation timelines in light of projected data center demand growth
    - Dominion's 2024 IRP stated the modeled compliance case, with no new gas and no fossil retirements by 2045, is infeasible due to the unrealistic amount of imports and renewable builds that would also cause reliability concerns
    - SCC has indicated concerns, such as in response to past IRPs, about Dominion's progress in complying with VCEA and identifying least cost options
+ **Virginia recently attempted to withdraw from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI); however, the Circuit Court of Floyd County recently ruled that the withdrawal was unlawful and without effect. This study assumed no RGGI requirement for Virginia since the analysis was performed prior to the recent court ruling**

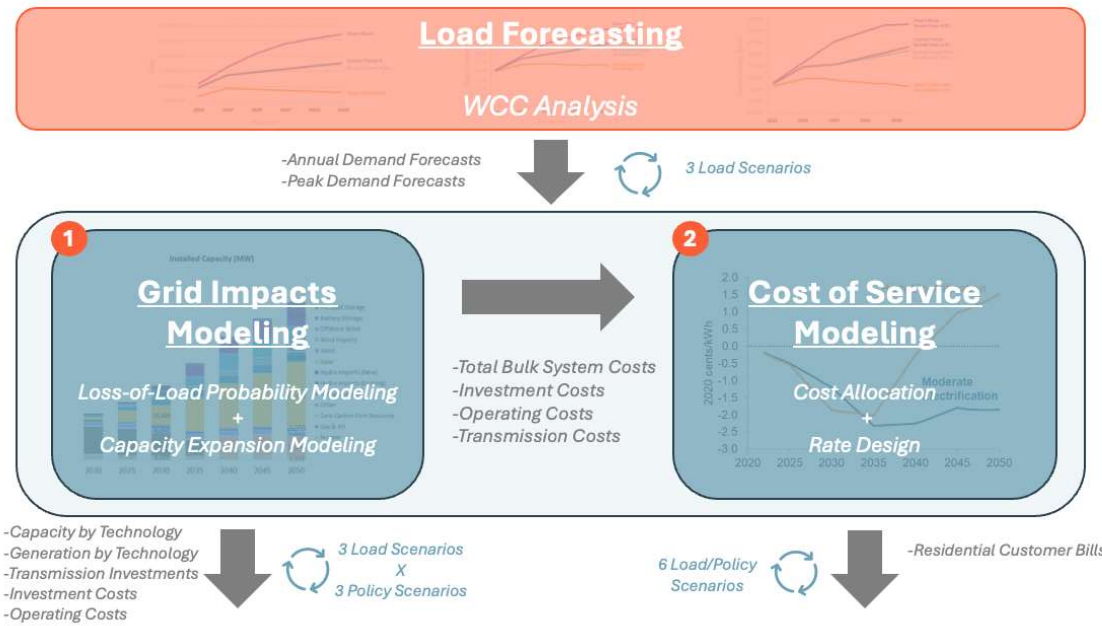
https://energy.virginia.gov/renewable-energy/documents/VCEASummary.pdf
https://cdn-dominionenergy-prd-001.azureedge.net/-/media/pdfs/global/company/irp/2024-irp-w_o-appendices.pdf?rev=c03a36c512024003ae9606a6b6a239f3
https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2023/june/name-1005558-en.html

Scope of Work

Energy+Environmental Economics

Scope of Work and Analytical Framework

- E3 was commissioned by JLARC to examine the impacts of data center growth on electric infrastructure needs and associated costs, as well as the distribution of these costs across customer classes
- Data center growth projections under a Moderate and Unconstrained scenario were provided by WCC as inputs into E3's analysis
- E3 leveraged its in-house electric sector models, RECAP[1] and RESOLVE[2], to identify the least-cost portfolios to meet load growth while also achieving policy goals and maintaining reliability
- Electric sector infrastructure investments were then assessed through a Cost of Service framework to examine existing and modified rate designs and the distributional impacts of these investments under different methods



The Grid Impacts Modeling included the entire PJM region while focusing on data center load growth projections from WCC for the DOM transmission zone. The Cost of Service assessment then focused on three load-serving entities within the DOM transmission zone (Dominion, Mecklenburg electric co-op (MEC), and Northern Virginia electric co-op (NOVEC)).

[1] https://www.ethree.com/tools/recap-renewable-energy-capacity-planning-model/
[2] https://www.ethree.com/tools/resolve/

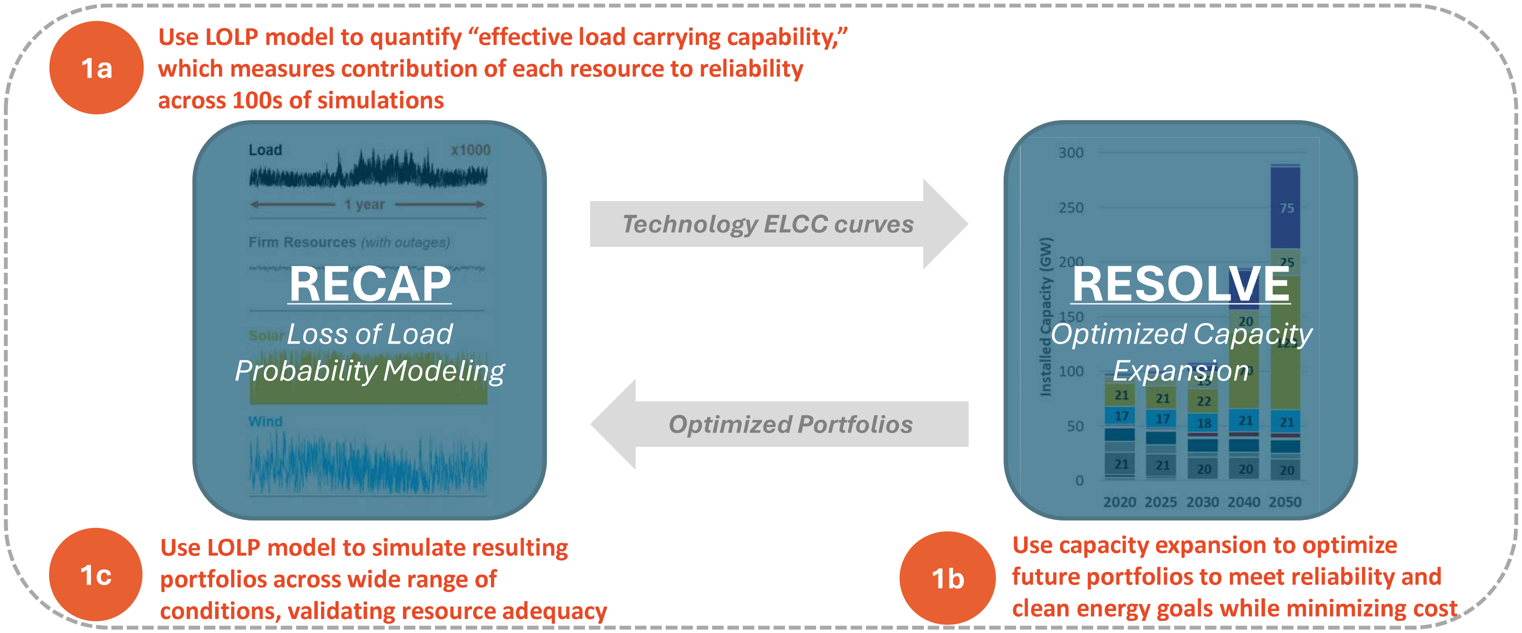
Electric Infrastructure Study Overview

<u>Key Objective of Infrastructure Analysis</u>: Examine electricity system infrastructure and associated investments required to meet the VCEA goals under a wide range of potential data center-driven load growth scenarios

*To perform this work, E3 leveraged a **capacity expansion model** in tandem with a **loss of load probability model**, in order to ensure the resulting portfolios are reliable over a broad range of weather conditions.*

E3 modeled the entire PJM region within its capacity expansion framework to allow more detailed examination of the interaction between Virginia and the broader market in the context of rapid data center growth. However, by design we did not model the PJM market construct precisely in terms of price formation of energy and capacity prices.

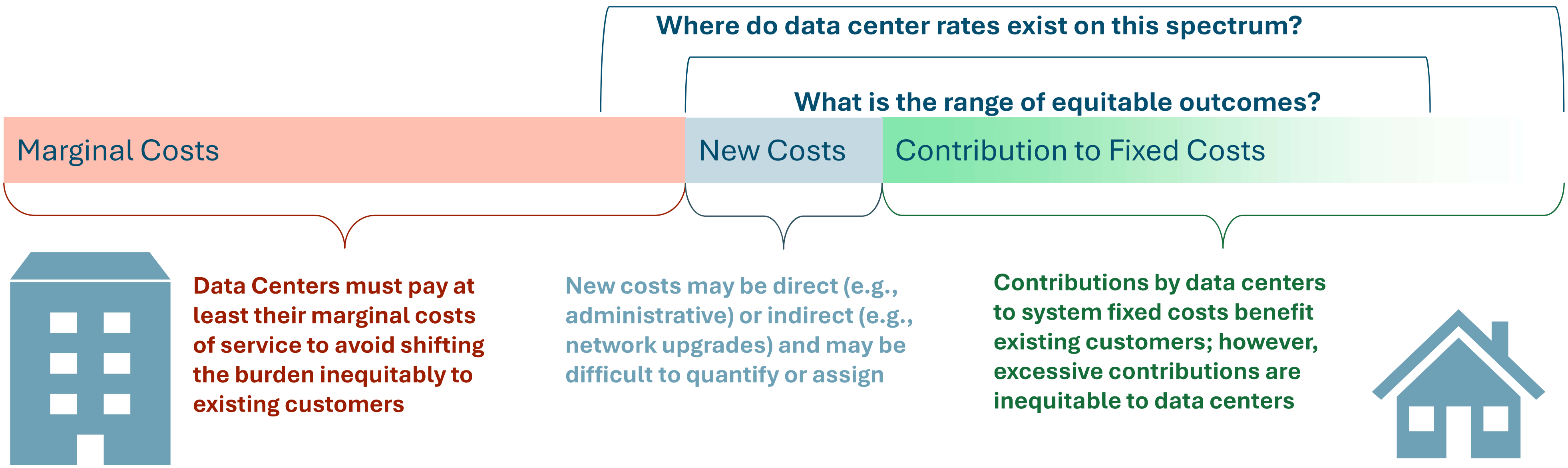
This analytical framework identifies the total infrastructure requirements but does not distinguish between utility-owned infrastructure vs. 3rd party owned vs. "behind-the-meter" generation at data center facilities.



Rate Impact Study Overview

Key Objective of Rate Impact Analysis: Determine if current rate and fee structures lead to an equitable distribution of costs between data centers and other customers

How does the magnitude and pace of data center growth in Virginia influence these cost components?



Overview of Scenarios and Sensitivities (1/2)

Scenarios for this analysis were constructed to examine the impacts of data centers on the Virginia electric system along two dimensions:

1. **Levels of data center growth**
   - [Counterfactual] No Data Center Growth ("S1" cases)
   - Moderate (half of Unconstrained) Data Center Growth ("S2" cases)
   - Unconstrained Data Center Growth ("S3" cases)
2. **Levels of VCEA achievement**
   - [Counterfactual] No VCEA Compliance ("A" cases)
   - Achievement of VCEA by Investor-Owned Utilities ("B" cases)
     – The VCEA only applies to investor-owned utilities, and electric co-operatives are exempt from the VCEA requirements; in other words, the "B" cases are consistent with current law.*
   - Full Statewide Achievement of VCEA requirements ("C" cases)
     – By 2045 around 62% of the projected data center loads in Virginia are served by co-operatives in WCC's forecast; E3 examined the full statewide achievement cases for better understanding of a potential bookend scenario

All scenarios include current "on-the-books" federal policies, including the Inflation Reduction Act and EPA carbon dioxide regulations, as well as current state policies and targets in the rest of PJM; exploring scenarios incorporating potential changes to currently enacted policies and rules was outside the scope of this study

VCEA Achievement →

Higher Data Center Growth ↓

S1A *No data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA*	**S1B** *No data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA* *(current requirements)*	**S1C** *No data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA* *(beyond current requirements)*
S2A *Moderate data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA*	**S2B** *Moderate data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA*	**S2C** *Moderate data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA*
S3A *Unconstrained data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA*	**S3B** *Unconstrained data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA*	**S3C** *Unconstrained data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA*

*All references to VCEA compliance scenarios in the JLARC Report refer to existing VCEA requirements, or the "B" scenarios. Full statewide achievement of the VCEA in the "C" scenarios is strictly exploratory and only for reference in the E3 Report.

Overview of Scenarios and Sensitivities (2/2)

- **Across all core scenarios analyzed, constraints were implemented within the model to reflect the feasibility of building out new resources in Virginia within a given timeframe, based on historical pace of build, expected constraints on in-state development such as availability of land, and other factors**
  - Under the most aggressive scenario combining unconstrained data center growth with statewide VCEA achievement (**S3C**), which goes beyond current legislated requirements, E3 also examined bookend sensitivities in which specific constraints were relaxed:
    - **High In-State Renewables**: Higher levels of onshore wind available and accelerated deployment of offshore wind allowed in Virginia and North Carolina
    - **Regional Coordination**: Relaxed constraints on transmission build-out post-2035
    - **Nuclear Renaissance**: No constraints on nuclear build-out post-2035 such as on small modular reactors

VCEA Achievement →

Higher Data Center Growth ↓

S1A	S1B	S1C
No data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA	*No data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA* *(current requirements)*	*No data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA* *(beyond current requirements)*
S2A	**S2B**	**S2C**
Moderate data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA	*Moderate data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA*	*Moderate data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA*
S3A	**S3B**	**S3C**
Unconstrained data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA	*Unconstrained data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA*	*Unconstrained data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA*

Contextualizing this Study within the PJM Market

- **The modeling framework for this study relied on a PJM-wide capacity expansion framework, which allowed us to endogenously capture key market dynamics between Virginia utilities and the rest of PJM at a high level. This modeling assumes that the region can achieve long-run equilibrium; constraints on the pace of infrastructure development may remain a limiting factor in practice**
- **This study leveraged publicly available inputs and assumptions for the rest of PJM, e.g. using load growth projections from the 2024 PJM load forecast and assuming that all other states in the region meet their existing policy targets**
  - This study was narrowly focused on the impacts of different data center growth trajectories **within Virginia**; in other words, the amount of data center-driven load growth in all other states in the region was held constant across all scenarios at the levels assumed in the PJM 2024 load forecast
  - Similarly, policies in all neighboring states were held constant across all scenarios
- **The capacity expansion framework allowed Virginia utilities to access capacity and RECs from outside of their service territories; however, it is important to note that this was a high-level representation and did not seek to directly capture the nuanced dynamics of capacity and REC markets:**
  - **Capacity:** Dominion was assumed to be able to purchase capacity from the PJM market at a fixed price up to 3 GW, after which it would also need to build new transmission to access firm capacity
  - **RECs:** The capacity expansion model was able to build out-of-state renewables to meet the VCEA, up to the 25% limit. Note that this study did not consider the potential for Accelerated Renewable Energy Buyers to purchase their own RECs, which are not subject to the in-state requirements
- **While beyond the scope of this study, a detailed exploration of the impacts of data center growth on PJM capacity and REC markets is a worthwhile subject for future analysis, in order to more comprehensively understand how changes in these markets and corresponding price impacts will affect affordability in Virginia and the region as a whole**

Data Center Load Growth Projections

Key Finding #3: *If current trends continue, data center load growth could lead to as large as a tripling of electric sector demand in Virginia in the Unconstrained Data Center Growth scenarios, relative to today's levels, by 2050*

Key Finding #4: *This level of large and sustained demand growth driven by a single large customer type would be unprecedented in recent U.S. history, and would place significant pressure on system planners' ability to build sufficient generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure to keep pace*

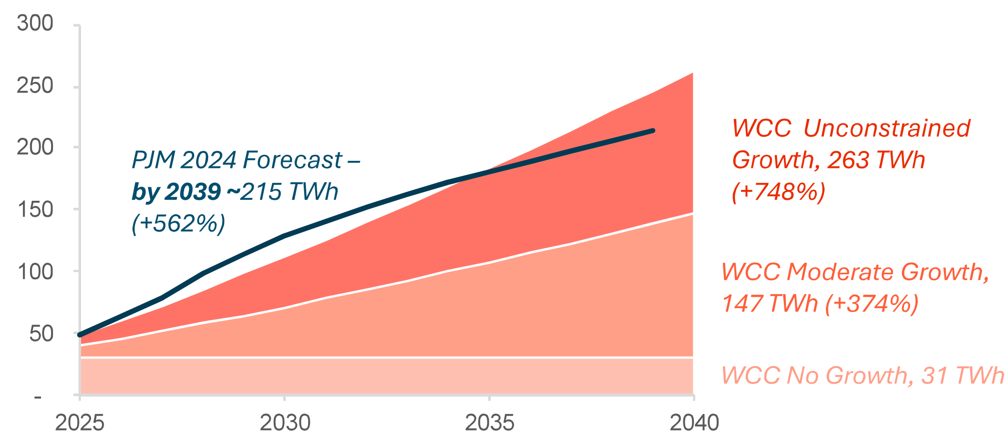
Energy+Environmental Economics

Data Center Load Projections from WCC

+ **UVA's WCC developed load projections for 2024-2040 for 3 data center growth scenarios**
  - The Unconstrained and No Growth scenarios serving as bookends to illustrate the difference between a sustained unconstrained growth BAU scenario vs. a counterfactual of no growth post 2023
  - The WCC scenario projections focused on data center growth in Virginia, assuming it is all located in the DOM transmission zone (including customers of Dominion, NOVEC, and Rappahannock)
    - The 2024 PJM public forecast was used for data centers outside DOM and VA - in AEP, APS, and East – and kept constant across scenarios

+ **The WCC projections are generally aligned with the 2024 PJM load forecast**
  - PJM forecasted that 2039 peak data center demand in DOM will be close to 25 GW, which translates to ~215 TWh annual loads with E3's estimated load factor and losses

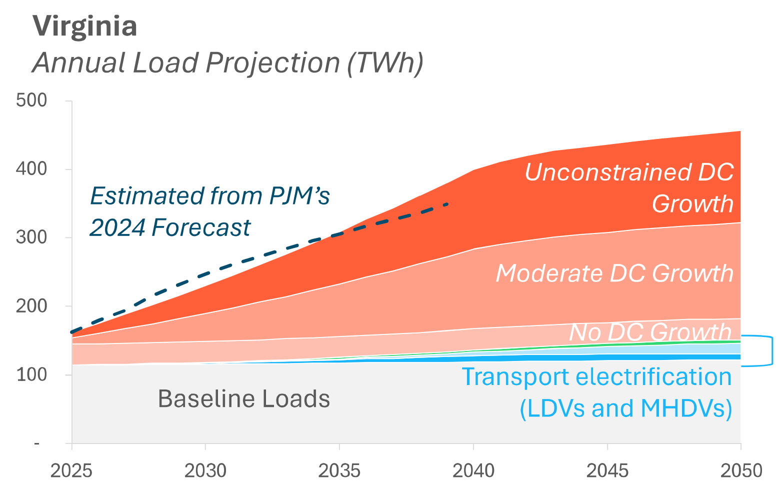
Virginia - Data Center Load Projections
Annual Load, TWh



Note: WCC data center growth projections were developed for Virginia, assuming all growth occurs in the DOM transmission zone. Unless otherwise specified, all references to demand and infrastructure build-out in the Dominion area or "DOM Zone" throughout this deck refer to the entire **Dominion transmission zone** within PJM, not just sales and generation provided by the Dominion utility.

Virginia Annual Load Projections

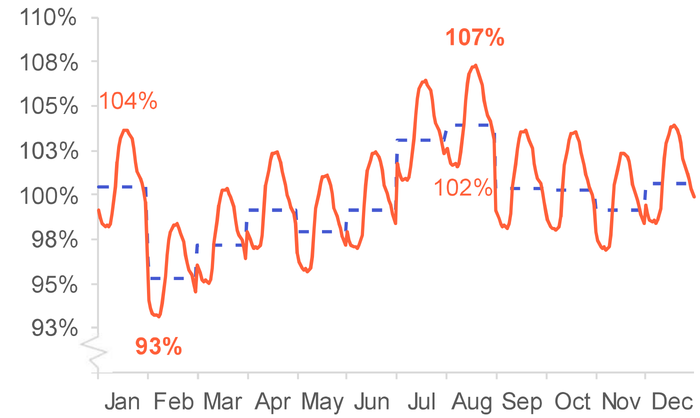
- **WCC also provided projections for Virginia for baseline residential and commercial loads as well as vehicle electrification loads by utility, in order to capture the rest of the Commonwealth's system with the same level of details**
- **Annual energy demand in Virginia, before data centers, grows steadily around 1% per year, leading to a cumulative growth of 26% in Virginia by 2050**
  - The non-data center load forecasts are extended beyond 2040 with constant growth rates
- **The ~300 TWh of data center loads by 2050 under the Unconstrained Data Center Growth scenarios triple loads in Virginia**
  - Only data center loads in Dominion, from WCC's forecast, are assumed for Virginia
  - After 2040, when WCC's forecast ends, E3 assumes data center load growth slows down to 1%/year



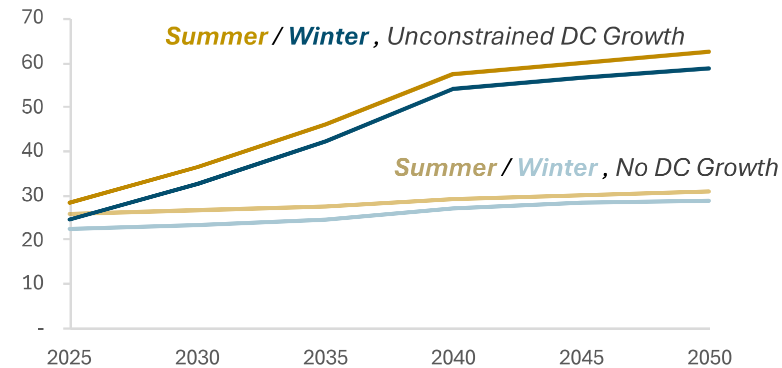
Peak Load Projections

- **Peak demand is calculated by applying hourly load profiles for the baseline loads, electrification loads, and data center loads, respectively**
- **In the next few decades, baseline load and transportation electrification load grows steadily in both Virginia and PJM-wide**
  - In both regions, system slowly transitions from summer peaking to dual peaking by 2050, without data center load growth
- **With the growth of data centers, the system remains summer peaking in Virginia**
  - Data centers more than double Virginia's peak load by 2050 in the Unconstrained Growth case
  - The difference between summer and winter data center peak loads is only around 3%, but given the magnitude of these loads this effect is noticeable

Month-hour Data Center Load Profile
% of average annual load



Virginia - System 1-in-2 Peak Projection (GW)



Grid Impact Analysis

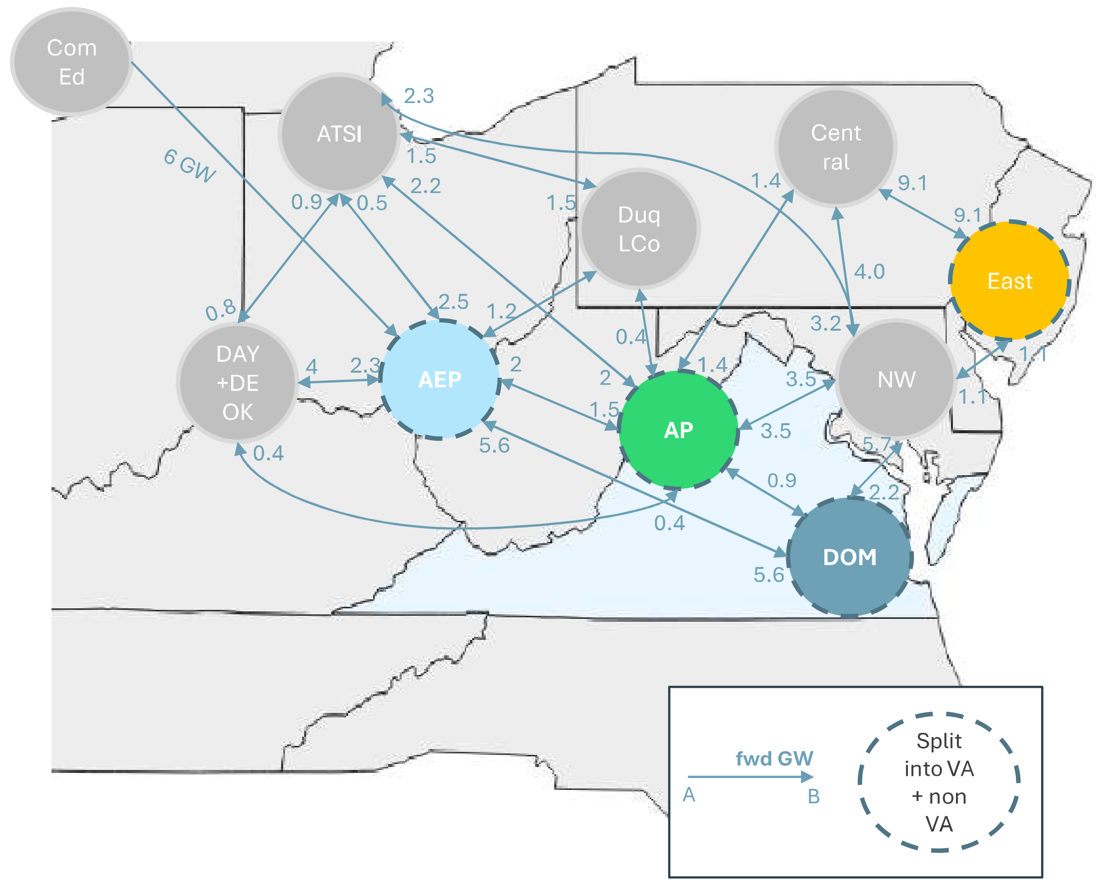
Energy+Environmental Economics

Modeling Framework and Key Assumptions

Energy+Environmental Economics

Capacity Expansion Topology

- **E3 modeled capacity expansion for the PJM market in RESOLVE with 10 load and capacity zones - with those overlapping with Virginia (DOM, AEP, AP, East) broken into VA vs non-VA subzones**
  - This topology allows us to model VA specific assumptions and constraints (e.g. WCC's load forecast and VCEA policies) while capturing the broader market dynamics within PJM
  - Transmission constraints between these zones are derived from information provided by Energy Exemplar
  - Transmission upgrades between DOM and its neighboring zones (AEP, AP, and NW) are modeled as an option to allow more detailed examination of transmission infrastructure upgrade needs to support data center load growth in Northern Virginia
- **The modeling horizon covers 2025-2050 for this study**



Key Modeling Assumptions

+ **Load Forecasts** derived from information provided by WCC and published by PJM (2024)
+ **Existing Resources** grouped by zones, technology, fuel, and quality tiers (e.g. high/mid/low heat rates for thermal units)
  - Planned resources expected through 2027/2028 included as expected additions
+ **Candidate Renewable Resource Potential** drawn from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) ReEDS supply curve
  - Potentials, capacity factors, and interconnection costs for solar PV, onshore wind, and offshore wind candidate resources
+ **Candidate Resource Costs** developed leveraging NREL's 2024 Annual Technology Baseline (ATB) forecast and standard E3 financing assumptions
  - Includes escalating local network upgrade costs for renewables which are developed based on transmission projects recently approved by PJM in the DOM zone, in addition to the specific resource interconnection costs from NREL ReEDS
+ **Policy Assumptions**
  - EPA regulations, post 2030, constrain new gas builds to a 40% annual capacity factor and require existing coal units to co-fire with natural gas
  - RGGI modeled for participating states (NJ, MD, DE) in the East transmission zone, with price forecast developed by E3
  - States' RPS policy and clean energy carveouts modeled
  - VCEA requirements considered in the VCEA compliance scenarios

Regional and Sub-Regional Resource Build Limits

+ **Build limits are implemented by technology, location, and future model year**
  - *Resource potentials* - Based on NREL ReEDs and with further adjustments, each resource type has a **total potential build amount** available for each of several subzones (also known as NREL's "p-zones"). These potentials inform the **quality and location** for an exhaustive list of candidate resources.
  - *Interconnection limits* – Based on geographical location relative to the grid and **how much new transmission would need to be built** to link resources to the existing grid. These limits also dictates the **pace of resource potential availability** over the modeling period, assuming further out resources are not available right away in 2030 and 2035.
  - *Build rate limits* – Based on historical build rates and the interconnection queue by zone and by technology, the model constrains **how much can reasonably be built by 2030** (more stringent) and by 2035 (less stringent) in each major zone. These **build rates apply to renewables as well as thermal resources and storage**.
+ **The amount of capacity that can be added in a given area also incurs higher transmission network upgrade costs**
  - *Deliverability limits* – Based on estimated **grid upgrade requirements** in each subzone, new renewable resources need to be accompanied by substation and transmission line upgrades which have their own **implied costs and upgrade rate limits**. Solar and wind resources in the same subzones share the same deliverability limits and required upgrade costs.

Scenario Matrix

Assumptions/Scenarios	No DC Growth No VCEA	No DC Growth With VCEA	Moderate/Unconstrained DC Growth No VCEA	Moderate/Unconstrained DC Growth With VCEA
Load	No Data Center load growth in VA post 2023	No Data Center load growth in VA post 2023	Moderate or Unconstrained Data Center load growth	Moderate or Unconstrained Data Center load growth
VCEA Compliance	No	Yes (IOU or Statewide)	No	Yes (IOU or Statewide)
Existing Thermal	Economic Retirement	Coal/oil/biomass retire in 2045; Gas optional to convert to hydrogen by 2045 with incremental costs	Economic Retirement	Coal/oil/biomass retire in 2045; Gas optional to convert to hydrogen by 2045 with incremental costs
Candidate Renewables, Storage, Gas	Build rate limits through 2035	Build rate limits through 2035	Build rate limits through 2035	Build rate limits through 2035
Hydrogen	Not available	Available [1]	Not Available	Available [1]
SMR (nuclear)	Not available	Available 2035+ with build limits	Available 2035+ with build limits	Available 2035+ with build limits
Capacity Purchases and Transmission Upgrades	Capacity purchase allowed up to 3 GW; No transmission upgrade allowed	Capacity purchase allowed up to 3 GW; No transmission upgrade allowed	Capacity purchase allowed with transmission upgrades required beyond 3 GW; Transmission upgrades allowed post 2035+ with limits	Capacity purchase allowed with transmission upgrades required beyond 3 GW; Transmission upgrades allowed post 2035+ with limits

[1] The consumption of hydrogen for power generation would also require additional fuel delivery and storage infrastructure; the costs of such infrastructure is captured at a high level on a $/MMBtu basis. However, these costs assume that Virginia is able to access a robust regional hydrogen economy that is already in place in the future, and costs would be higher if Virginia is building new / first-of-a-kind infrastructure.

Impacts of Data Center Load Growth on System Reliability Needs

Key Finding #4-2: *While data center computing loads do not vary significantly between seasons or within a day, the sheer volume of data center growth shifts the timing of reliability needs to times when total facility demand is marginally higher due to cooling needs, in the summer afternoons and evenings*

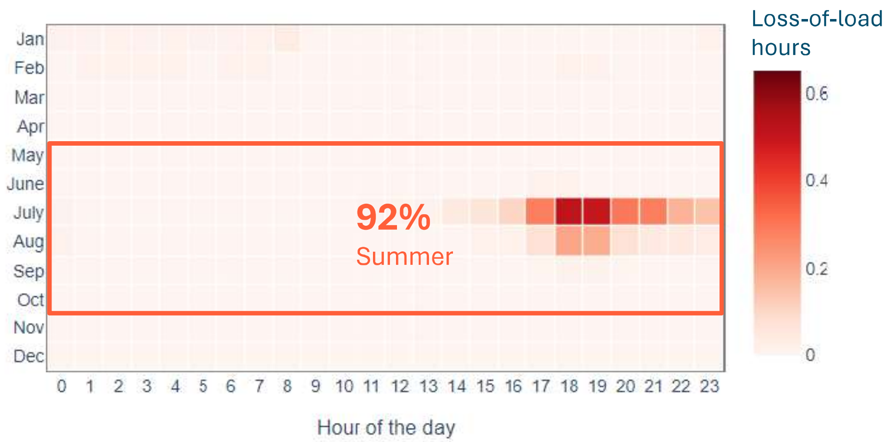
Key Finding #4-3: *The high cooling demand of data centers which typical peak in afternoon summer hours, creates opportunities for synergistic pairings of solar and battery storage although their reliability contributions eventually saturate. Large quantities of firm, dispatchable capacity will also be needed to meet demand growth reliably*

Energy+Environmental Economics

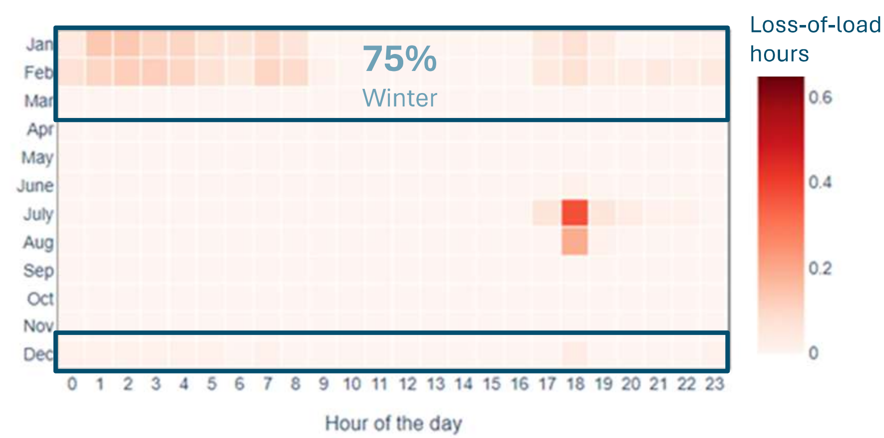
System Reliability Risks without Data Center Growth

- **E3 modeled system reliability needs for the Dominion transmission zone, where all data center growth are projected for Virginia, and the entire PJM, in order to evaluate resource capacity contributions in these areas**
- **In 2025, most of the loss of load risks in Dominion system are observed in summer months**
  - The most challenging periods are concentrated in late afternoons after sunset
- **Without data center load growth, system loss of load risks shift to winter by 2050 when high gross load coincides with thermal unit outages**
  - Resources that can generate during summer early evenings or can provide energy for an extended time window in winter tend to have higher capacity value

2025 – Existing Dominion System



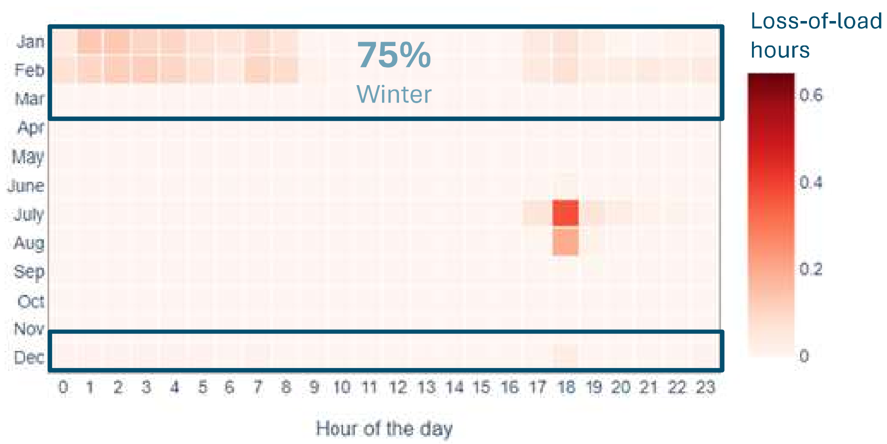
2050 – Dominion System, No Data Center Growth



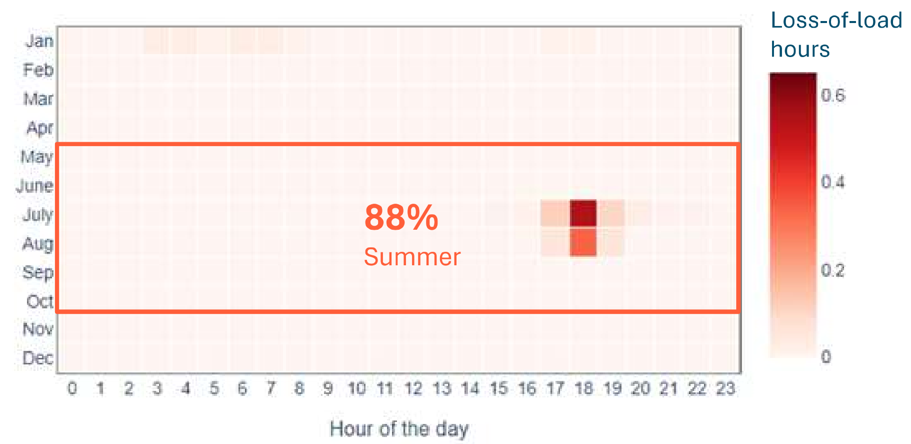
System Reliability Risks with Data Center Load Growth

- Projected annual load for Dominion almost triples by 2050 under the unconstrained data center load growth scenarios
- While data center computing loads do not vary significantly between seasons or within a day, the sheer volume of data center load growth shifts the timing of system reliability needs to times when total facility demand is marginally higher due to cooling needs, in the summer afternoons and evenings
- Resources that can generate during summer early evenings have higher capacity value

2050 –Dominion System, No Data Center Growth

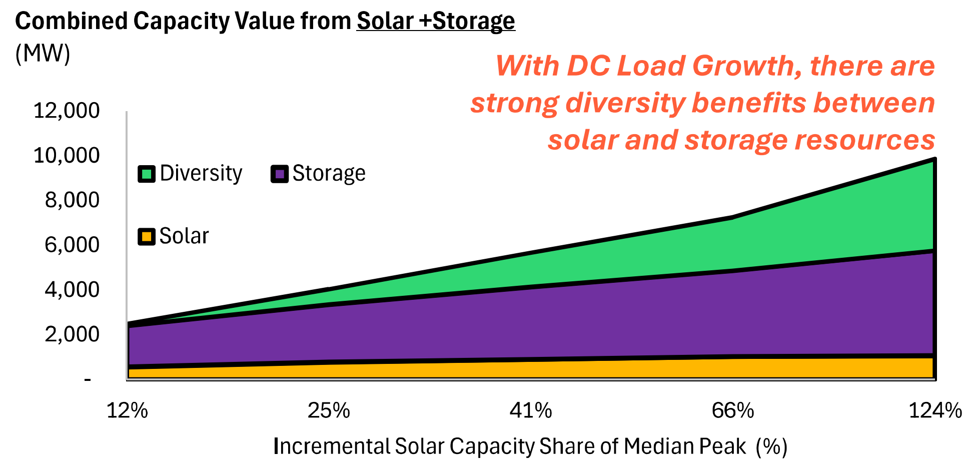


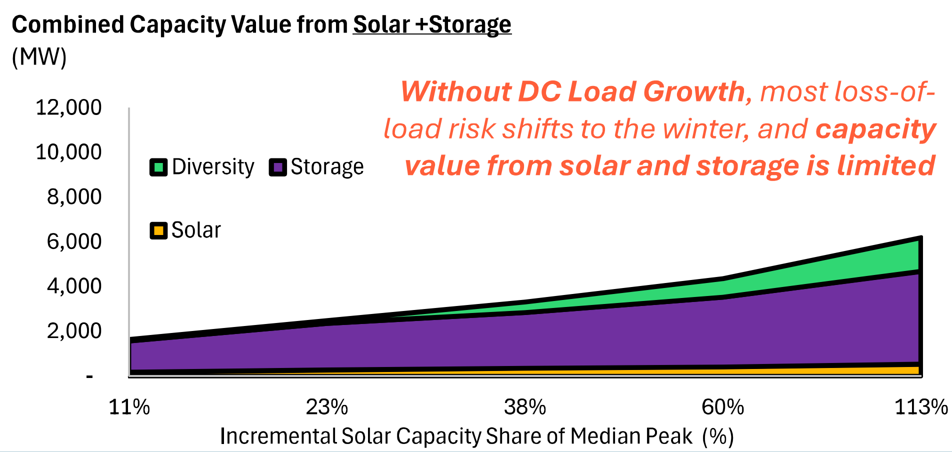
2050 – Dominion System, with Unconstrained Data Center Growth



Complementary Reliability Impacts between Solar and Storage

+ **Adding solar and storage can quickly exhibit saturation effects, while combinations of the two resources exhibit interactive benefits**
  - Positive interactive effects between solar and storage are referred to as "diversity benefits"
+ **This comes from the complimentary nature of the two resources**
  - Abundant solar makes the net load evening peaks sharper, which increases value of limited duration energy storage resources
  - This is more prominent when data center load growth is presented, which creates concentrated reliability challenges in summer afternoons





Impacts of Data Center Load Growth on Electric Sector Resource Portfolios

Energy+Environmental Economics

Baseline Results (S1A)

Key Finding #1: *In the No Growth scenario without the VCEA, Virginia is projected to meet new demands through an expansion of solar and battery energy storage capacity, coupled with a moderate increase in natural gas generation capacity to meet reliability needs*

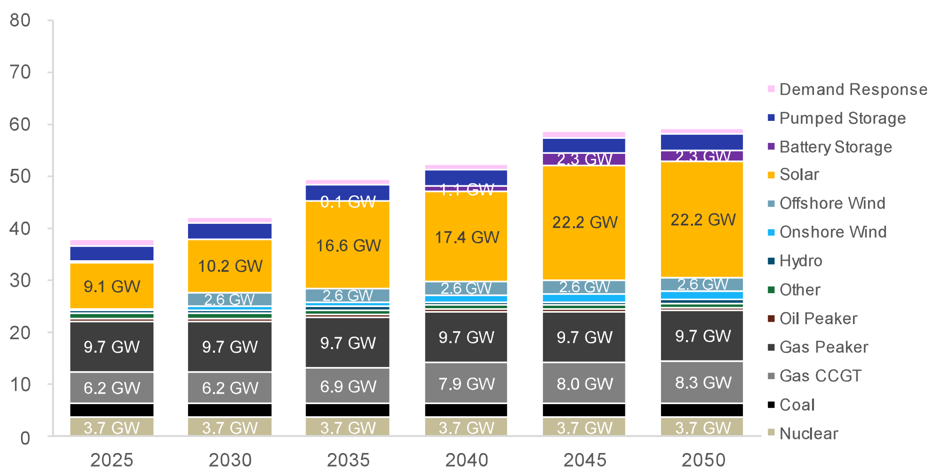
S1A: No Data Center Growth, No VCEA Dominion – *Capacity and Generation*

S1A

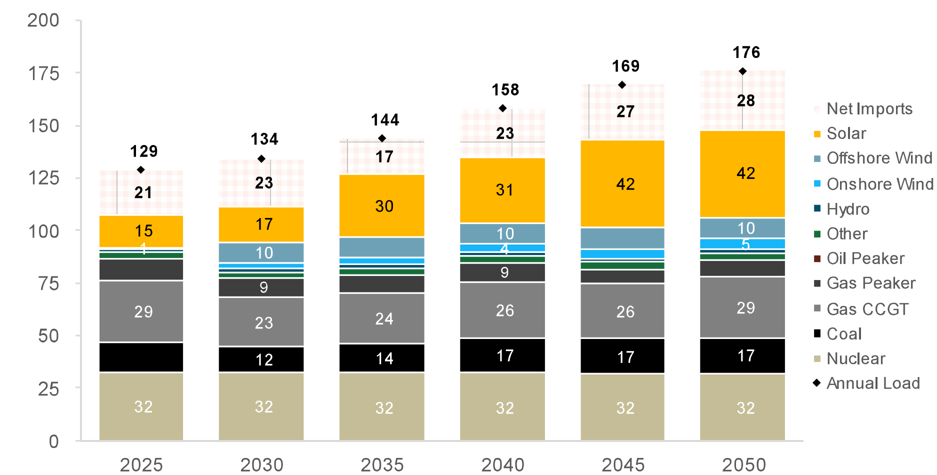
No data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA

- **Majority of increased energy demand is met by growth in solar generation, as costs decline and the Inflation Reduction Act tax credits provide additional support**
- **Storage provides complementary capacity value for solar, and additional reliability needs are met with gas CCGT additions**
  - Onshore wind selected where available, but the total amount is limited considering land and development constraints in Virginia and North Carolina
- **All thermal resources remain online through 2050 in the absence of carbon policy**

Dominion Installed Capacity
GW



Dominion Annual Generation
TWh



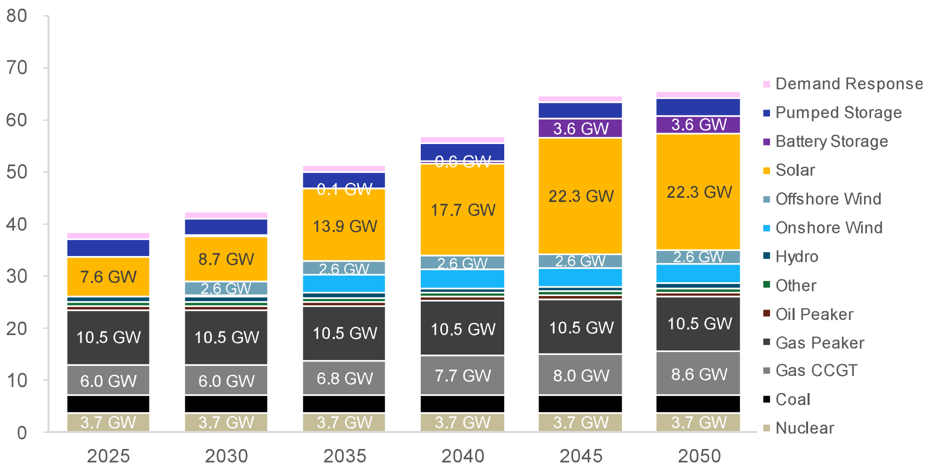
S1A: No Data Center Growth, No VCEA
VA – *Capacity and Generation*

S1A

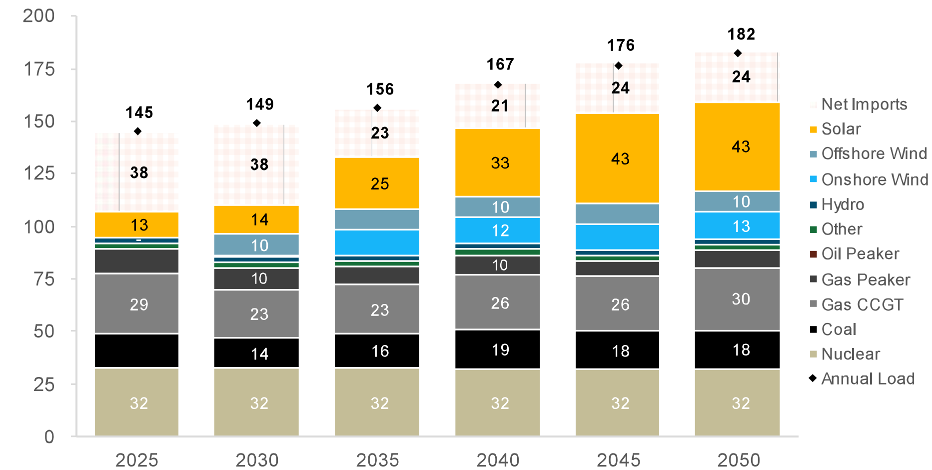
No data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA

- **By 2050, Virginia is projected to meet nearly 24% of its energy demand with solar generation**
- **In the absence of policy, there is still a significant role for coal and gas generation, comprising another ~30% of demand**
- **The remaining demand is met through a combination of nuclear, onshore and offshore wind, and market purchases**

Virginia Installed Capacity
GW



Virginia Annual Generation
TWh



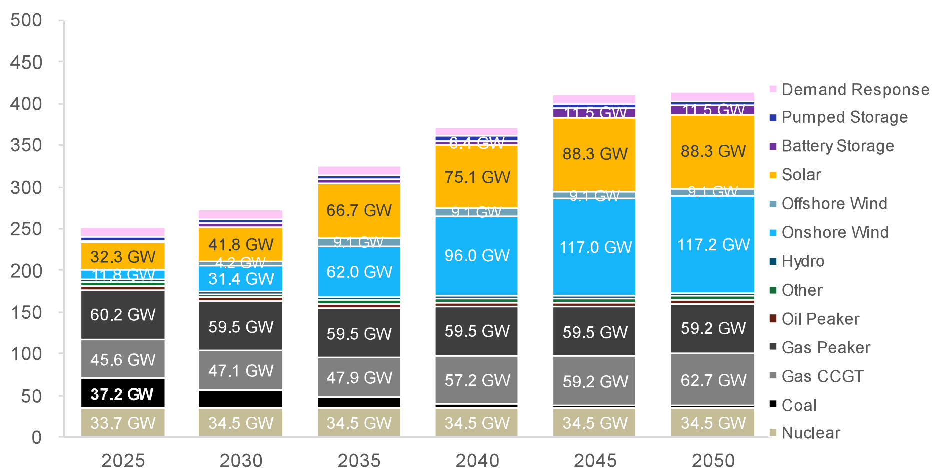
S1A: No Data Center Growth, No VCEA
PJM – *Capacity and Generation*

S1A

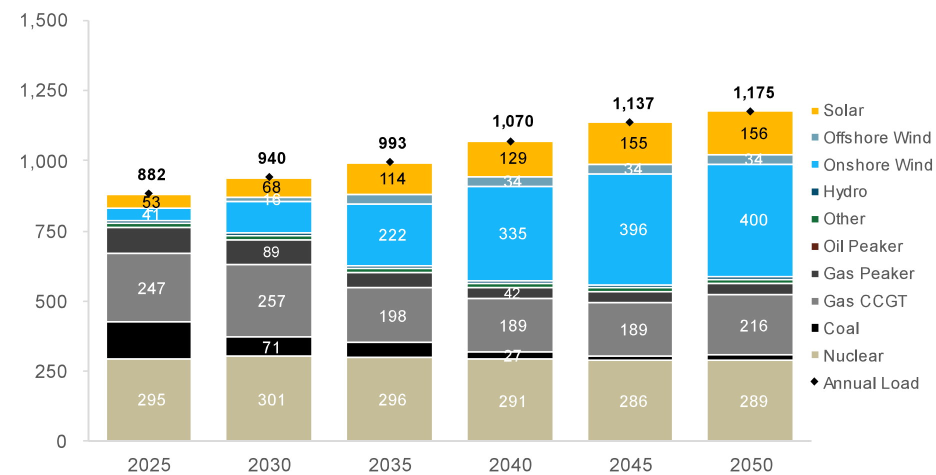
No data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA

- **Large amount of coal retirements, coupled with mild demand growth, drive economic additions of onshore wind, solar+storage, and gas CCGT capacity**
  - Significant amounts of onshore wind are added across the PJM region due to strong resources and favorable economics, coupled with the impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act tax credits
- **Renewable generation increases significantly across the PJM region; gas generation declines slightly, due in part to the impacts of EPA regulations on new gas units**

PJM Installed Capacity
GW



PJM Annual Generation
TWh



Impacts of VCEA

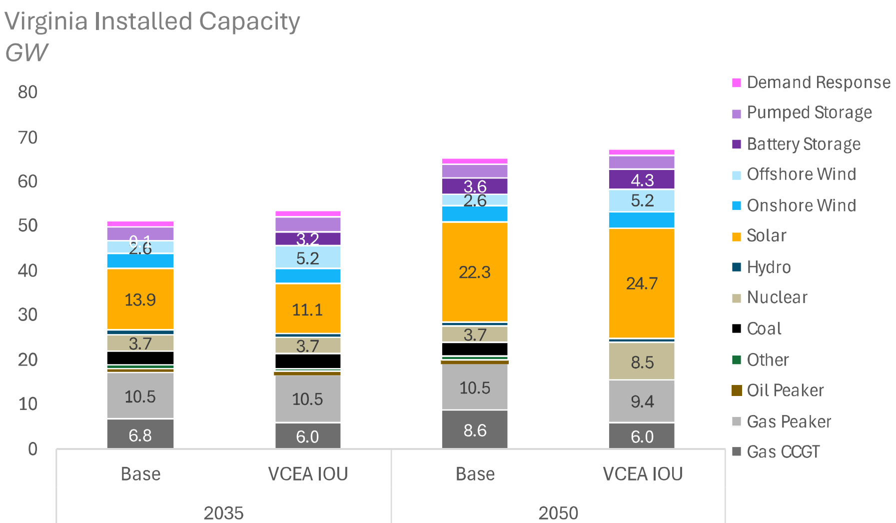
Without Data Center Growth

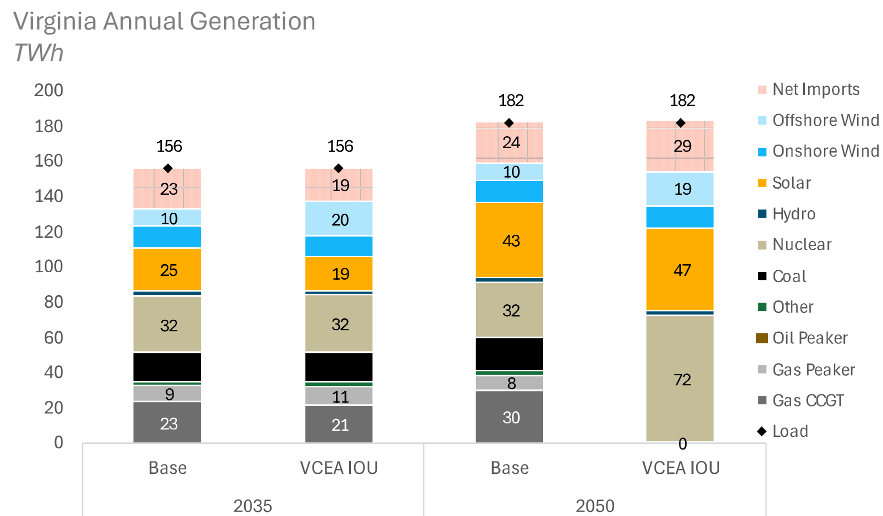
Key Finding #2: *In the No Growth scenario, achievement of the VCEA is projected to drive the development of new nuclear capacity (in the form of SMRs), additional solar builds, as well as conversion of gas facilities to hydrogen to meet system reliability needs*

Impacts of VCEA Compliance: S1B vs S1A VA – *Capacity and Generation*

S1A	S1B
No data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA	*No data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA*

- The VCEA has a limited impact in the near term, primarily driving an acceleration of offshore wind builds coupled with additional battery storage resources
- In the longer term, the VCEA has a more significant impact, leading to an increase in nuclear capacity, while gas resources are converted to run on hydrogen and remain online to maintain system reliability



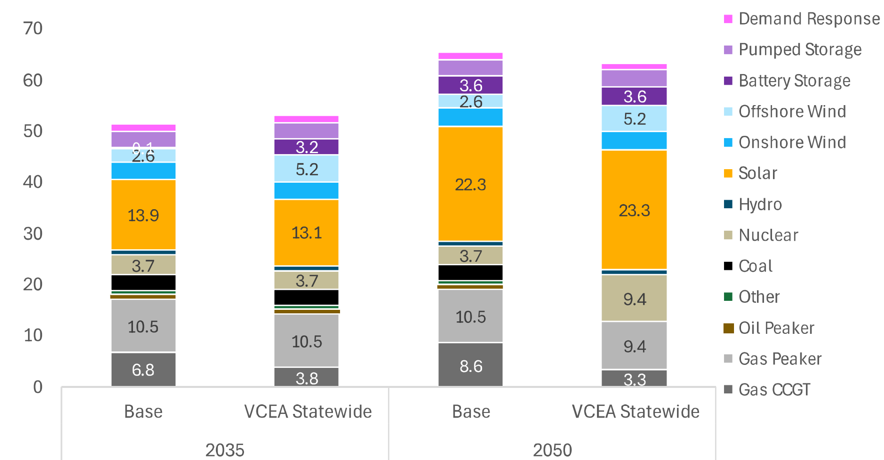


Impacts of VCEA Achievement: S1C vs S1A VA – *Capacity and Generation*

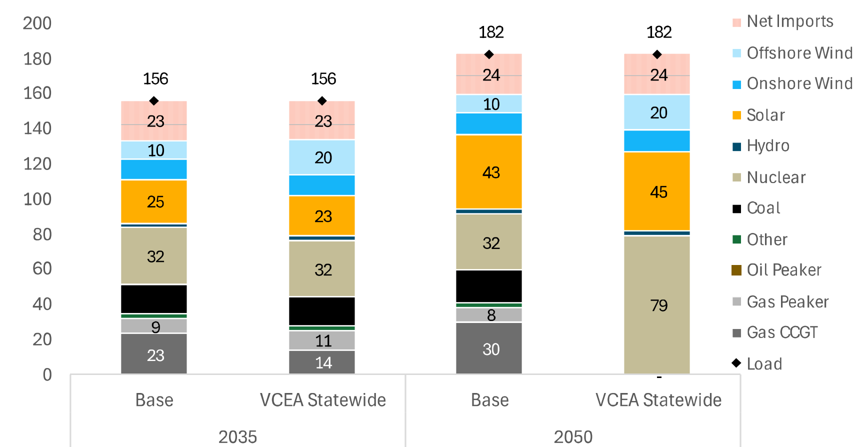
S1A	S1C
No data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA	*No data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA*

- **Expanding the VCEA requirements to all utilities in Virginia (including co-ops) has marginal impacts on system buildout dynamics in the absence of data center load growth**
  - Loads served by electric co-operatives remain a relatively small share of total load in Virginia

Virginia Installed Capacity
GW



Virginia Annual Generation
TWh



Impacts of Data Center Growth

Without VCEA Compliance

Key Finding #5: *In the absence of state policy, data center load growth is projected to drive a build-out of a diverse mix of resources, including gas, solar, nuclear, offshore wind, and battery storage*

Key Finding #6: *Without the VCEA in place, data center growth could lead to a significant increase in the region's reliance on gas generation*

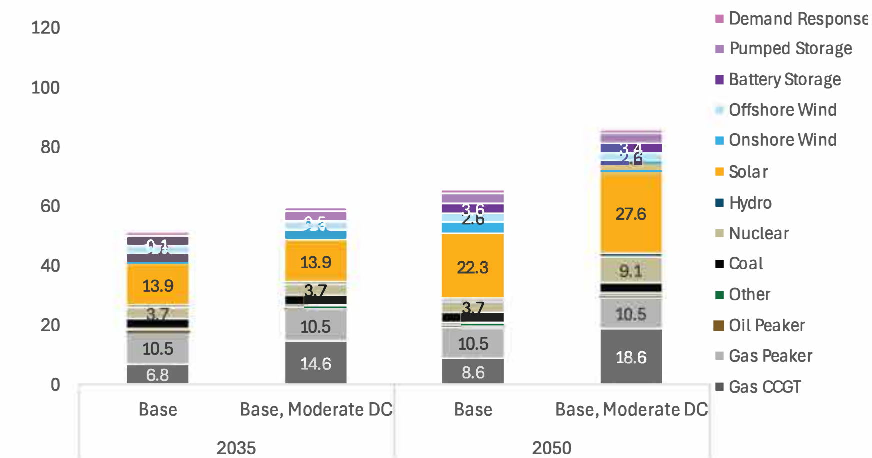
Key Finding #7: *Meeting demand growth would require sustaining a very high pace of new capacity additions through 2040, including new resources that have not been widely deployed today such as SMRs and offshore wind*

Impacts of Data Center Growth: S2A vs S1A VA – *Capacity and Generation*

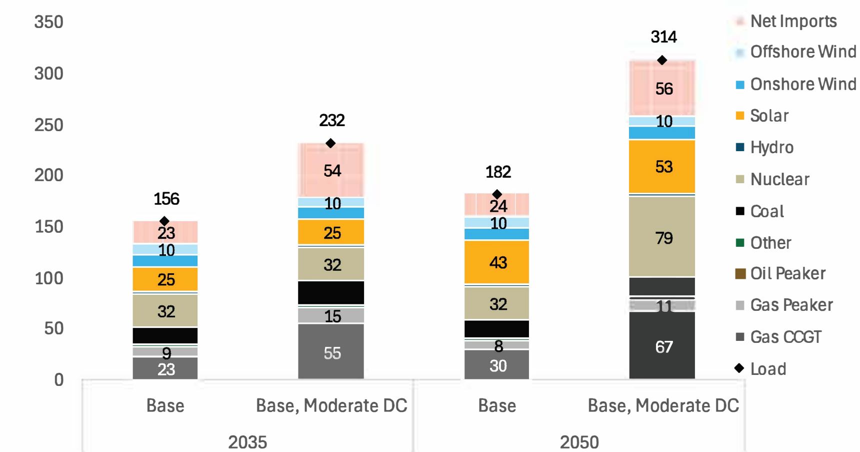
S1A	S2A
No data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA	*Moderate data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA*

- **Under Moderate levels of data center growth, Virginia will need to invest in significant new gas capacity over the next decade in order to keep pace with demand growth**
- **In the longer term, over 5 GW of additional nuclear capacity, along with additional solar and storage capacity, are projected to be added in order to meet increasing energy demands**
- **Import for Dominion increases compared to the no growth case, driving the need for 3.1 GW transmission expansion between the DOM zone and AP/Northwest**

Virginia Installed Capacity
GW



Virginia Annual Generation
TWh

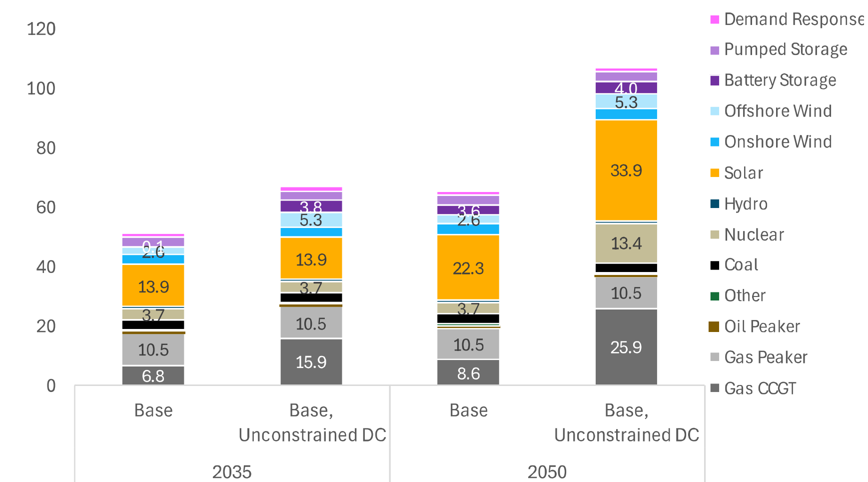


Impacts of Data Center Growth: S3A vs S1A VA – *Capacity and Generation*

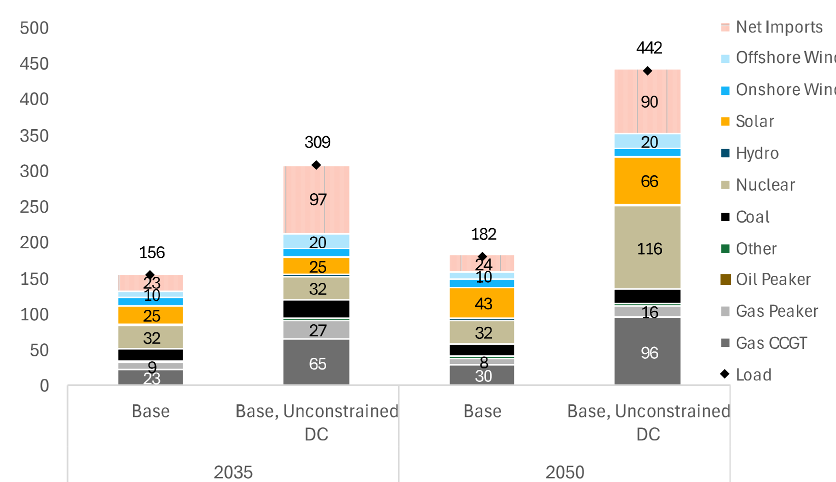
S1A	S3A
No data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA	*Unconstrained data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA*

- **Under Unconstrained Data Center Growth, Virginia is projected to add significant amounts of new gas capacity at an accelerated rate in the near term, compared to the no growth case**
  - Keeping up with demand growth in the next decade would require Virginia to add capacity at a rate of 1 GW/yr for 15 consecutive years, double its average rate of capacity additions over the past decade
  - The Dominion system experiences challenges in meeting system demand in 2030, when the addition of resources are bounded by historical build rate and new technology options like SMRs are not available
- **In the long term, Virginia is projected to add a diverse mix of resources, including 10 GW of new SMR capacity, over 25 GW of solar capacity, 20 GW of new gas, around 5 GW capacity purchases, coupled with additional offshore wind and battery storage, to meet sharply increasing energy demands**
  - 3.5 GW transmission expansion between the DOM zone and AEP, AP, and NW are needed to support increased capacity purchase and imports

Virginia Installed Capacity
GW



Virginia Annual Generation
TWh



Impacts of VCEA

With Data Center Growth

Key Finding #8: *With the VCEA in place, Virginia would likely require an unprecedented investment in an "all-of-the-above" strategy to meet demand growth with clean energy resources*

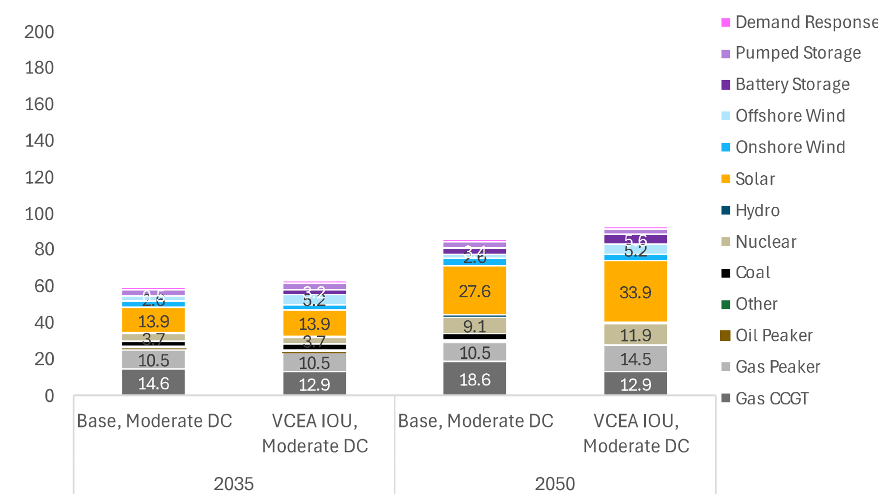
Energy+Environmental Economics

Impacts of IOU VCEA Achievement: S2B vs S2A VA – *Capacity and Generation*

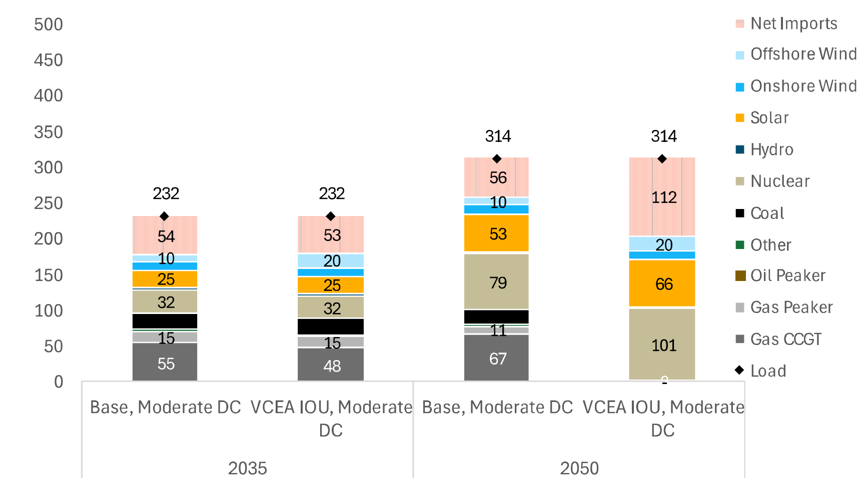
S2A	S2B
Moderate data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA	*Moderate data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA*

+ **Meeting the goals of the VCEA under Moderate levels of demand growth would require significant shift towards investments in new renewables and transmission expansion, compared to the S2A case**
  - Virginia could add up to 26 GW of solar capacity and up to 5.5 GW of battery storage, coupled with offshore wind
  - Nuclear capacity continues to be projected to play a significant role in meeting data center growth, increasing to nearly 12 GW
  - Hydrogen-ready turbines, either through retrofits or new additions, play a significant role in maintaining system reliability
  - Virginia relies on imported energy from the rest of PJM to meet 36% of total demand by 2050, as co-ops which are exempt from the VCEA requirements rely heavily on imports to meet increasing data center loads

Virginia Installed Capacity
GW



Virginia Annual Generation
TWh



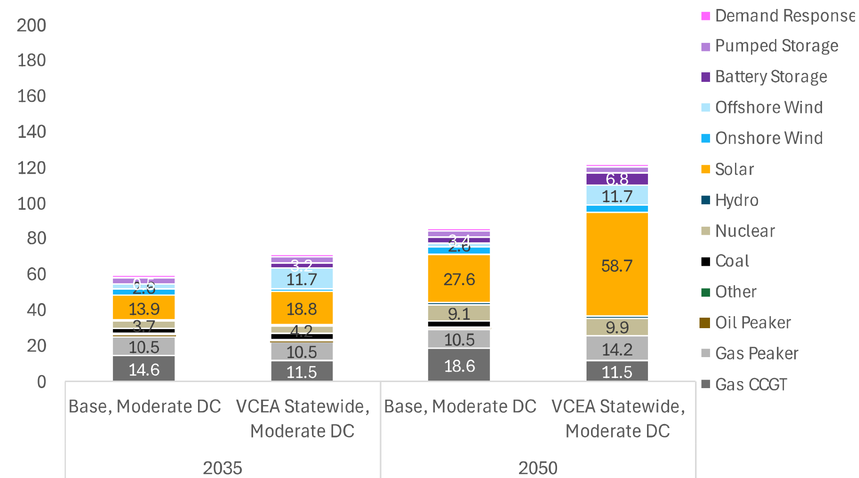
Impacts of Statewide VCEA Achievement: S2C vs S2A VA – *Capacity and Generation*

S2A	S2C
Moderate data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA	Moderate data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA

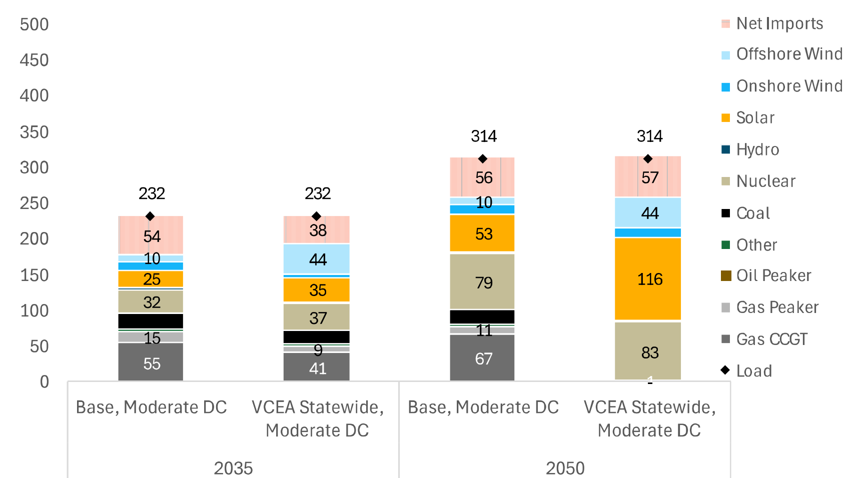
+ Expanding the VCEA requirements to all utilities in Virginia (including co-ops) drives more in-state renewable investments and would reduce the state's reliance on imported energy from the PJM market

- Applying the VCEA goals to all statewide sales leads to an even higher build-out of renewable capacity in-state; Virginia is projected to add up to 51 GW of solar capacity and up to 12 GW of offshore wind capacity, coupled with 7 GW of battery storage
- Nuclear and hydrogen continue to play a significant role in meeting data center growth and maintaining system reliability, respectively
- The statewide application of the VCEA goals reduces the state's reliance on imported energy compared to the VCEA IOU case (S2B); however, new transmission is still projected to be developed to increase transfers between DOM and its neighboring zones

Virginia Installed Capacity
GW



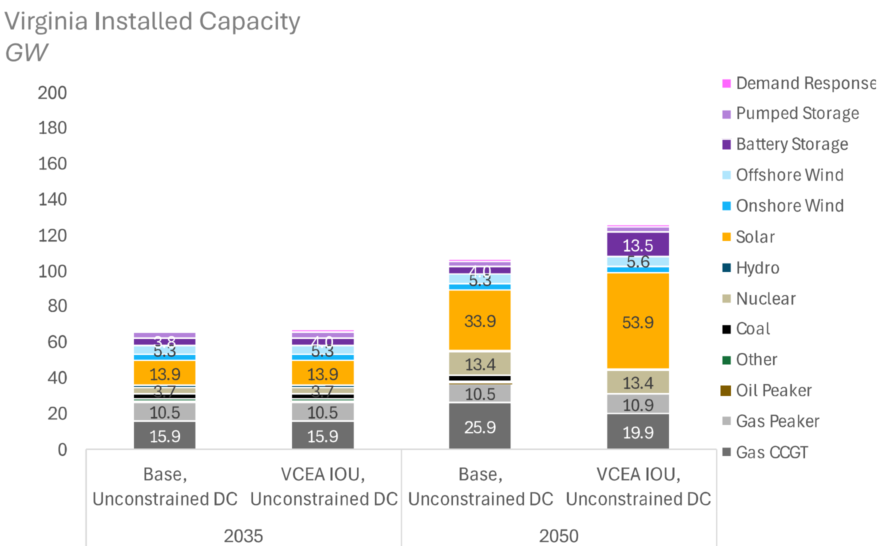
Virginia Annual Generation
TWh

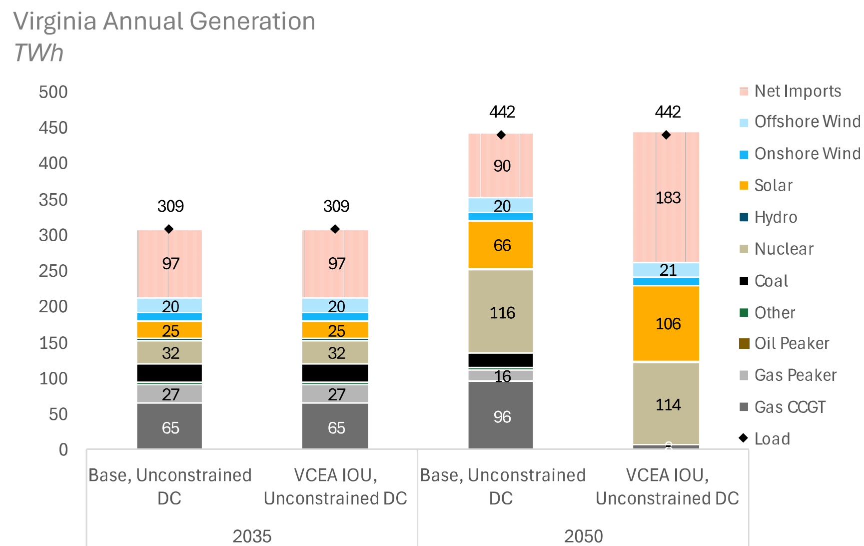


Impacts of IOU VCEA Achievement: S3B vs S3A VA – *Capacity and Generation*

S3A	S3B
Unconstrained data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA	*Unconstrained data center growth; IOUs comply with VCEA*

+ **Under the Unconstrained Data Center Growth case, meeting the goals of the VCEA would drive significant new investments across multiple strategies and technologies, as well as a heavy reliance on the PJM market**
  - To meet increased energy demands with zero-carbon energy, Virginia is projected to add up to 46 GW of in-state solar and 13 GW of battery storage, in addition to 10 GW of new SMR capacity, 6 GW of new offshore wind capacity, and the conversation of existing gas fleet to run hydrogen by 2045
  - Virginia is also projected to build close to 9 GW of new transmission to import higher quantities of energy from the PJM market, relying on 180 TWh of imported energy or over 40% of total electric demand, with VCEA-exempt co-ops serving large quantities of data center demand with energy imported from the PJM market



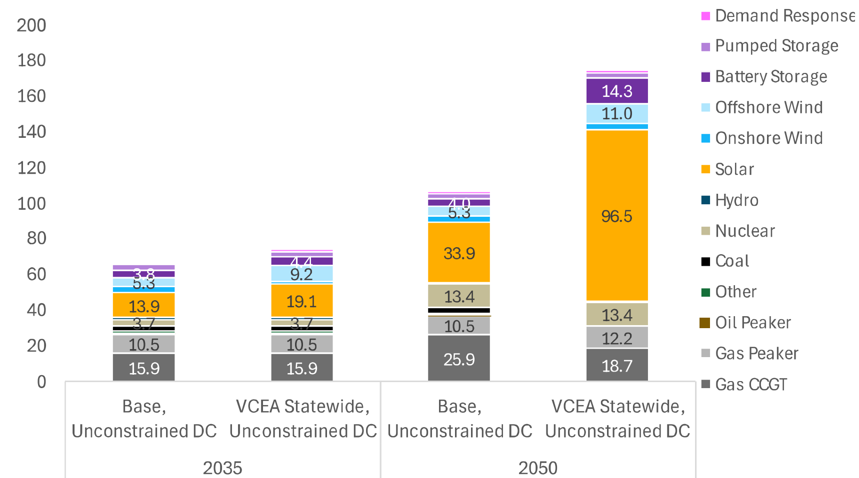


Impacts of Statewide VCEA Achievement: S3C vs S3A VA – *Capacity and Generation*

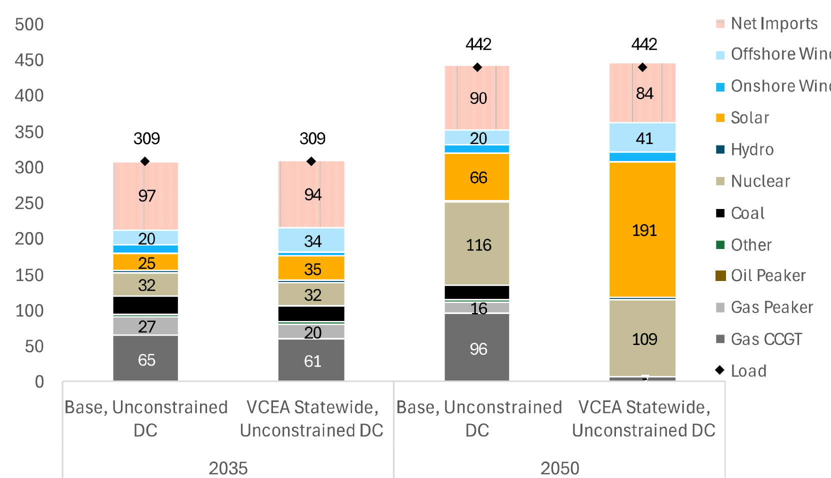
S3A	S3C
Unconstrained data center growth; non-compliant with VCEA	*Unconstrained data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA*

+ **Expanding the VCEA requirements to all utilities in Virginia (including co-ops) drives significantly more in-state solar and offshore wind builds, while reducing the use of import energy to meet system demand**
  - Virginia is projected to add close to 90 GW of solar and 11 GW of offshore wind by 2050 when the VCEA requirements are applied to all utilities
  - Import energy reduces compared to the VCEA IOU case (S3B) as new in-state renewable additions are required to serve data center loads with co-ops; however, around 9 GW transmission expansion is still projected to support the high amount of energy purchases needed in this scenario

Virginia Installed Capacity
GW



Virginia Annual Generation
TWh



Additional Sensitivities

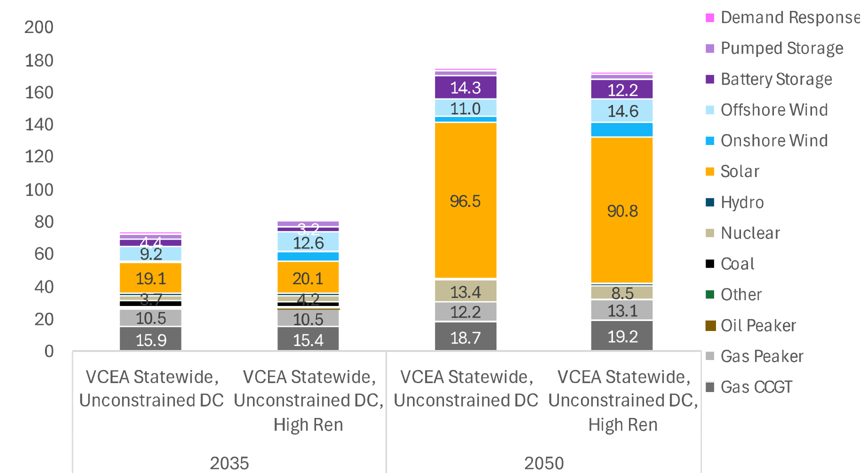
+ **While each scenario examined presents both challenges and opportunities for the Virginia electric sector, the Unconstrained DC Growth + Statewide VCEA Achievement scenario (S3C) appears the most challenging based on the pace and scale of builds coupled with a high reliance on emerging technologies that have not yet been commercially demonstrated at scale**
+ **E3 applied feasibility constraints within the model that limit the state's reliance on any one pathway or strategy; however, the scale of build-out is unprecedented and thus by definition the constraints are highly uncertain. Technology breakthroughs, permitting reform, and myriad other factors could accelerate (or constrain) the availability of specific technologies. To perform an initial, directional exploration of this uncertainty, E3 conducted three additional sensitivities:**
  - **S3C: High In-state Renewables (HiRen)**
    - Higher levels of onshore wind available in VA and NC;
    - Accelerated deployment of offshore wind allowed;
    - More conservative cost trajectory assumed using conventional nuclear costs and more stringent SMR build limits
  - **S3C: Regional Coordination (RegCoord)**
    - Relaxed constraints on transmission build-out post-2035
    - More conservative cost trajectory assumed using conventional nuclear costs and more stringent SMR build limits
  - **S3C: Nuclear Renaissance (NucRen)**
    - No constraints on nuclear build-out post-2035
+ **These sensitivities were only explored under S3C assumptions; however, the same uncertainty applies to other scenarios as well**

High Renewables: Compared to S3C VA – *Capacity and Generation*

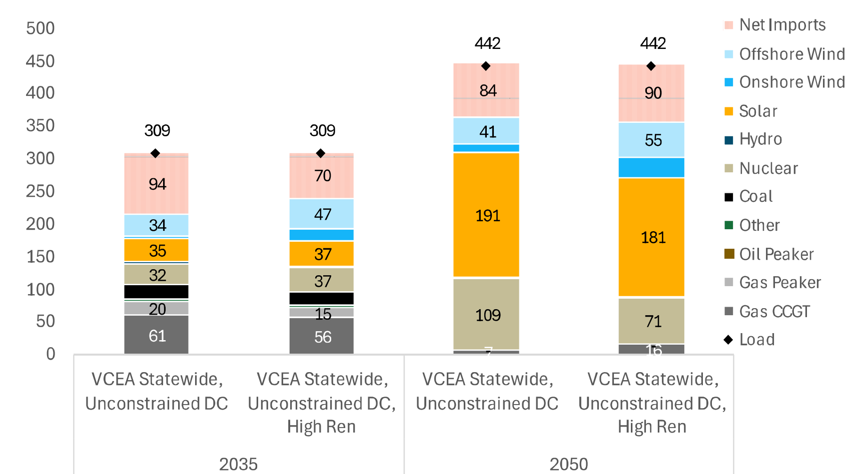
S3C	S3C: HiRen
Unconstrained data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA	*Relaxed renewable development constraints*

- In a scenario in which barriers to building onshore wind are overcome in VA and NC, and the development of offshore wind can be accelerated, Virginia is projected to add 5 GW more onshore wind and accelerate the build of offshore wind in the near term to meet the rapidly growing system demand
- More hydrogen-compatible turbines are added to meet system capacity need, complementary to renewable additions
- Under this scenario, the costs and availability of nuclear are also treated more conservatively, but nuclear still plays a critical role in meeting energy demands (constrained to the build levels in Dominion's 2023 IRP)

Virginia Installed Capacity
GW



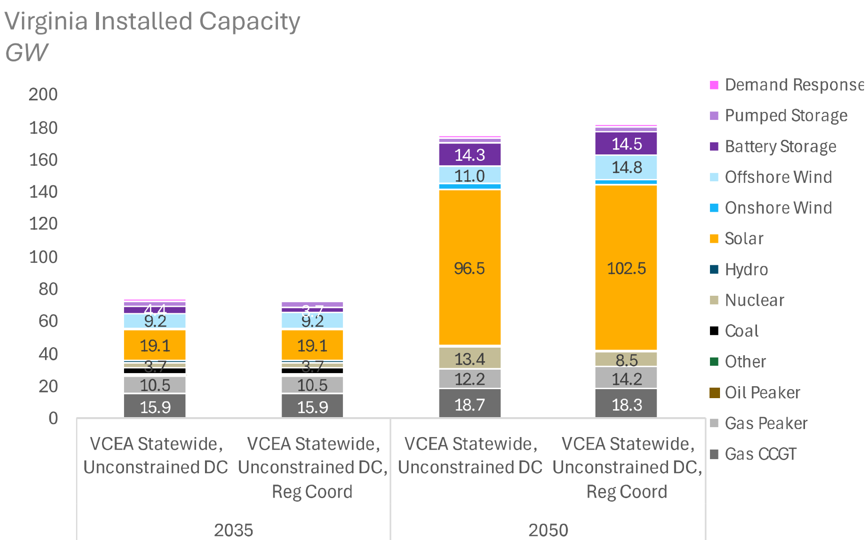
Virginia Annual Generation
TWh

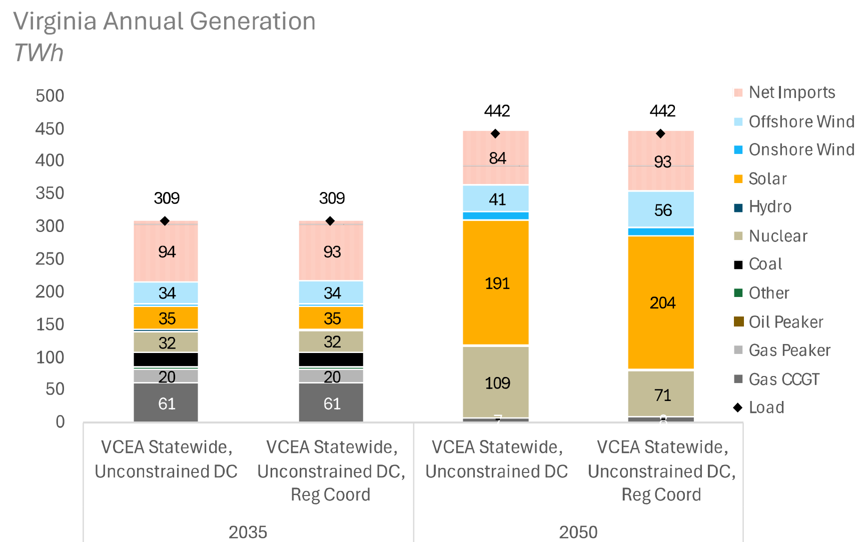


Regional Coordination: Compared to S3C VA – *Capacity and Generation*

S3C	S3C: RegCoord
Unconstrained data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA	*Relaxed transmission development constraints*

- **Additional 3.4 GW transmission upgrade between DOM and AEP, AP, and NW, when made available, are selected by 2050 to support expanded economic imports and capacity purchases, despite higher cost of the expansion compared to expansion at a lower amount**
- **More solar, offshore wind, and hydrogen-compatible turbines are added, on top of transmission expansion, when SMR builds are further limited**



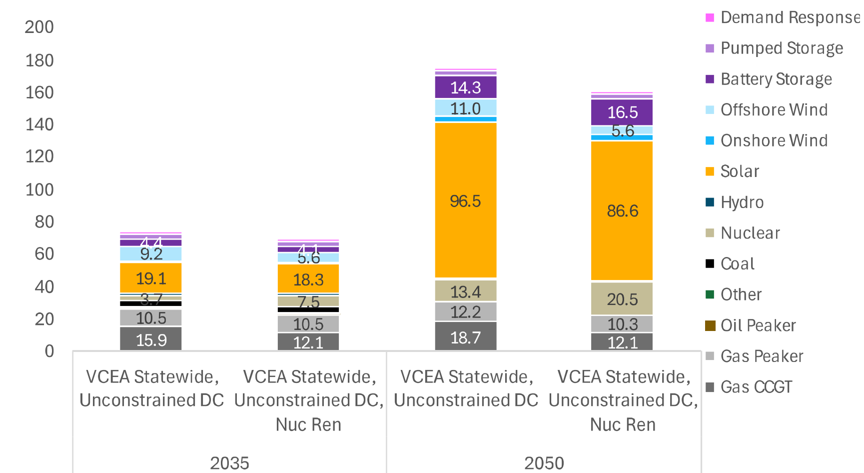


Nuclear Renaissance: Compared to S3C VA – *Capacity and Generation*

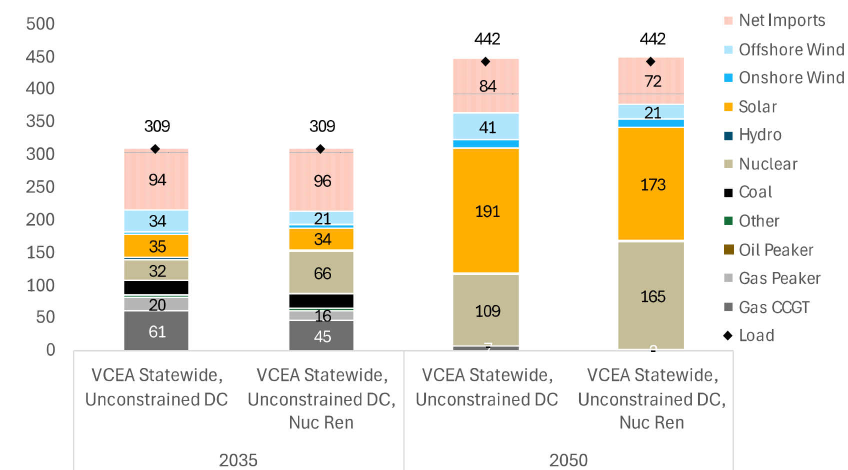
S3C	S3C: NucRen
Unconstrained data center growth; all statewide sales meet VCEA	*No nuclear development constraints*

- **An incremental 7 GW SMR capacity is economically added in Virginia by 2050 when there are no constraints placed on the rate of capacity build-out**
- **This significant expansion of nuclear capacity, coupled with 2.3 GW of battery storage, offsets the need for around 10 GW of solar, 5.3 GW of offshore wind, and 8.5 GW of hydrogen-compatible turbines**

Virginia Installed Capacity
GW



Virginia Annual Generation
TWh



Rate Impact Analysis

Energy+Environmental Economics

Rate Impact Considerations

+ **E3 focused on a representative subset of Virginia utilities to assess rates using best available data and documented assumptions**

+ **The following approach was used to assess rate impacts resulting from data center growth in Virginia:**
  - A broad review of existing rates, fees, cost-of-service studies, and policies was conducted for utilities identified
  - Costs and revenues associated with data center rate classes were assessed for equitable apportioning of costs under current and forecasted conditions
  - Residential rate impacts were evaluated based on modeled cost shifts due to data center load growth

+ **Specific sources of potential uncertainty in this study include:**
  - Significant differences in $ / unit costs by customer class – ideally these should be similar across classes
  - Dominion Virginia's service territory contains a small jurisdiction in North Carolina; instances where associated data was unable to be disaggregated is not expected to be consequential to findings in this report
  - The most recent, available rate schedules and cost-of-service studies were used as a basis for assessment; values were escalated, where necessary, to align most recent data with forecast
  - Distribution costs were not included in the forecast due to an expectation that most new data center loads will interconnect at transmission voltages; any distribution network investments are anticipated to be modest and easily attributed based on cost causation

Approach to Assessing Rate Impacts

Utility tariffs and cost-of-service studies informed how cost shifting may occur with escalating forecasts of costs and load

1. **Relevant tariffs for each utility were reviewed to determine current methods of revenue collection**
2. **Cost-of-service studies were examined to determine basis of volumetric and fixed costs**
3. **Compare volumetric revenue and cost components against each other and across rate classes**
4. **Calculate total cost and revenue by rate class using load forecast data**
   - Determine where total cost/revenue values do not align within classes
5. **Compare and highlight specific impacts for Residential customers served by Dominion Virginia under various cost recovery scenarios**
   - Extension of existing cost allocations
   - Updated cost allocations using current methodology to adapt to anticipated load growth

Revenues

Values	Description
$ / kW	Demand charges (if applicable)
$ / kWh	Delivery + supply + other volumetric adders
Fixed charges	Customer or minimum monthly charges
Data Sources	Utility Tariffs

Costs

Values	Description
$ / kW	Capacity-driven investment / Coincident demand
$ / kWh	Consumption-driven costs (e.g., generation)
Fixed costs	Utility billing, overhead, etc.
Data Sources	Project forecasts, cost of service studies, etc.

Utility Profiles, Costs, & Rates

Energy+Environmental Economics

Utility System Profiles

Dominion Virginia

>100 Data Centers

+ **Customer count**
  - Residential: 2.3 million
  - Commercial & Industrial: 267,143
+ **Peak demand:** 17.1 GW
+ **Annual sales:** 92.9 TWh (8.5 TWh of which is delivery only)
+ **Load growth:** Projected to increase from 17 GW in 2023 to 33 GW in 2048, including data centers and vehicle electrification[2]

MEC

1 Data Center

+ **Customer count**
  - Residential: 29,816
  - Commercial & Industrial: 1,910
+ **Peak demand:** 153 MW
+ **Annual sales:** 860 GWh

NOVEC

~28 Data Centers

+ **Customer count**
  - Residential: 164,645
  - Commercial & Industrial: 14,258
+ **Peak demand:** 1.5 GW
+ **Annual sales:** 8,526 GWh
+ **Peak electric load growth:** >**12%/year** over 15 years, almost exclusively driven by data centers[1]

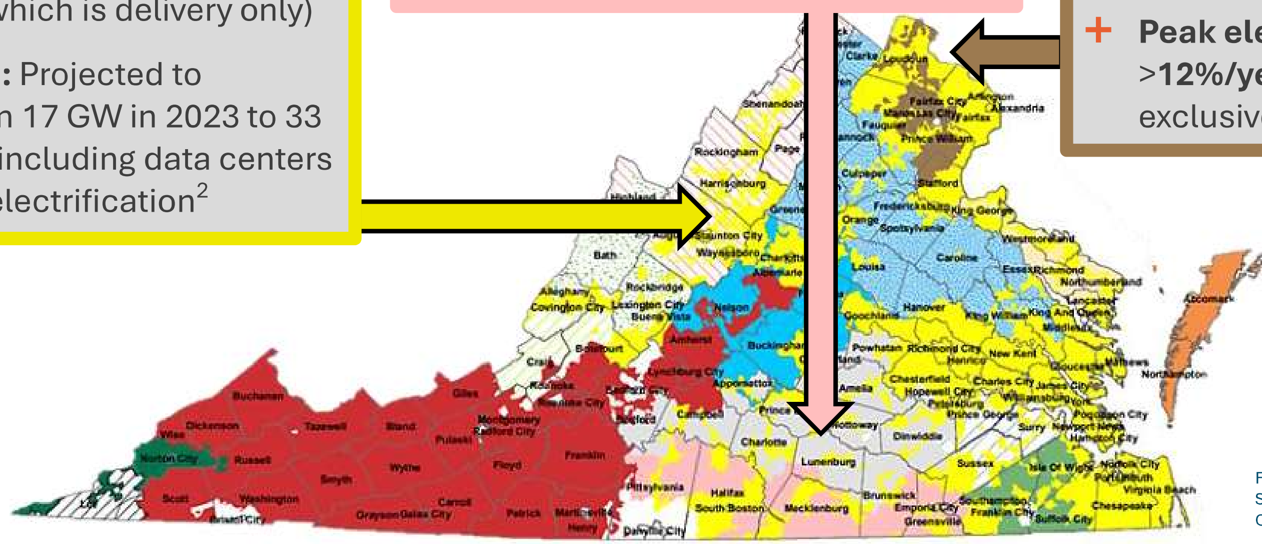


Figure is an approximation
Source: State Corporation Commission, 2020
Created by: Division of Public Utility Regulation, 2020

[1] NOVEC 2022-2023 Annual Report
[2] Dominion Virginia 2023 Integrated Resource Plan

Utility Assessment

E3 examined rate designs for three utilities in Virginia, each with different needs, interests, and approaches

+ Dominion Virginia ("Dominion")

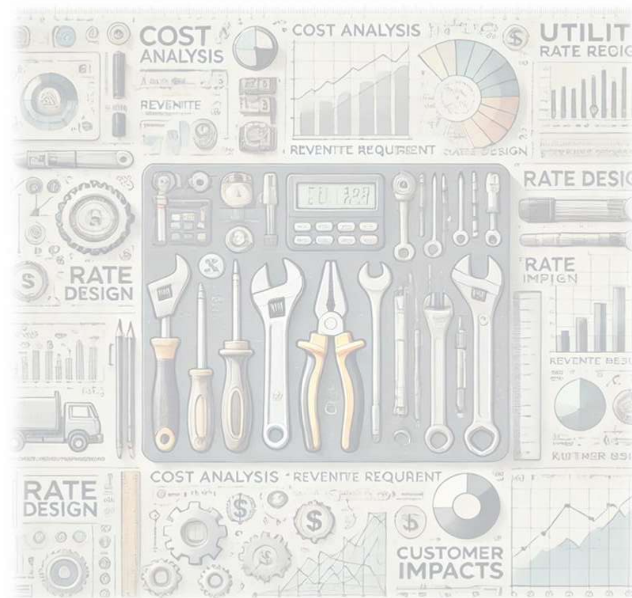
- The largest load serving entity of the three examined with the most significant existing and forecasted data center load
- An investor –owned utility with vertically integrated transmission service
  - Regulation compels biennial review of rates and other periodic stipulations by Virginia SCC
  - Serves as the transmission provider for PJM's Dominion Load Zone ("DOM Zone")

+ Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC)

- As a public power cooperative NOVEC receives transmission service from Dominion and provides distribution service to its members

+ Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC)

- A public power cooperative receiving transmission service from Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) and providing distribution services to its members



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Cost Recovery and Rate Adjustment

Wholesale Cost Recovery

- **PJM allocates capacity cost obligations from its Reliability Pricing Model to load zones based on five coincident peak (5-CP) demand; Dominion allocates these capacity costs to utilities based on a 5-CP methodology**
  - Utilities further apportion their share of the allocated wholesale costs according to their individual rates
- **PJM allocates transmission costs on 1-CP construct; Dominion then allocates these transmission costs to utilities based on a 12-CP average**
  - Utilities apportion their share of the allocated wholesale costs according to their individual rates
- **Wholesale market design and transmission tariffs undoubtably influence retail costs, beyond the scope of this analysis and may warrant additional study**

Retail Cost Recovery

- **Under Virginia law, the State Corporation Commission (SCC) conducts biennial reviews of the Commonwealth's investor-owned utilities, including an examination of its earnings, consideration of adjustments to its base rates, or modifications of terms and conditions**
- **Riders are reviewed by the SCC separately on an annual basis**
- **Requirements are less strict for public power cooperatives, like NOVEC and MEC**

Retail Rate Equity

Energy+Environmental Economics

Rate Equity Today

+ **Current rates appropriately apportion costs to classes and customers responsible for incurring them**
+ **Load growth is expected to increase system costs in Virginia with some effects directly attributable to new, large loads (i.e., data centers)**
+ **Investor-owned utilities and public power cooperatives use different approaches to manage the costs of new loads joining the system; each effectively insulates existing customers from potential cost shifts and rate impacts resulting from large loads entering the system**
  - Investor-owned utilities absorb infrastructure investments in rate base and recover costs over time from the interconnecting customer through cost allocations
    - Long-term, minimum, monthly cost recovery structure, like Dominion's "Monthly Contract Dollar Minimum" guarantee, can reduce risk, but not mitigate it entirely
    - Accurate recovery of infrastructure investments made on behalf of the interconnecting customer requires proper calibration of cost allocation factors
  - Public power cooperatives tend to assign all infrastructure investment costs to the interconnecting customer upfront while structuring direct passthrough of all incremental costs; some contribution to embedded (i.e. existing or average system) fixed costs are made through distribution charges
    - Upfront payment for interconnection costs mitigates risk of stranding assets or under-recovery of investments

Various Approaches to Cost Recovery

Cost Recovery Method

Embedded Cost Allocation ← → **Directly Assigned Costs**

Dominion

- Data centers are included with other industrial customers in GS-3 (distribution voltage) and GS-4 (transmission voltage) rates
- All non-redundant investments necessary for service and interconnection are provided by the utility, with costs recovered over time through cost allocation factors applied to the corresponding rate class.
- Variable costs are based on metered contribution to average costs of transmission and generation
  - Unbundled generation is offered through retail choice
- Contribution to system fixed costs is recovered through cost allocation as determined by the portion of plant costs attributed to each rate class portion of plant

NOVEC

A dedicated HV-1 rate class strictly serves data center customers

- Interconnection costs are assigned to the customer through a series of deposits and installment payments as the project develops
- Generation is offered as an embedded rate or through an unbundled option
- System costs recovered through rate design whereas delivery charges are cross-subsidized
- The load factor requirement under HV-1 rate class ensures demand charges recover the cost if the dedicated substation use is below contracted capacity.
- The HV-2 rate class, for the largest data center customers, limits energy supply options to market rate, protecting other customers from the increased risk and cost due to growing load from data centers

MEC

With only one data center customer, Mecklenburg has a dedicated rate class tailored specifically to the facility that fully and directly assigns all costs

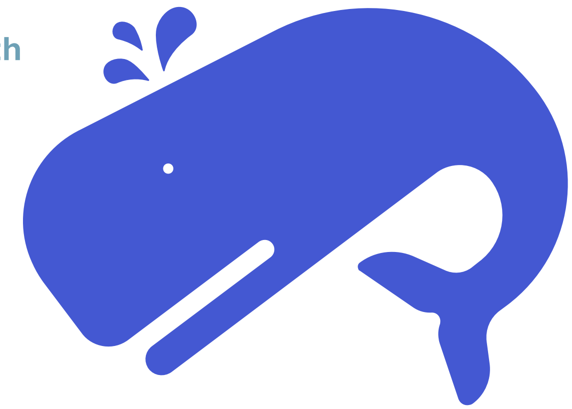
- Interconnection costs are paid by the customer concurrent with development
- All generation is paid for directly through a separate Energy Services Agreement (ESA)
- The data center built and paid for dedicated substations that are metered for direct allocation of contributions toward system transmission and capacity costs
- Distribution charges are designed to recover costs for supporting system operations and maintenance
- Delivery charges are intended to collect contribution toward embedded fixed costs and provide some benefit (i.e., return) to other cooperative members

Rate Dynamics

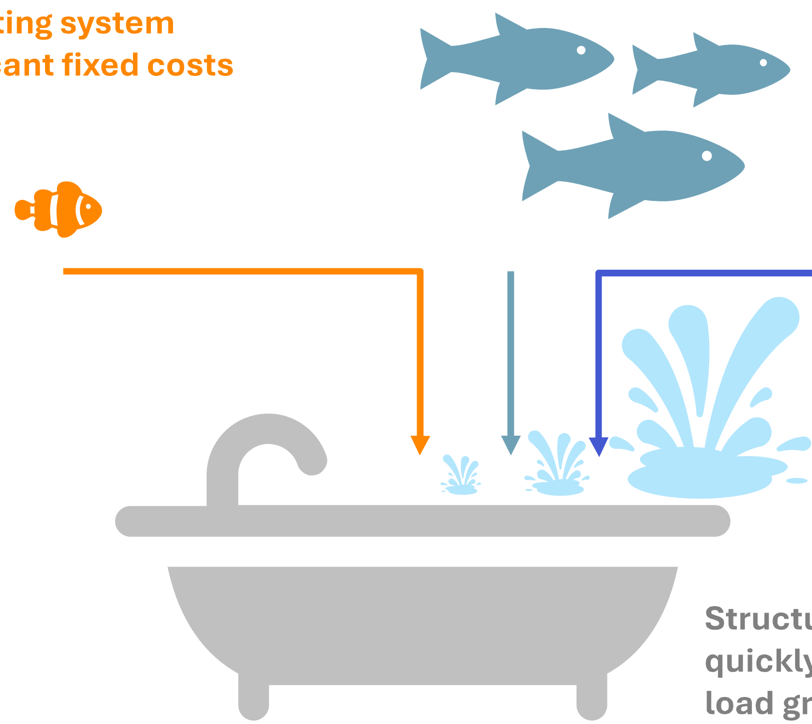
Energy+Environmental Economics

Incremental vs. Transformational Loads

Larger, incremental loads can be absorbed if integrated over time or with targeted upgrades



Typically, incremental loads are easily managed within the existing system without incurring significant fixed costs

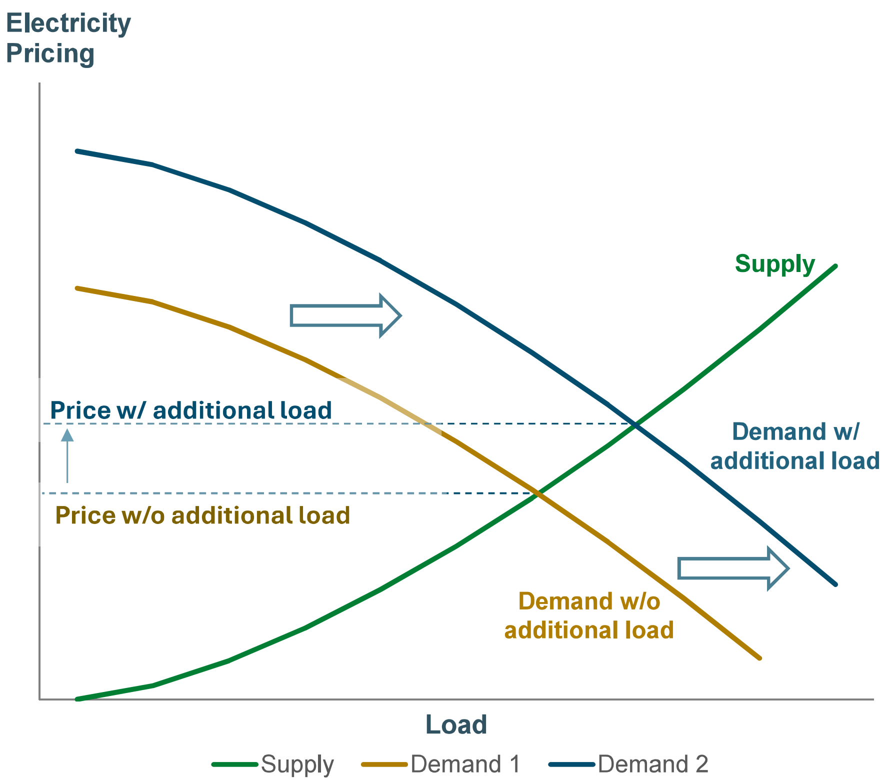


Transformational loads can disrupt the system and require significant new infrastructure investment with large upfront fixed costs and long asset lifetimes; system attributes such as new generation supply costs can also be impacted due to a large demand shift

Structural inefficiencies can make it difficult to quickly reach new equilibria under transformational load growth

Supply and Demand Dynamics in the Wholesale Market

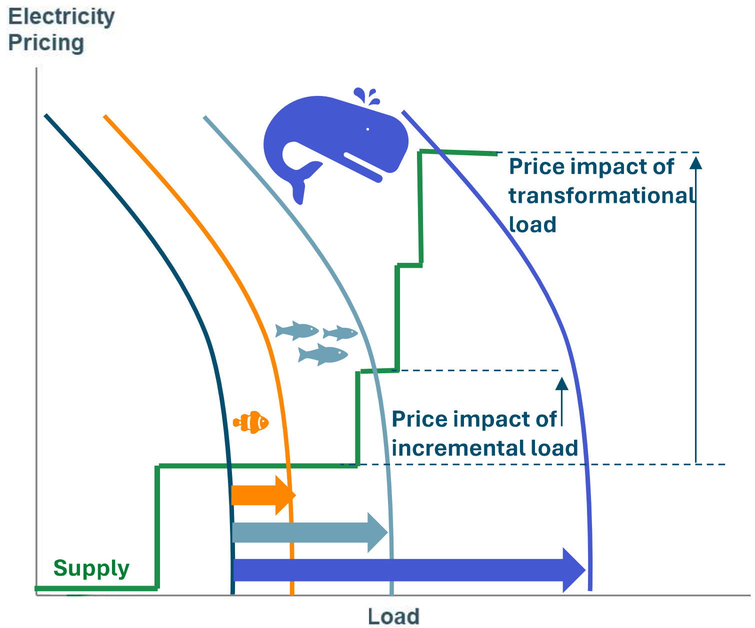
Conceptual Impact of Additional Load on Demand Curve



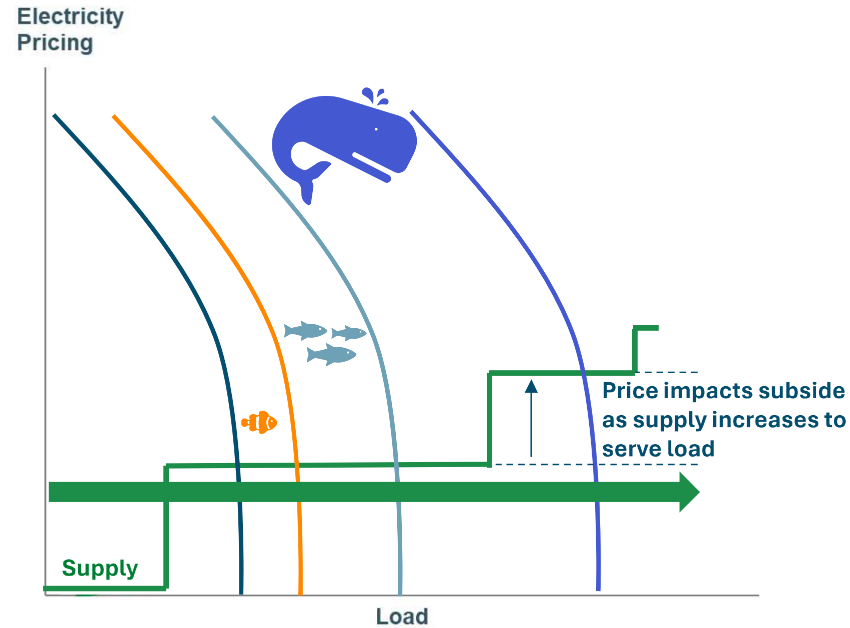
- **In a marginal cost market structure as demand increases, the demand curve shifts to the right, raising the marginal price point for supply to serve all load**
  - The supply curve is a step function dependent upon price and quantity of various resources
  - Electricity consumption is relatively inelastic; therefore, load is unlikely to contract in response to higher market prices
- **Energy costs (inclusive of capacity, generation, and environmental attributes) are expected to increase as the corresponding markets; climbing the supply curve will initially raise costs for all customers until more supply is added and the system regains equilibrium**
- **As data centers pay their 'fair share' of costs based on their contribution of load, elevated market conditions resulting from the additional demand will affect all ratepayers; this effect is not generally considered to be an explicit source of inequity between rate classes especially from the perspective of a single data center being added but in aggregate the impact can be significant**

Disruption & Reestablishment of Market Equilibrium

Illustrative Impact of Additional Load on Electricity Pricing



Illustrative Impact of Additional Supply Electricity Pricing



- **Load growth in Virginia and elsewhere in PJM creates disequilibrium due to supply taking time to respond to demand signals; constraints causing lag include project development and interconnection**
- **Eventually, supply will respond to meet the higher load bringing equilibrium conditions and subsiding costs which will also depend on the initial "steepness" of the supply curve as well as how that supply curve shifts over time**

Projected Cost Impacts – Dominion

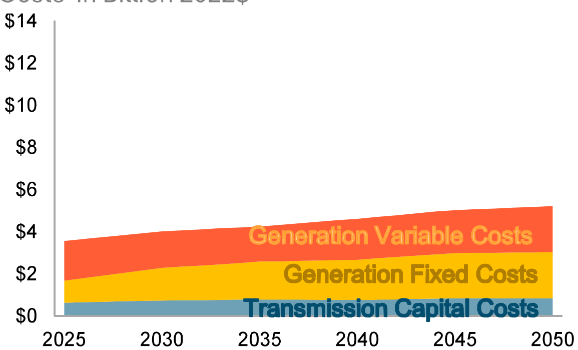
Energy+Environmental Economics

Load and Cost Projections

- Variable costs of new generation supply (inclusive of capacity, energy, and environmental attributes) are expected to increase as the corresponding markets tighten due to increasing demand relative to supply
- Generation fixed costs will increase as a result of new resources being built to meet the anticipated increase in demand
- Transmission costs are also expected to rise, as power from new resources is interconnected with growing load centers; local transmission projects and regional network upgrades and extensions for reliability and improved system efficiency will further contribute to increasing costs but are not included in this analysis.

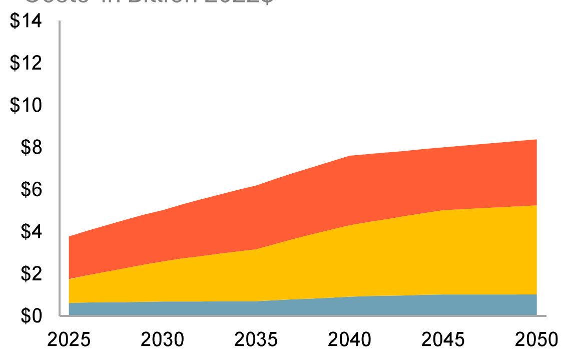
No Data Center Growth
Data Center Load (TWh)

Costs in Billion 2022$

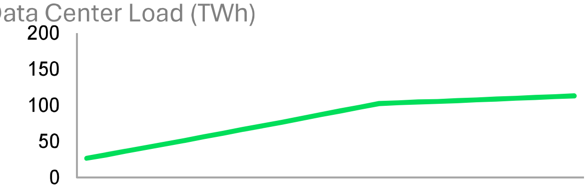


Moderate Data Center Growth
Data Center Load (TWh)

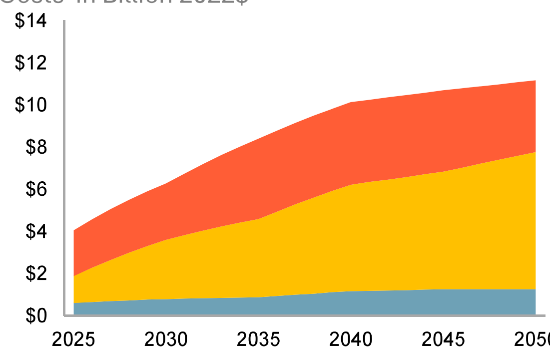
Costs in Billion 2022$



Unconstrained Data Center Growth
Data Center Load (TWh)

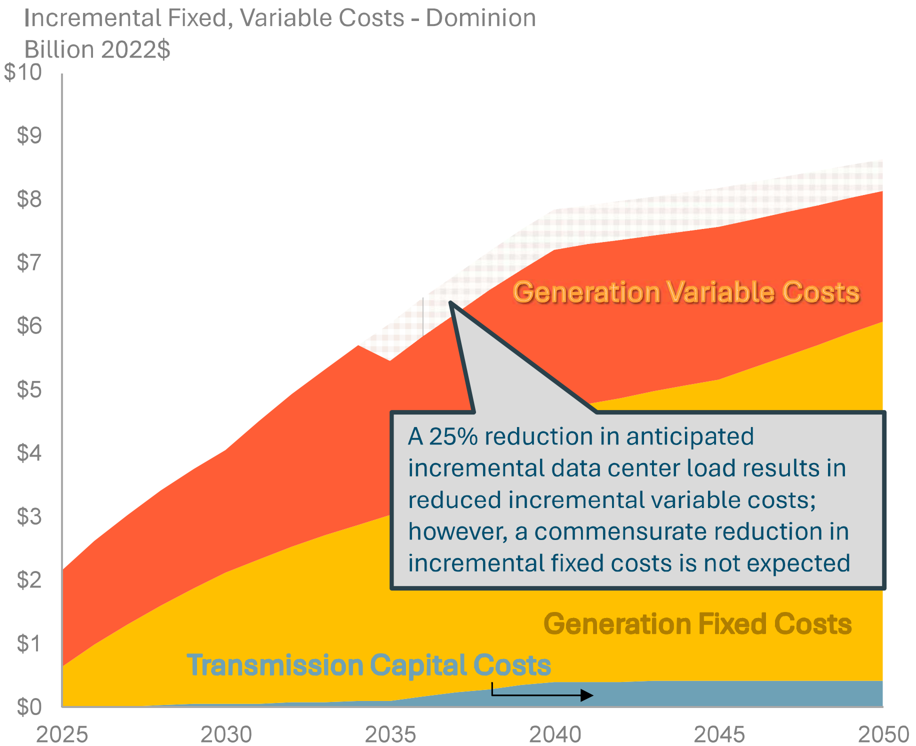


Costs in Billion 2022$



Cost Impacts of Underachieving Load Forecast

Unconstrained Data Center, Relaxed Policy
(25% lower incremental data center demand in 2035)



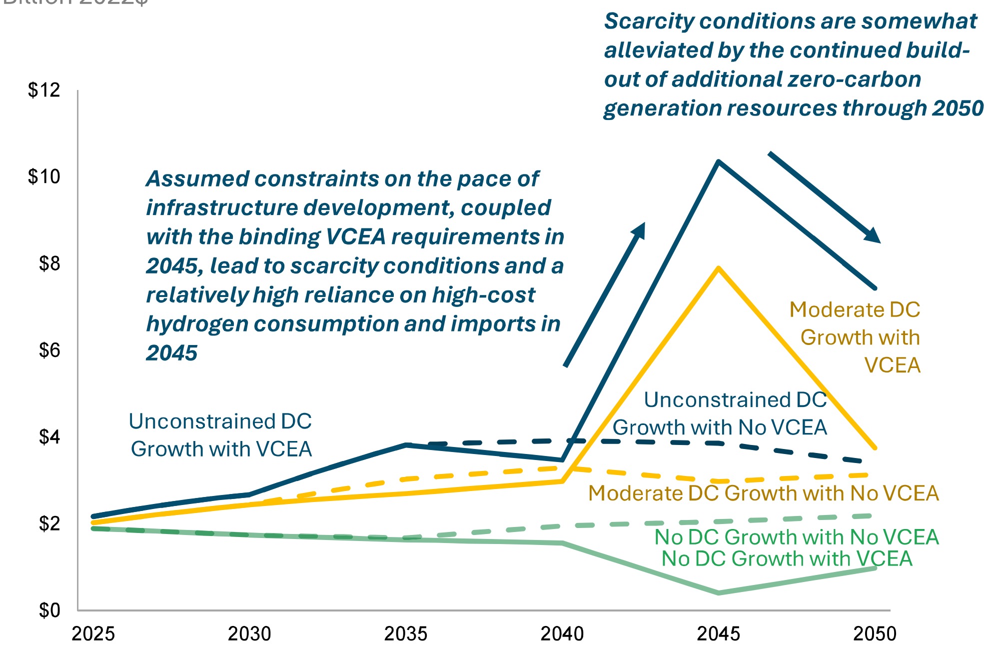
- **In a scenario where fixed costs are committed based on a data center load forecast that fails to fully materialize on time, committed fixed costs, triggered by the anticipated load, will be spread across a smaller system load, resulting in higher costs to all customers**
- **An equivalent shift in data center load to third party supply would similarly increase cost burdens to other customers, driven by the reallocation of fixed costs**

$$Retail\ Rates = \frac{(Fixed\ Costs + Variable\ Costs)}{System\ Consumption\ (MWh)}$$

Variable Costs of Generation

+ **Near-term surge in data center load growth is forecasted across different growth scenarios before moderating after 2040; resources used to meet demand across scenarios exhibit different cost characteristics**
  - Resources like wind, solar, and SMRs tend to have higher fixed costs with lower variable costs
  - Combustion-based resources tend to have lower fixed costs and higher variable costs
+ **Policy conditions also influences variable costs**
  - Relaxed policy scenarios see higher variable costs in early years due to more use of gas and fewer renewable resources
  - VCEA policy scenarios indicate lower variable costs in early years with increasing costs approaching 2045 as hydrogen is used to meet compliance until sufficient transmission, SMRs, and renewable resources can be developed
+ **In addition to a larger volume of generation, higher-growth scenarios are expected to result in tighter supply-demand conditions, increasing the price of energy market products and imports on a per unit basis**

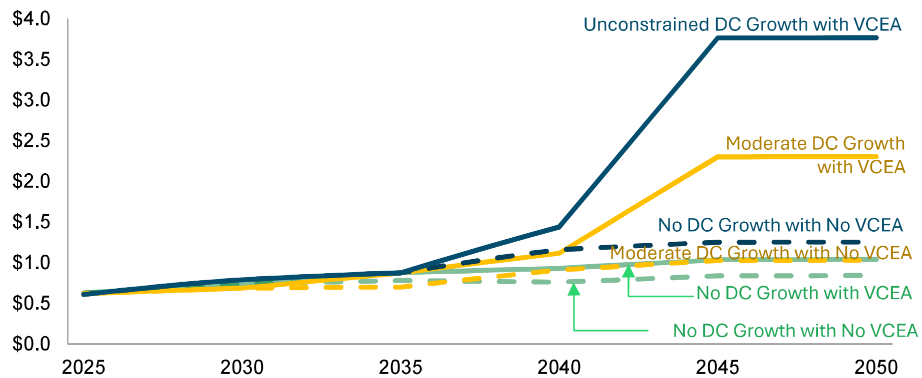
Generation Variable Costs - Dominion
Billion 2022$



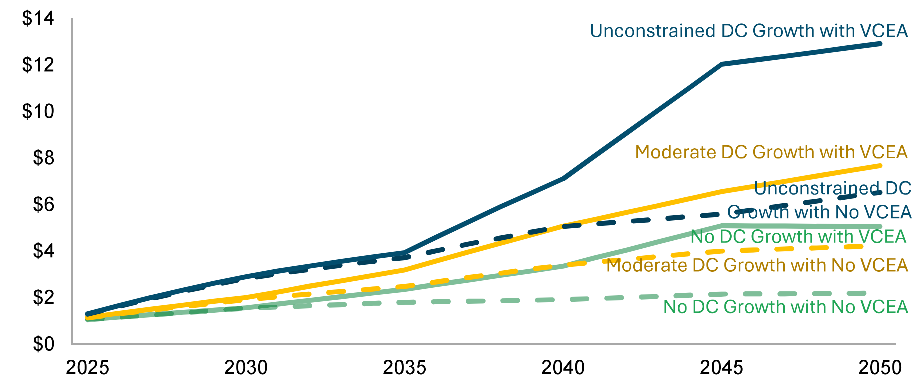
Fixed Costs of Generation & Transmission

+ **Resource builds are committed in anticipation of load growth to allow for the necessary lead times for development**
+ **As load growth moderates in the 2040's costs continue to climb as resource builds are brought online to meet continued demand growth and the VCEA policy requirements**
+ **Policy influences fixed costs**
  - VCEA policy drives higher fixed costs due to development of renewable resources
  - Increased transmission investments is required to deliver new renewable resource builds to load centers

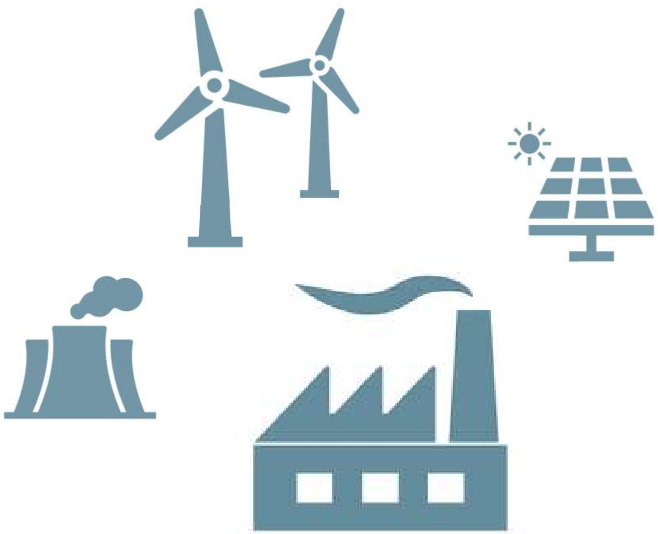
Transmission Fixed Costs - Dominion
Billion 2022$



Generation Fixed Costs - Dominion
Billion 2022$



Additional Generation Cost Considerations

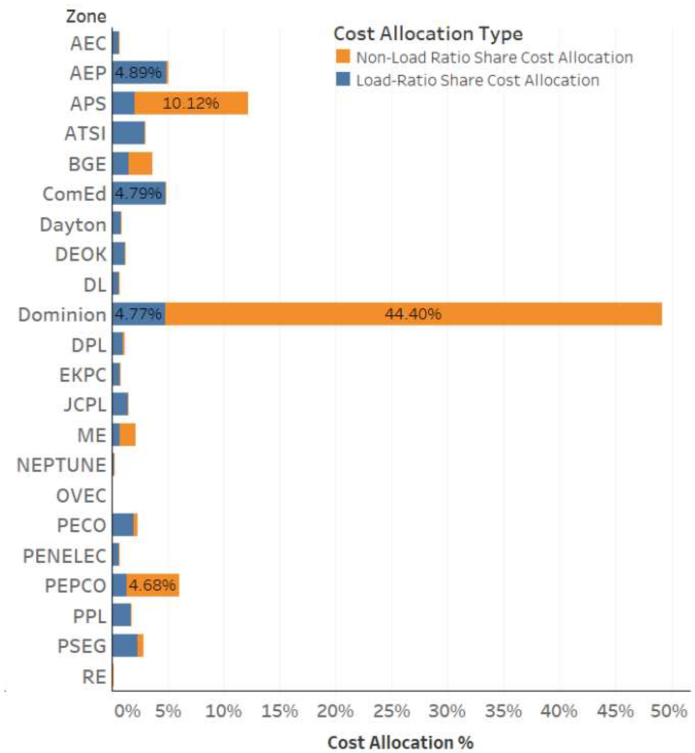


+ **Generation sources and procurement method will also have cost allocation impacts, with respect to fixed and variable costs of generation; for example, a solar PPA would represent a high variable cost with no fixed costs, whereas a utility-owned combustion turbine would likely represent lower variable costs with significant fixed costs**
+ **While utilities are exposed to marginal pricing in the wholesale market, retail customers typically pay average (embedded) cost, which often includes physical and financial contracts that hedge against full exposure to marginal costs**
  - There are other factors that can also mitigate ratepayer impact to higher marginal pricing such as an investor owned vertically integrated utility owning generation that is a hedge against higher market prices
+ **Deviations from load forecasts could result in cost shifting under current cost allocation methodologies**
  - Data centers that outperform load expectations or operate with equipment beyond the budgeted lifespan will over contribute more to system costs
  - Data centers that underperform load expectations or that fail to reach the projected payback period of infrastructure investments made on their behalf will contribute less than an equitable amount to system costs and have a negative impact on other customers

Additional Transmission Cost Considerations

- **E3 modeling contains a high-level representation of bulk and local transmission costs to ensure new resources can be delivered to loads [see slides 122-123]**
- **However, E3 modeling does not capture local reliability constraints; the full set of transmission system needs as a result will likely be greater than projected**
  - Supplemental projects intended to improve reliability or system efficiency within the Dominion load zone would be conducted at additional costs
- **In its Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (RTEP) PJM's Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee (TEAC) identifies and recommends approximately $5 billion of additional reliability projects over the next several years**
  - These projects are not directly incorporated into E3's analysis; instead, a subset of these investments likely overlap with the identified transmission system needs in E3's modeling
  - Reliability upgrades serving a single zone are the sole responsibility of the associated transmission provider, while projects serving multiple zones are socialized more broadly across market participants and/or project beneficiaries
  - Nearly 50% of the costs associated with transmission reliability upgrades (~$2.5 billion) identified by the TEAC are prescribed for the Dominion load zone through a combination of load-share and non-load-share cost allocations
- **As the transmission provider, Dominion allocates transmission costs among load serving utilities within the transmission zone, who then recover those costs through retail rates**

Cost Allocation of Recommended Transmission Reliability Investments in PJM by Load Zone for RTEP, Window 3



Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee Recommendations to the PJM Board, December 2023. 20231205-pjm-teac-board-whitepaper-december-2023.ashx

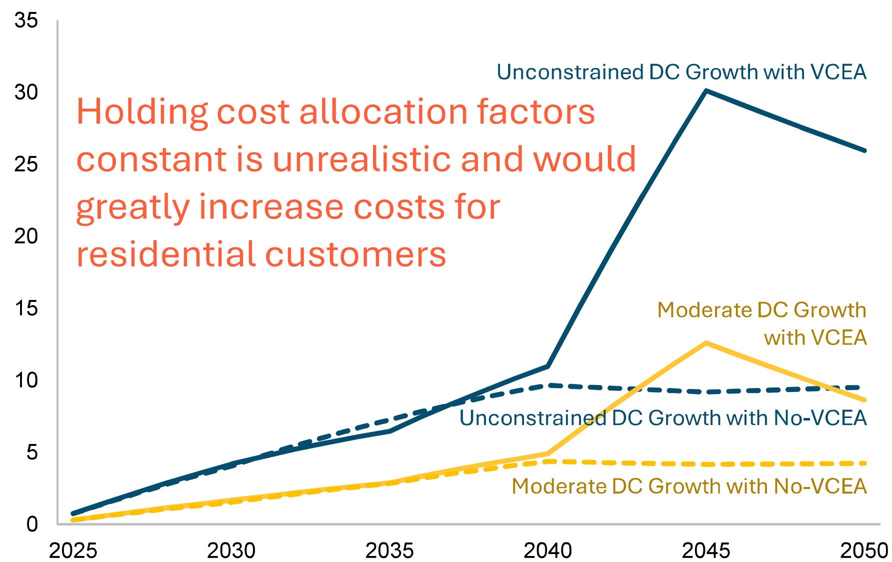
Projected Rate Impacts – Dominion

Energy+Environmental Economics

Comparative Impact of Data Center Loads on Residential Rates: Fixed Cost Allocation Factors

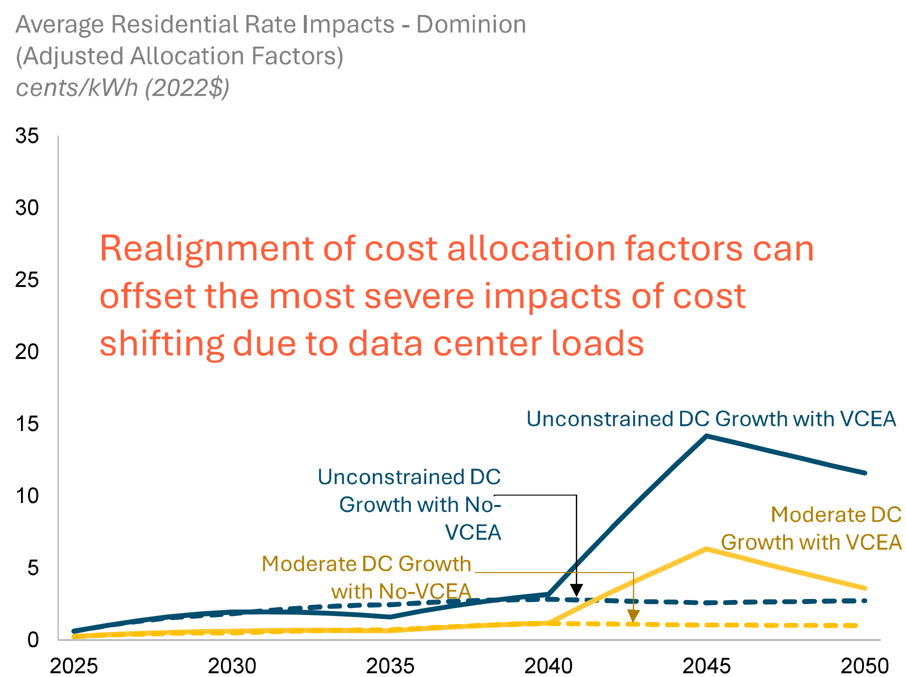
- **If current cost allocation factors are held consistent, Dominion's residential electric rates will experience significant upward pressure with growing data center load**
  - Note, this is not a realistic case as cost allocation factors would adjust per normal ratemaking practices, but is useful to illustrate impacts under current rates if those factors were "frozen"
- **While maintaining consistent cost allocation factors is not a realistic expectation, this perspective helps to establish an upper bound for residential ratepayer impact**
- **Distribution costs are intentionally omitted from the rate impact analysis**
  - Distribution costs incurred on the system to serve new, interconnecting loads will also increase total system cost; however, causation of these costs is more easily assessed and assigned to loads either directly (upfront) or indirectly (cost allocation)
  - Data centers are increasingly interconnecting at transmission voltages and contributing less to distribution network costs

Average Residential Rate Impacts - Dominion
(Fixed Allocation Factors)
cents/kWh (2022$)

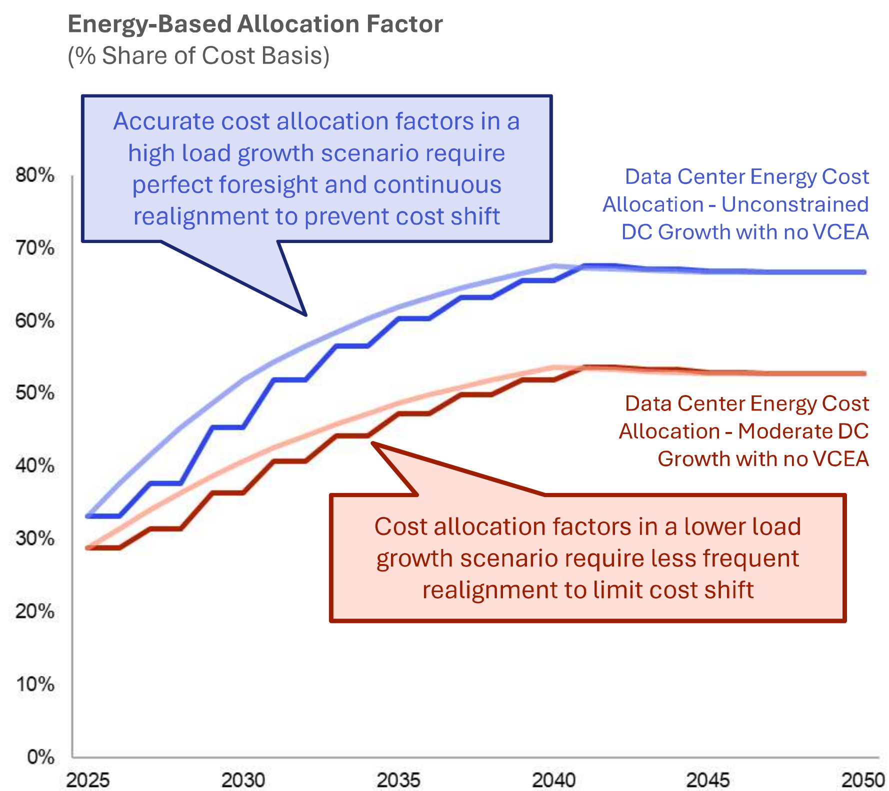


Anticipated Impact of Data Center Loads on Residential Rates: Updated Cost Allocation Factors

- **Cost allocation factors can be updated using current methodologies, which assess contributions of each rate class toward total system demand and consumption**
- **Growth forecasts were used to estimate new cost allocation factors for the residential rate class, showing a necessary reduction by about half by 2050 under the most aggressive growth scenarios**
  - Residential customers currently account for 37% of energy consumption and 51% of demand
  - Under the conditions of projected data center growth, the contribution of residential customers to system consumption and demand could fall to as low as 17% and 33%, respectively by 2050
- **Ideal realignment of cost allocation factors can inform a lower bound for residential ratepayer impact**

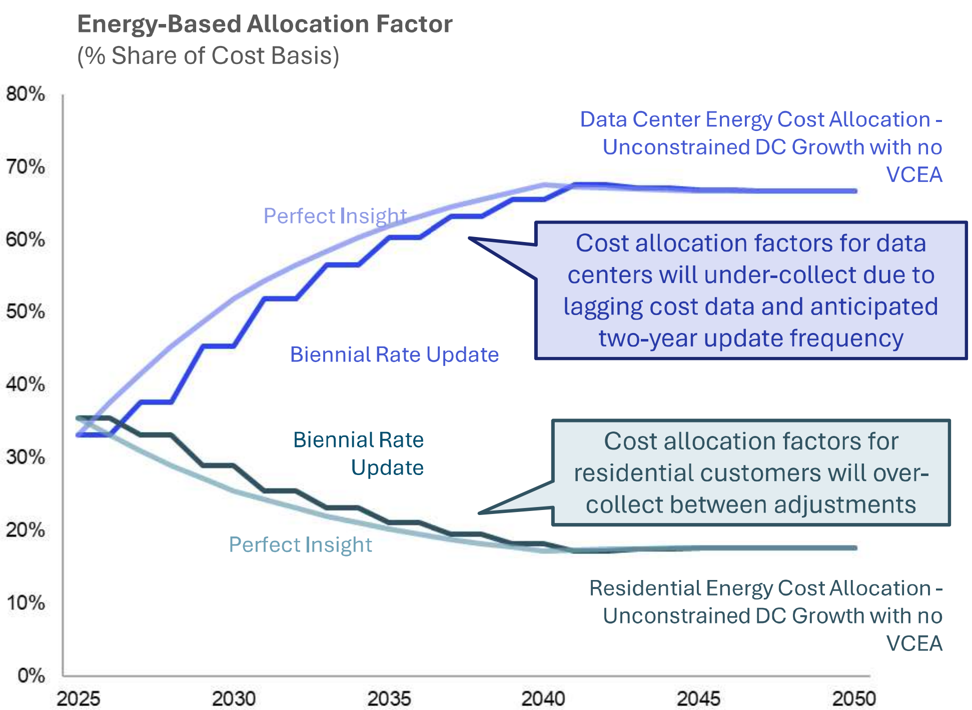


Influence of Regulatory Lag: Scenario Comparison



+ **Current practices for realigning cost allocation factors are likely insufficient for keeping pace with anticipated rate of load growth**
  - Those practices were not designed to account for this level and continued pace of large load growth from essentially a single customer type
+ **Introduction of new resource costs and load growth between rate reviews will meaningfully change the allocation of portfolio costs**
+ **The Virginia SCC reviews cost allocation factors for Dominion every two years; while historically, this has been sufficient to address incremental load growth, the pace and magnitude of data center growth is likely to require reconsideration of this approach.**

Influence of Regulatory Lag: Rate Class Comparison

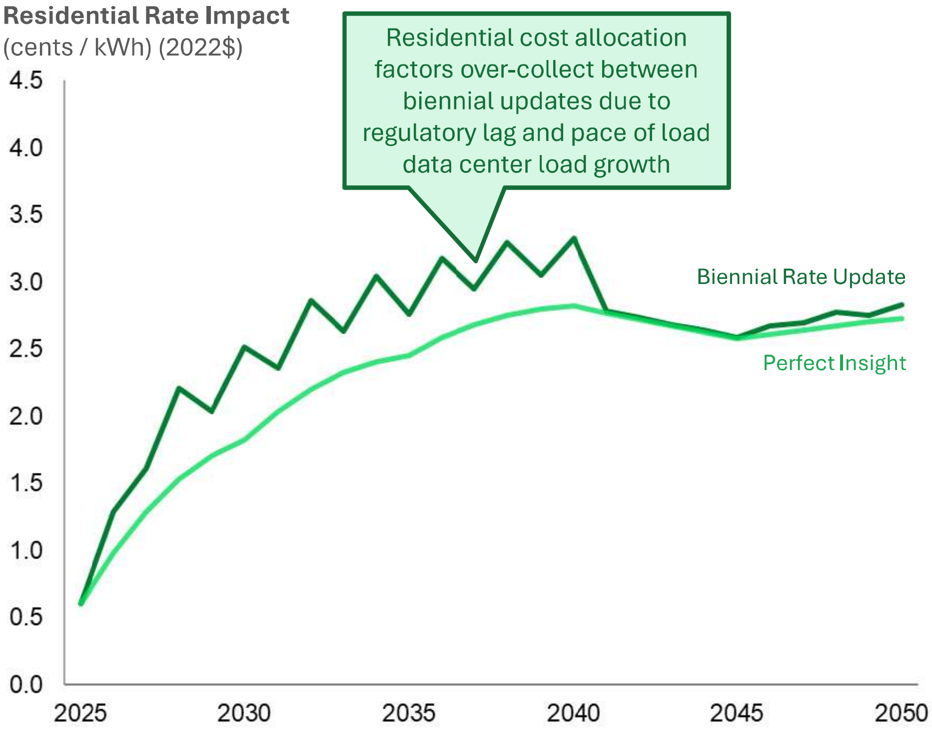


- **Best efforts to realign cost allocation factors are still likely to lag costs due to regulatory process and inaccuracies of forecasted data**
- **Such regulatory lag may shift costs away from data centers until associated load growth moderates**
  - Realignment of data center cost allocation factors is expected to increase over time, as their contribution to system consumption and demand grows; periods between cost allocation adjustments will favor data centers
  - Realignment of residential cost allocation factors is expected to decrease over time, as the class contribution to system consumption and demand falls, relative to data centers; periods between cost allocation adjustments will disadvantage residential customers

Influence of Regulatory Lag: Potential Rate Impact

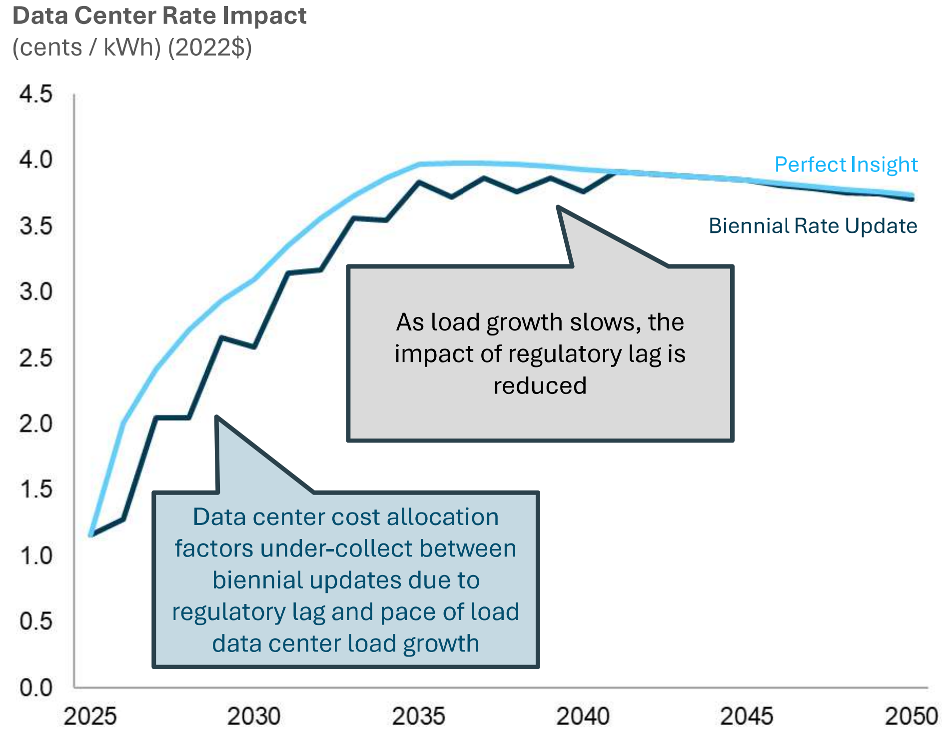
Influence of Regulatory Lag on Residential Rates

Unconstrained DC Load Growth, without VCEA



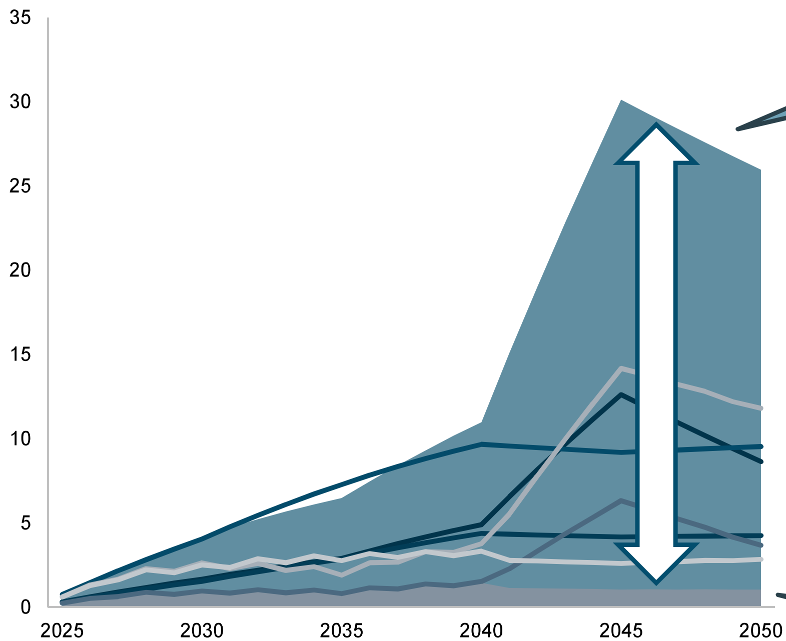
Influence of Regulatory Lag on Data Center Rates

Unconstrained DC Load Growth, without VCEA



Range of Potential Impacts

Range of Anticipated Residential Rate Impacts for Dominion Virginia
cents/kWh (2022$)



Upper boundary assumes no adjustment of cost allocation factors, which is not realistic, but shown for illustrative purposes

- **Range of possibilities is influenced by several factors:**
  - Data center growth rate
  - Cost allocation adjustments
    - Where applicable, periodic adjustment of cost allocation factors is anticipated to occur as required by the Commonwealth of Virginia
  - VCEA policy
- **Rate impacts correspond only to those from incremental data center load; other cost increases are expected**
- **Rate impacts stabilize as the load forecast levels, but effects will persist beyond load growth**

Lower boundary assumes perfect foresight and real-time adjustment of cost allocation factors, which is not practical

Residential Rate Impact
Dominion Utility – *Example Bill*

Billing Details
Learn more at DominionEnergy.com/YourBill.

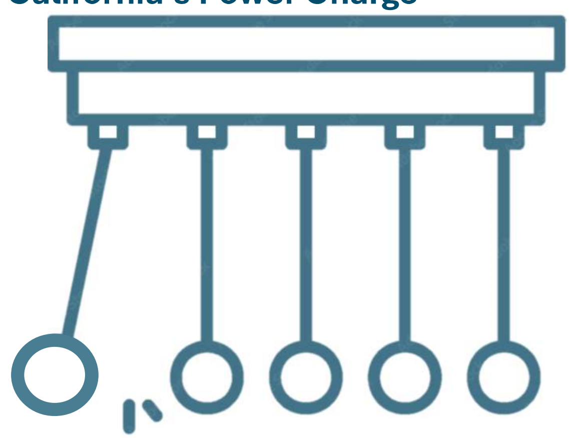
Electric Charges and Credits	
Previous Electric Charges and Credits	
Previous Balance	120.32
Payment Received	120.32 CR
Balance Forward	**0.00**
Current Electric Charges and Credits	
Residential (Schedule 1)	***03/02-04/02***
Distribution Service Charges	**30.37**
Electricity Supply Service (ESS)	
Generation	41.31
Transmission	12.14
Fuel	22.27
Electricity Supply Charges	**75.72**
Deferred Fuel Cost Charge	2.40
PIPP Universal Service Fee	0.57
Sales and Use Surcharge	1.75
State/Local Consumption Tax	1.22
City / County Utility Tax	2.00
Taxes, Fees and Charges	**8.59**
Current Electric Charges	**114.68**
Account Balance	**114.68**
Amount Due	**$114.68**

- **Incremental allocations and associated rate impacts on residential costs of transmission and generation resulting from investments supporting data center growth are expected to increase, on average, by over 12% annually through 2050, putting upward pressure on residential utility bills for Dominion customers**
- **Under the Unconstrained Data Center Growth with VCEA scenario, associated transmission and generation costs would increase the average bill for a Dominion residential customer, in real terms, from $114.68/month today to $139.37/month by 2050**
  - This increase is independent of cost impacts resulting from distribution upgrades, transmission reliability investments, or inflation
  - Assumed consumption is with 779 kWh/month of usage

https://www.dominionenergy.com/-/media/images/virginia/billing/bill-redesign/new-va-res-same-customer-example

Additional Cost Influences

- The significant investments required by utilities to serve the anticipated data center loads are potentially likely to put pressure on both 1) their ability to raise capital from markets and 2) the cost of that capital, which would directly impact rates although that impact could be mitigated with de-risking certain data center related investments
- Renewable accelerated buyers program may promote acquisition of renewable energy from outside Virginia, which would likely alleviate some pressure on the price of in-state RECs required for VCEA compliance
- Retail choice has potential to result in stranded costs if large loads elect to transition away from bundled energy supply from their utility; though a five-year commitment period reduces volatility, a mechanism to hold customers responsible for fixed costs of generation incurred on their behalf prior to departing for a retail choice provider may help to ensure customers remain indifferent to such decisions of large loads (e.g., California's Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) serves as one example of this approach)
- Increasing load density is likely to raise locational marginal price (LMP) in areas of higher need and constraint; utilities with high exposure to import markets will experience a commensurate upward pressure on energy prices until markets adjust and reach a new equilibrium due to increased demand

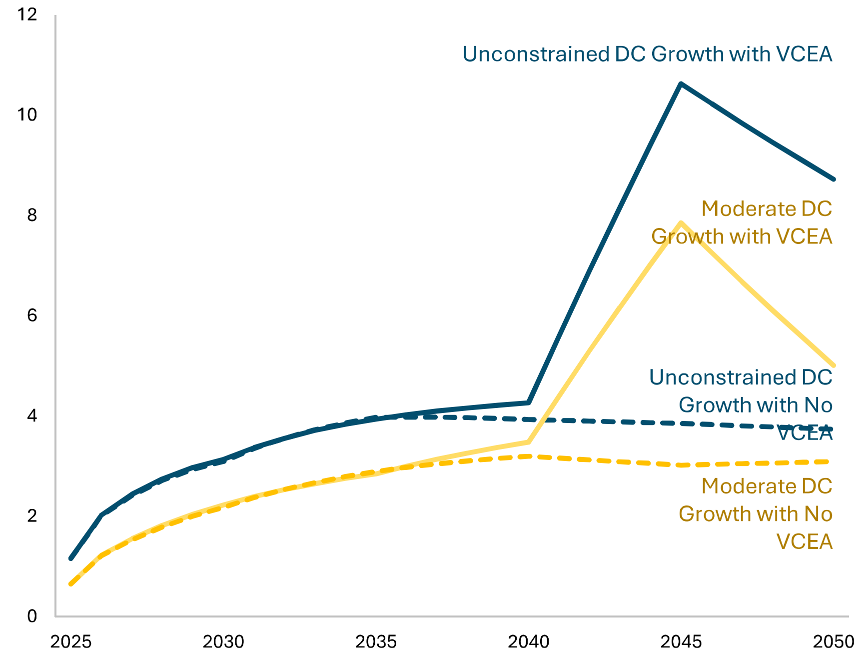


Order Adopting Regulations - ARBs (cdn-dominionenergy-prd-001.azureedge.net)
§ 56-577. Schedule for transition to retail competition

Data Center Rate Impacts

+ **Data centers bear a greater financial burden than residential customers for the economic impacts of data center development under existing rate structures**
  - Data centers are projected to experience an increase in 3-4 cents/kWh by 2040, compared to an estimated increase of 1-3 cents/kWh for residential customers
+ **The same economic pressures influencing residential rates are likely to have similar impacts on data center rates**
  - Data centers are expected contribute three-to-seven times more toward incremental costs than residential customers by 2050
  - Total incremental cost contributions from data centers are anticipated to range from $2-$10 billion by 2050, depending on scenario

Average Data Center Rate Impacts - Dominion
(Adjusted Allocation Factors)
cents/kWh (2022$)



Future Rate Equity Considerations

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Narrow Path to Equitable Outcome Under Existing Rate Structures

Transformational load growth is unlikely to benefit other ratepayers under current rate structures

+ **Data centers are unlikely to produce downward pressure on rates until load growth stabilizes, and system equilibrium is regained, which is expected to extend beyond 2040**
+ **Fixed cost impacts are expected to endure beyond the surge in data center development as resource additions and associated costs lag load growth**
+ **Deviations from forecasts will exacerbate different cost concerns**
    - Failure of data center loads to fully materialize as forecasted will reduce the diffusion of fixed costs across system load, increasing upward pressure on rates for existing customers
    - Accelerated or increased data center load will further tighten marginal cost markets, exacerbating the upward pressure on variable generation costs for existing customers
+ **Failure to update cost allocation factors in an accurate or timely manner will produce inequities**

Expanding the Path to an Equitable Outcome

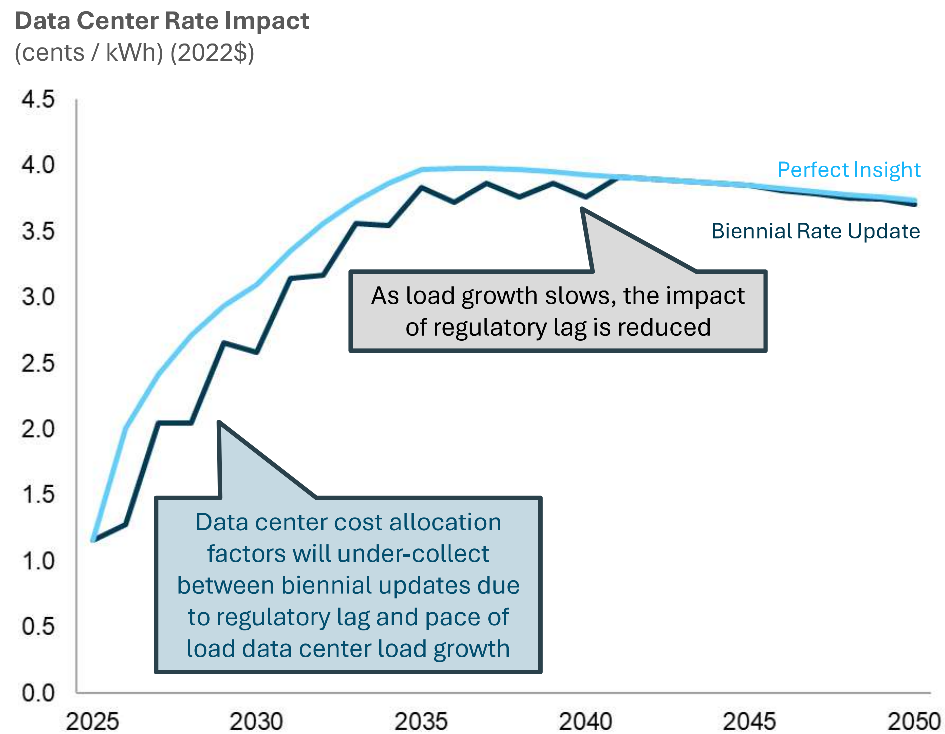
Various tools can help manage risk and widen the path to equitable integration of data center loads

+ Updating cost allocation factors and reducing regulatory lag given pace and scale of data center load growth
+ Additional charges for data centers that balance historical ratemaking for individual large loads and potential impacts of transformational load growth
+ Better forecasting of data center demand, which can also include a waitlist for service and other load interconnection queue reforms
+ Long-term service commitments that may include ramping provisions, exit fees, and/or minimum terms for energy and demand charges such as "take or pay" constructs
+ Self supply of resources or "bring your own generation" of both existing and emerging technologies like SMRs along with leveraging continued innovation from data center companies on energy efficiency as well as flexible operations
+ Direct assignment of new infrastructure costs as well as enhanced collateral / credit requirements

Rate Impact Toolkit:
Updating Cost Allocation Factors

- **Improving processes for updating cost allocation factors may help mitigate the potential for cross-subsidization between classes due to regulatory lag**
  - More frequent adjustments could help to maintain more accurate apportioning of costs
  - Automatic adjustments, within an approved framework and subject to periodic review, could enable utilities to keep pace with rapid load growth
- **Reducing oversight and regulation of cost allocation factors may introduce risk due to the magnitude and frequency of adjustments that are likely to be required**

Influence of Regulatory Lag on Data Center Rates
High DC Load Growth, without VCEA



Rate Impact Toolkit:
Additional charges for data centers

Inclusion of a surcharge for associated data center rates would recover additional contributions to embedded costs and could be set to offset indirect costs incurred due to data center load and to guarantee a net benefit for existing customers

If data centers were to be mostly or fully assigned costs incurred on the system on their behalf, existing customers would be insulated from many of the direct cost impacts

Excessive contributions by data centers, above marginal cost, could be viewed as discriminatory and may stifle new data center development

Marginal Costs	New Costs	Contribution to Fixed Costs
Data Centers must pay at least their marginal costs of service to avoid shifting the burden inequitably to existing customers	**New costs could be direct (e.g., administrative) or indirect (e.g., network upgrades) and may be difficult to quantify or assign**	**Contributions by data centers to system fixed costs benefit existing customers; however, excessive contributions are inequitable to data centers**

Rate Impact Toolkit:
Data Center Interconnection Queue Management

- To reduce risks associated with forecast error and potential stranded assets, a "wait list" of data centers could be developed to take the place of any data center that ceases operation
- Given Virginia's unique position as the premier data center market, other data center customers may be likely to take the place of a load that fails to materialize or one that exits the market prematurely
- Assets would have higher assurance of being fully and consistently utilized if new data center loads were actively waiting for opportunities to take over any load that drops out or is not meeting certain development milestones

Image generated with AI

Rate Impact Toolkit: Service Commitments

- **Recent settlement agreements across diverse stakeholders including data center companies filed with regulators in Ohio and Indiana aim to address provisions for interconnecting large data center loads**
- **The proposals contains several key elements that address concerns over committed fixed costs**
  - Minimum payment threshold requires data centers to pay for a percentage of their projected energy needs upfront
  - Contractual obligations mandate extended contract terms with exit fees for data centers that cancel projects early
  - Focus on consumer protection ensures that data centers contribute adequately to grid upgrades needed to serve them
- **While the concept has shared support from a wide variety of stakeholders, disagreement over the specific terms and rates has led to two competing proposals to be filed with the PUC**
  - Advocates for proactive management of data centers growth include:
    - Utilities
    - Regulatory staff
    - Ratepayer advocates
    - Traditional industry representatives, like Walmart
  - Some data center developers and energy suppliers are advocating for similar, but more modest terms to balance their perceived risk such as the utility failing to interconnect them on schedule

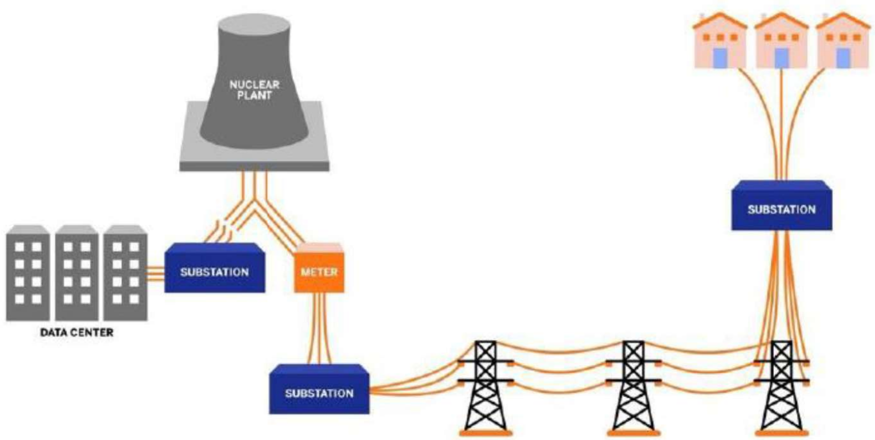
One proposal would require new data center customers to pay a minimum of 85% of the contracted capacity, regardless of actual demand or consumption. Such a commitment would be in place for 12 years, including a 4-year ramp up period.[1]

[1] AEP Ohio, PUCO Staff, Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Ohio Energy Group and Others Agree on How to Address Growing Data Center Power Needs
PUCO case no. 24-508-EL-ATA, Joint Stipulation And Recommendation. https://dis.puc.state.oh.us/

Rate Impact Toolkit: Self Supply of Resources

Data centers have several options for procuring their own resources:

Co-location: On-site generation is the primary power supply for the data center with direct, bilateral agreements between the power developer and the data center owner/operator



Power Purchase Agreement (PPA): Agreement between data center and power supplier within the same service territory with utility acting as an intermediary

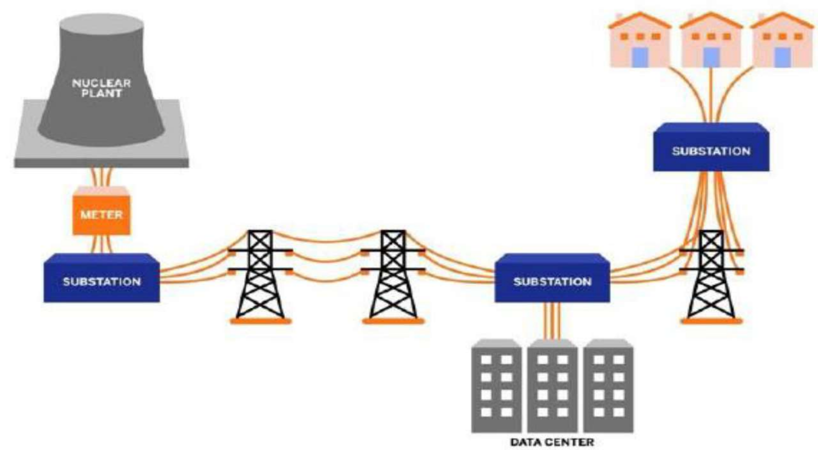


Figure source: Kormos, Michael, The Co-located Load Solution, July 2024. https://ferc.gov/libraries/

Benefits and Concerns of Self Supply

- The concept of "bring-your-own-generation" ("BYOG") has gained recent interest by data center developers and utility regulators
- In March 2024, Talen Energy sold its data center campus linked to the Susquehanna Nuclear Station in Pennsylvania to Amazon Web Services with a 10-year power purchase agreement for up to one-third (960MW) of the facility's total capacity to be delivered directly to the data center; the amended interconnection agreement was subsequently rejected by FERC in November 2024
- FERC held a technical conference in November 2024 to begin addressing the issue of co-location of data centers with generators
- FERC, PJM, and many other stakeholders including utilities and data center companies are continuing to actively explore the issue of data centers co-locating with generation, with additional guidance anticipated

> "Co-location arrangements of the type presented here present an array of complicated, nuanced and multifaceted issues, which collectively could have huge ramifications for both grid reliability and consumer costs"
>
> –FERC Commissioner Mark Christie

Susquehanna Nuclear Plant and Data Center

Photo: Talen Energy

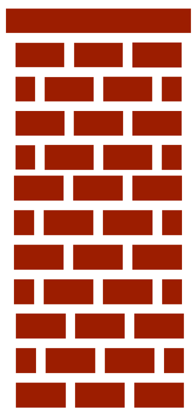
FERC Docket No. AD24-11-000, October 2024. https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/events/commissioner-led-technical-conference-regarding-large-loads-co-located
PJM Guidance on Co-Located Load. April 2024. https://www.pjm.com/-/media/markets-ops/rpm/rpm-auction-info/pjm-guidance-on-co-located-load.ashx

Rate Impact Toolkit: Direct Assignment of Costs

- Mitigating the cost impacts of extreme load growth for existing general service customers may warrant isolating data centers and directly assigning costs
- Resource portfolios would effectively be separated with costs sourced through energy service agreements or otherwise acquired exclusively to serve data center load
- Insulating existing customers from data center customers provides downside protection, but also limits opportunity for the potential upside impacts like margin sharing, clean energy generation acceleration, or long-range diffusion of fixed costs over time
- Historically public power utilities use this technique more frequently than investor-owned utilities primarily due to business model differences and other factors

General Service Customers

Cost Component	Cost Recovery
Energy Capacity Ancillary Services RECs Embedded Fixed Costs Administrative Costs Interconnection Costs	Embedded Cost



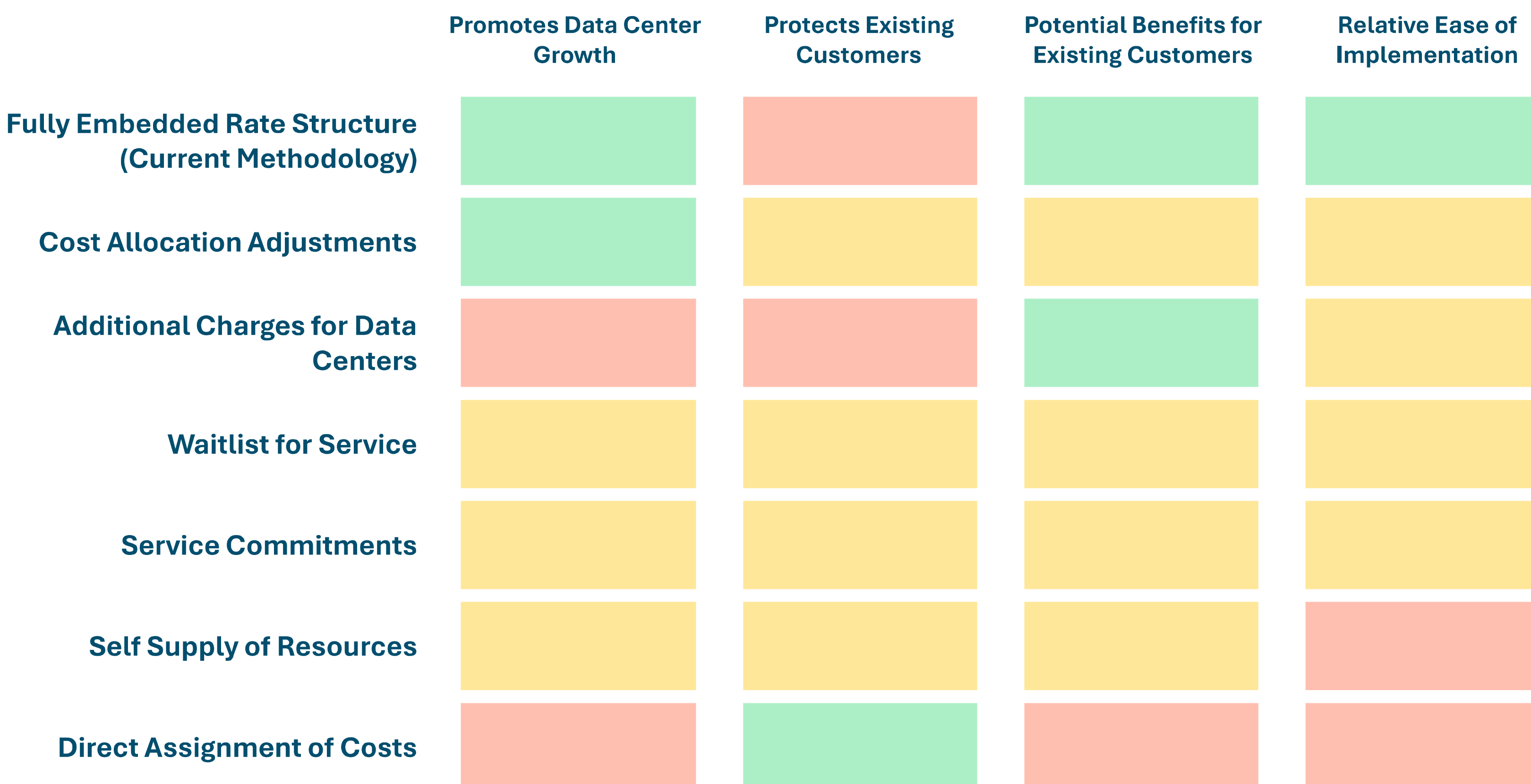
Data Center Customers

Cost Component	Cost Recovery
Energy Capacity Ancillary Services RECs	Marginal Cost
Embedded Fixed Costs	Fixed Cost Adder
Administrative Costs Interconnection Costs	Directly Assigned

Indirect influences unable to be effectively measured and assigned based on cost causation would continue to be socialized putting upward pressure on costs for all utility ratepayers

- Utility bond rating
- Marginal cost markets
- Locational marginal pricing

Rate Impact Management: Spectrum of Rate Design Tools



Additional Considerations

- If data center loads are constrained or discouraged in Virginia, they may take root elsewhere in PJM, which would likely have similar generation and transmission marginal cost rate impacts without the associated local economic development
- In some cases, the resource development and network upgrades required to serve increasing data center load may be an *acceleration* of improvements that would otherwise be warranted, not necessarily an outright addition such as the needed rebuild of an aging grid as well as the need to expand the grid for successive waves of load growth such as from electric vehicles, building electrification, and advanced manufacturing
- Load growth, led by data centers, will likely accelerate the development of clean energy resources due to their preferences along with developing new energy resources such as first-of-a kind technologies that traditional utilities and customers cannot easily support which can spur more rapid innovation and improved cost efficiencies, unlocking long-term benefits to all consumers
- In a scenario where data center growth is low or lower than expected and native load growth is high, due to electrification of building and transportation sectors and/or other new industrial loads, the additional load from data centers would help diffuse those native load driven incremental fixed costs which could potentially put downward pressure on rates
- The addition of stable loads and beneficial system upgrades prompted by data centers will likely provide a long-term advantage for all consumers once load growth eases, fixed costs are recovered, and market pressure subsides

Recommended Improvements to Utility Retail Rate Design

Energy+Environmental Economics

Recommendations

Dominion

- Cost recovery exposes the utility and its other rate payers to risk if data center does not fully subscribe or fails to operate for sufficient time to collect full system investment through allocations
- Adjustment of cost allocation factors should be made more frequently to mitigate cost shifts due to regulatory lag
- Data centers represent an industry with sufficient size and unique attributes (e.g., load factor) to likely warrant separate rate class; comingling different industries at this scale unnecessarily complicates the process of fair and equitable allocation of system costs, especially for other industrial customers with other needs and operating patterns who are served under the same class.

MEC

- A tailored approach seeks to assign all costs incurred by the Cooperative's only data center to the customer directly. This approach likely underutilizes the infrastructure, reducing system efficiency and placing sole onus on data center customer, rather than having opportunities for shared costs and resources among several customers
- While very effective at insulating costs between rate classes, MEC's tailored approach to its data center customer is so prescriptive that expansion from a single customer to a class of customers is not realistic under the existing structure; therefore, unless a more flexible framework is implemented, future data center customers will require their own unique rate designs, which may be seen as impractical or discriminatory

NOVEC

- There are limited updates to its cost-of-service study on file with the SCC; more frequent reviews would help to ensure that assumptions and cost recovery methods are maintained well-calibrated with growing data center loads

General

- Leveraging on-site generation during peak loads via a demand response program or interruptible (non-firm) rate could help reduce fixed costs associated with building and maintaining additional system capacity; a variance measure was proposed by Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality in 2023, which would authorize such action, but it was eventually cancelled for lack of customer interest

Appendices

Energy+Environmental Economics

Appendix Contents

A. **Methods and Inputs**
- Reliability Modeling (RECAP)
- Capacity Expansion Modeling (RESOLVE)
- Key Inputs and Assumptions

B. **Load Benchmarking**
- Comparison to PJM Forecasts

C. **Reliability Modeling**
- Additional ELCC Results

D. **Value of Flexibility**

E. **Rate Dynamics**

F. **Overview of E3 Modeling Capabilities**

Appendix A:
Methods and Inputs

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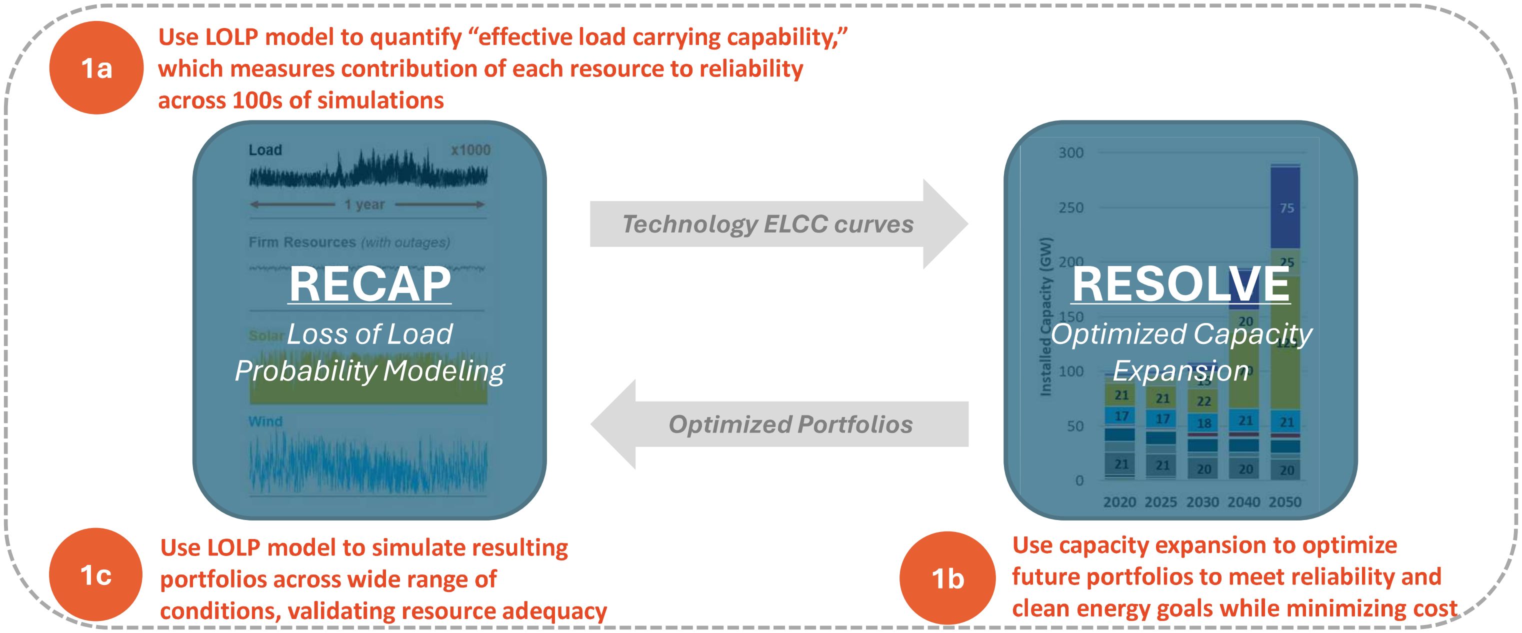
Electric Infrastructure Study Overview

Key Objective of Infrastructure Analysis: Examine electricity system infrastructure and associated investments required to meet the VCEA goals under a wide range of potential data center-driven load growth scenarios

*To perform this work, E3 leveraged a **capacity expansion model** in tandem with a **loss of load probability model**, in order to ensure the resulting portfolios are reliable over a broad range of weather conditions.*

E3 modeled the entire PJM region within its capacity expansion framework to allow more detailed examination of the interaction between Virginia and the broader market in the context of rapid data center growth. However, by design we did not model the PJM market construct precisely in terms of price formation of energy and capacity prices.

This analytical framework identifies the total infrastructure requirements but does not distinguish between utility-owned infrastructure vs. 3rd party owned vs. "behind-the-meter" generation at data center facilities.



RECAP: Loss-of-Load Probability Modeling to understand grid reliability needs

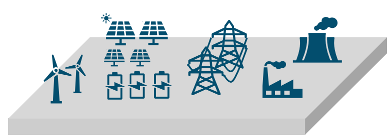
+ **RECAP is a loss-of-load-probability model developed by E3 to study the reliability dynamics of high-renewable electricity systems**
+ **RECAP simulates the operations of the electricity system under thousands of scenarios to capture different conditions**
  - Including load variability, weather variability, renewable output variable, forced outage events
+ **Key RECAP outputs:**
  - System reliability
  - Target planning reserve margin
  - Capacity need shortfall
  - Capacity value of resources

Temperature and Load Artificial Neural Network Simulation

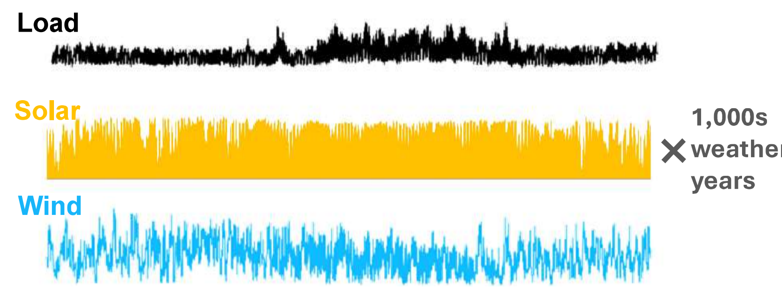
Capturing hourly load conditions under mild and extreme historical weather

Operational Module

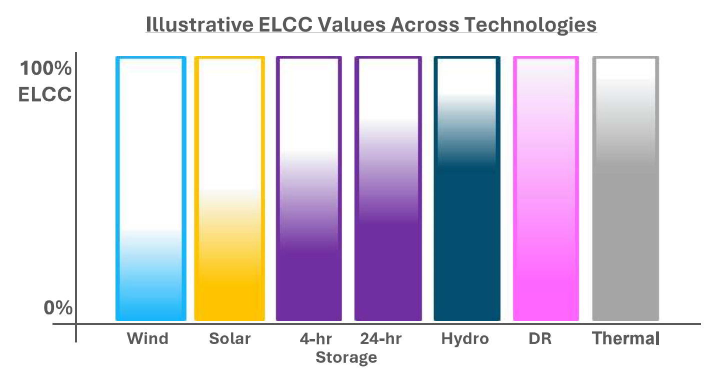
Dispatching resources based on outage characteristics, weather dependency, state of charge availability, and demand-side management



System Reliability: simulates the operations of the electricity system under thousands of scenarios to capture different conditions



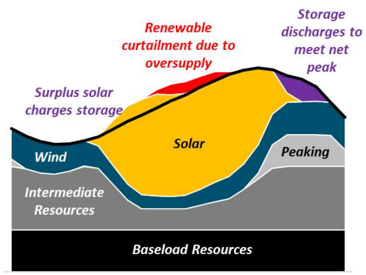
Resource Capacity Value: measures resource's ability to contribute to reliability under a marginal or average ELCC methodology



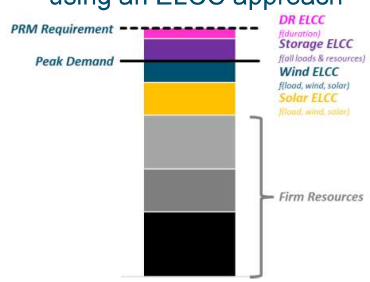
RESOLVE Model Overview

- **RESOLVE is a linear optimization model explicitly tailored to study of electricity systems with high renewable & clean energy policy goals**
- **Optimization balances fixed costs of new investments with variable costs of system operations, identifying a least-cost portfolio of resources to meet needs across a long time horizon**

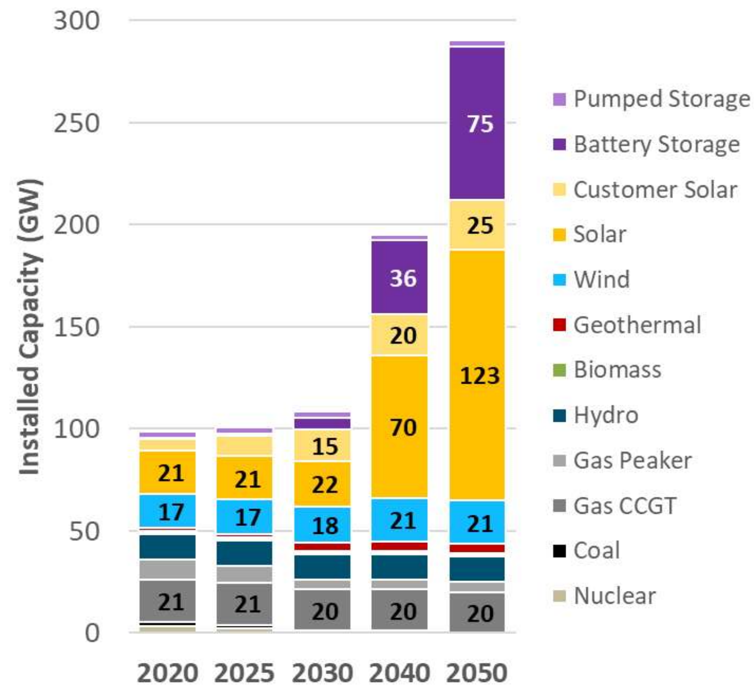
Operational module simulates hourly system operations for a sample of representative days



Reliability module ensures portfolio can meet load during extreme conditions using an ELCC approach



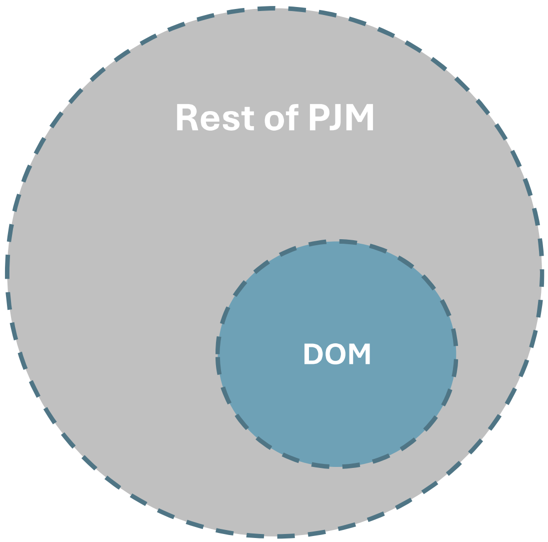
Least-cost plan co-optimizes investments and operations to meet clean energy policy targets, selecting from a diverse set of potential resources including wind, solar, storage, DSM, and natural gas, etc.



Example RESOLVE result from *Long-Run Resource Adequacy under Deep Decarbonization Pathways for California* (Calpine, 2019)

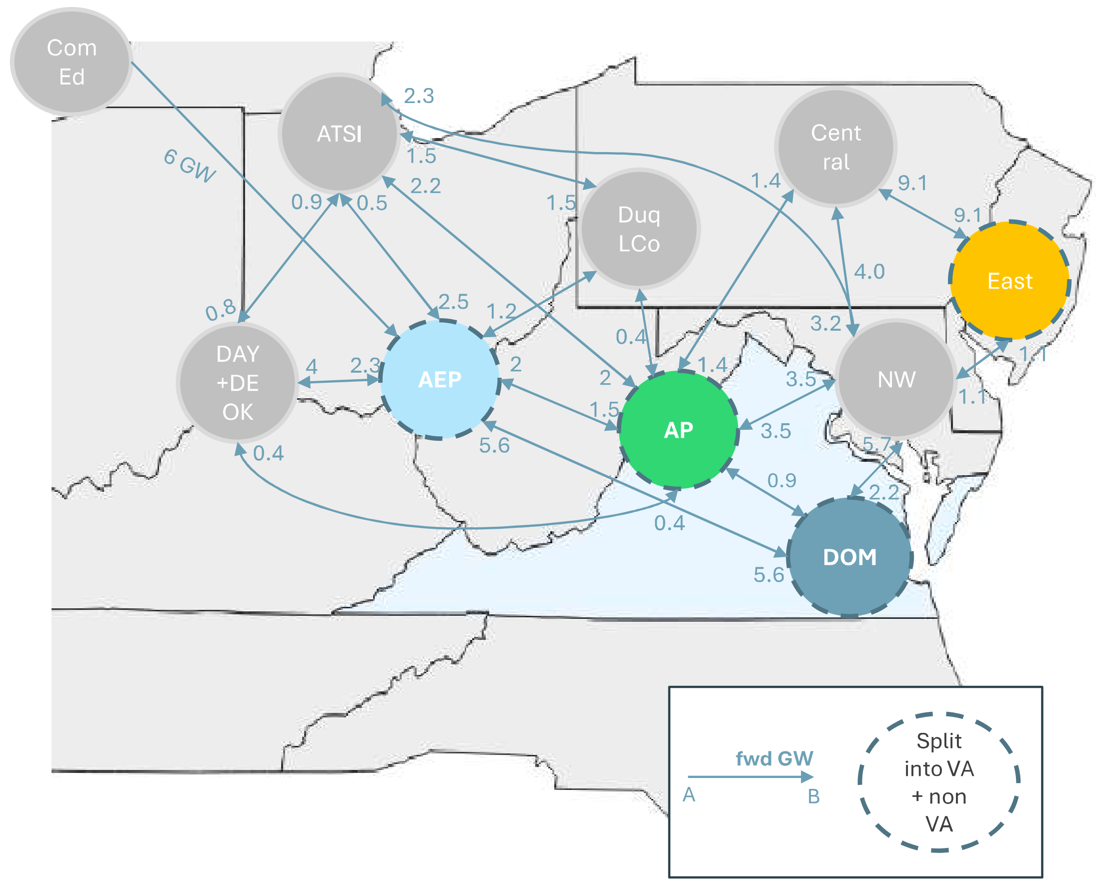
Model Topology and Scope for RECAP

+ **E3 estimated the evolution of system reliability need using RECAP for (1) DOM transmission zone and (2) the entire PJM**
  - Benchmarked to current planning reserve margin constructs, the effective capacity needs for maintaining a reliable system were set for future years through 2050 and under each data center growth scenario
+ **E3 produced resource Effective Load Carrying Capability (ELCCs) for existing and candidate future resources**
  - Resource ELCCs for DOM are used to reflect the specific resource adequacy constraints with increased data center load and renewable build-out in that area
  - Resource ELCCs for PJM are used for all other zones modeled in RESOLVE
  - The ELCC approach was also later used to estimate the reliability contribution of potential data center load flexibility
+ **This approach ensures that both the DOM transmission zone and the entire PJM region will meet the reliability criteria (1 day in 10 year loss-of-load expectation, i.e., 0.1 LOLE)**
  - The ability to access the capacity market is still present for the DOM transmission zone, but this construct ensures most of its capacity requirements are met internally



Capacity Expansion Topology

- **E3 modeled capacity expansion for the PJM market in RESOLVE with 10 load and capacity zones - with those overlapping with Virginia (DOM, AEP, AP, East) broken into VA vs non-VA subzones**
  - This topology allows us to model VA specific assumptions and constraints (e.g. WCC's load forecast and VCEA policies) while capturing the broader market dynamics within PJM
  - Transmission constraints between these zones are derived from information provided by Energy Exemplar
  - Transmission upgrades between DOM and its neighboring zones (AEP, AP, and NW) are modeled as an option to allow more detailed examination of transmission infrastructure upgrade needs to support data center load growth in Northern Virginia
- **The modeling horizon covers 2025-2050 for this study**



Key Modeling Assumptions

- **Load Forecasts** derived from information provided by WCC and published by PJM (2024)
- **Existing Resources** grouped by zones, technology, fuel, and quality tiers (e.g. high/mid/low heat rates for thermal units)
  - Planned resources expected through 2027/2028 included as expected additions
- **Candidate Renewable Resource Potential** drawn from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) ReEDS supply curve
  - Potentials, capacity factors, and interconnection costs for solar PV, onshore wind, and offshore wind candidate resources
- **Candidate Resource Costs** developed leveraging NREL's 2024 Annual Technology Baseline (ATB) forecast and standard E3 financing assumptions
  - Includes escalating local network upgrade costs for renewables which are developed based on transmission projects recently approved by PJM in the DOM zone, in addition to the specific resource interconnection costs from NREL ReEDS
- **Policy Assumptions**
  - EPA regulations, post 2030, constrain new gas builds to a 40% annual capacity factor and require existing coal units to co-fire with natural gas
  - RGGI modeled for participating states (NJ, MD, DE) in the East transmission zone, with price forecast developed by E3
  - States' RPS policy and clean energy carveouts modeled
  - VCEA requirements considered in the VCEA compliance scenarios

Transmission Upgrades

Transmission upgrades can be broadly categorized into the following groups:

+ Intra-zonal transmission upgrades

Captured in model at high level; see next slide for details

- **Resource interconnection |** Spur line constructed to connect individual projects to nearest substation
- **Resource-driven local network upgrade |** Upgrade needed for medium to high voltage local transmission system to allow delivery of new resources to loads

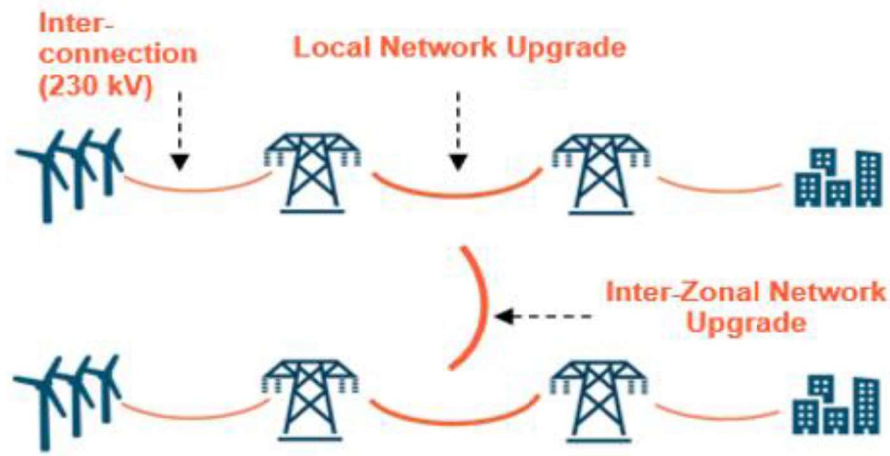
Not captured in model

- **Load growth-driven local network upgrade |** Upgrade needed for local transmission system to address reliability/thermal dynamic issues associated with interconnection of new loads

+ Inter-zonal transmission upgrade

Captured in model at high level; see next slide for details

- Upgrade needed to increase transfer capability between regions in the bulk power system



Transmission Assumptions in RESOLVE

+ Existing transmission constraints:

- **Inter-zonal constraints |** Our capacity expansion model (RESOLVE) captures existing transmission constraints between PJM's load and capacity zones using a "pipe-and-bubble" framework, leveraging the PJM database from Energy Exemplar

+ Potential transmission expansion and costs:

- **Interconnection |** Our analysis considers and reports potential interconnection costs associated with the additions of new renewable capacity
- **Local network upgrades |** Our analysis considers and reports local network upgrade costs associated with the additions of new renewable capacity; a transmission cost curve was developed for new renewables in each zone (higher transmission upgrade costs as a function of increased renewable deployment), which was considered as part of the total resource cost for renewables in capacity expansion
- **Inter-zonal upgrades |** Our analysis also includes an option for the model to select inter-zonal transmission upgrades between DOM and neighboring transmission zones (AEP/AP/NW) with escalating costs
  - Our model topology was built on existing system constraints since the detailed transfer limit impacts of the recently approved PJM RTEP Window 3 projects are still being studied; as a result, the reported incremental investments can be considered a mix of both approved (Window 3) and new projects

+ Notes and caveats:

- We did not model load growth-driven intra-zonal transmission upgrades, which would require more detailed transmission system modeling and information regarding the placement of new data center loads
  - Many of the RTEP window 3 projects were approved to address reliability challenges to connect new large loads within the DOM zone; as a result, our model results should not be compared on an apples-to-apples basis with the RTEP study
- We assumed new capacity resources (e.g. gas, battery, SMR) can be located near loads and thus do not require significant amount of transmission upgrades. Should there be potential constraints on where those resources can be added, additional transmission upgrade costs might be incurred with the addition of those resources
- The transmission upgrade costs reported from our modeling reflects annualized transmission upgrade costs, which cannot be directly compared to the upgrade costs reported in PJM's RTEP study, which reflects the total upfront investments needed

Regional and Sub-Regional Resource Build Limits

+ **Build limits are implemented by technology, location, and future model year**
  - *Resource potentials* - Based on NREL ReEDs and with further adjustments, each resource type has a **total potential build amount** available for each of several subzones (also known as NREL's "p-zones"). These potentials inform the **quality and location** for an exhaustive list of candidate resources.
  - *Interconnection limits* – Based on geographical location relative to the grid and **how much new transmission would need to be built** to link resources to the existing grid. These limits also dictates the **pace of resource potential availability** over the modeling period, assuming further out resources are not available right away in 2030 and 2035.
  - *Build rate limits* – Based on historical build rates and the interconnection queue by zone and by technology, the model constrains **how much can reasonably be built by 2030** (more stringent) and by 2035 (less stringent) in each major zone. These **build rates apply to renewables as well as thermal resources and storage**.
+ **The amount of capacity that can be added in a given area also incurs higher transmission network upgrade costs**
  - *Deliverability limits* – Based on estimated **grid upgrade requirements** in each subzone, new renewable resources need to be accompanied by substation and transmission line upgrades which have their own **implied costs and upgrade rate limits**. Solar and wind resources in the same subzones share the same deliverability limits and required upgrade costs.

Scenario Matrix

Assumptions/Scenarios	No DC Growth No VCEA	No DC Growth With VCEA	Moderate/Unconstrained DC Growth No VCEA	Moderate/Unconstrained DC Growth With VCEA
Load	No Data Center load growth in VA post 2023	No Data Center load growth in VA post 2023	Moderate or Unconstrained Data Center load growth	Moderate or Unconstrained Data Center load growth
VCEA Compliance	No	Yes (IOU or Statewide)	No	Yes (IOU or Statewide)
Existing Thermal	Economic Retirement	Coal/oil/biomass retire in 2045; Gas optional to convert to hydrogen by 2045 with incremental costs	Economic Retirement	Coal/oil/biomass retire in 2045; Gas optional to convert to hydrogen by 2045 with incremental costs
Candidate Renewables, Storage, Gas	Build rate limits through 2035	Build rate limits through 2035	Build rate limits through 2035	Build rate limits through 2035
Hydrogen	Not available	Available [1]	Not Available	Available [1]
SMR (nuclear)	Not available	Available 2035+ with build limits	Available 2035+ with build limits	Available 2035+ with build limits
Capacity Purchases and Transmission Upgrades	Capacity purchase allowed up to 3 GW; No transmission upgrade allowed	Capacity purchase allowed up to 3 GW; No transmission upgrade allowed	Capacity purchase allowed with transmission upgrades required beyond 3 GW; Transmission upgrades allowed post 2035+ with limits	Capacity purchase allowed with transmission upgrades required beyond 3 GW; Transmission upgrades allowed post 2035+ with limits

[1] The consumption of hydrogen for power generation would also require additional fuel delivery and storage infrastructure; the costs of such infrastructure is captured at a high level on a $/MMBtu basis. However, these costs assume that Virginia is able to access a robust regional hydrogen economy that is already in place in the future, and costs would be higher if Virginia is building new / first-of-a-kind infrastructure.

Additional Sensitivities on Feasibility

Assumptions/Scenarios	Unconstrained DC Growth With VCEA (S3C)	Unconstrained In-State Renewables (S3C: HighRen)	Regional Coordination (S3C: RegCoord)	Nuclear Renaissance (S3C: NucRen)
Load	Unconstrained VA DC load growth	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C
VCEA Compliance	Yes	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C
Existing Thermal	Coal/oil/biomass retire in 2045; Gas optional to convert to hydrogen by 2045 with incremental costs	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C
Candidate Renewables, Storage, Gas	Build rate limits through 2035	Higher onshore wind availability and accelerated offshore wind allowed	Same as S3C	Same as S3C
Hydrogen	Available	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C
SMR	Available 2035+ with build limits	More stringent SMR build limits and higher costs	More stringent SMR build limits and higher costs	No SMR build limits
Capacity Purchases and Transmission Upgrades	Capacity purchase allowed with transmission upgrades required beyond 3 GW; Transmission upgrades allowed post 2035+ with limits	Same as S3C	Relaxed transmission build limits	Same as S3C

Additional Sensitivities on Load Flexibility

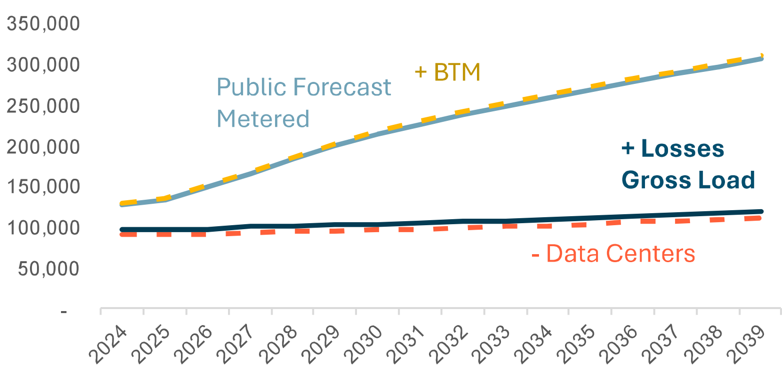
Assumptions/Scenarios	Unconstrained DC Growth With VCEA (S3C)	2-hr Flexible Load	4-hr Flexible Load	8-hr Flexible Load	120-hr Flexible Load
Load	Unconstrained VA DC load growth	10% DC load modeled as 2-hr battery in 2050	10% DC load modeled as 4-hr battery in 2050	10% DC load modeled as 8-hr battery in 2050	10% DC load in 2050 modeled as 120-hr demand response or on-site generation, with 5 24-hr calls per year
VCEA Compliance	Yes	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C
Existing Thermal	Coal/oil/biomass retire in 2045; Gas optional to convert to hydrogen by 2045 with incremental costs	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C
Candidate Renewables, Storage, Gas	Build rate limits through 2035	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C
Hydrogen	Available	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C
SMR	Available 2035+ with build limits	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C
Capacity Purchases and Transmission Upgrades	Capacity purchase allowed with transmission upgrades required beyond 3 GW; Transmission upgrades allowed post 2035+ with limits	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C	Same as S3C

Appendix B: Load Benchmarking

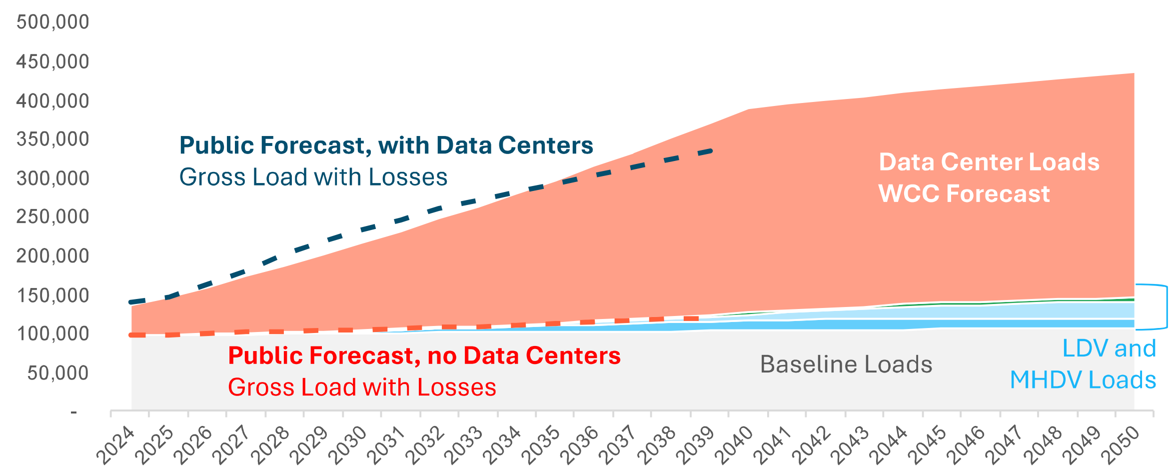
Load Projections Compared to 2024 PJM Forecast

+ **E3 supplemented WCC's forecast with PJM's 2024 load forecast in our grid impact modeling**
  - Load growth outside of Virginia, including data center loads, were derived from the public PJM forecast and kept constant across different VA data center load growth scenarios
  - E3 also extrapolated the load forecasts from WCC and PJM to 2050
    – Data center load growth is assumed to slow down to 1%/year between 2040 and 2050
    – Baseline and vehicle electrification loads each are assumed to grow at a constant rate based on the last 5 years of the forecast
+ **As a benchmark, energy forecasts for the DOM zone using a combination of WCC forecast (for VA portion) and the PJM public forecast (for non-VA portion) are generally aligned through the end of the PJM forecast period (2039)**
  - E3 adjusted the PJM forecast by adding back BTM generation so that gross load can be compared

PJM 2024 Forecast - Dominion (DOM Zone)
Annual Load, GWh

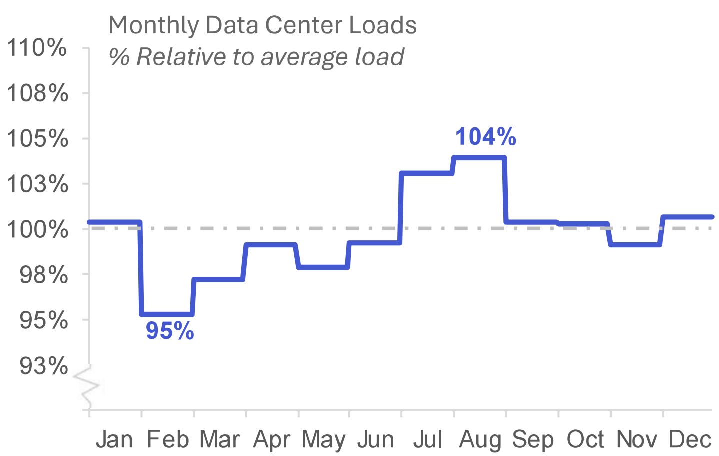


Adjusted with WCC Forecast - Dominion (DOM Zone)
Annual Load, GWh

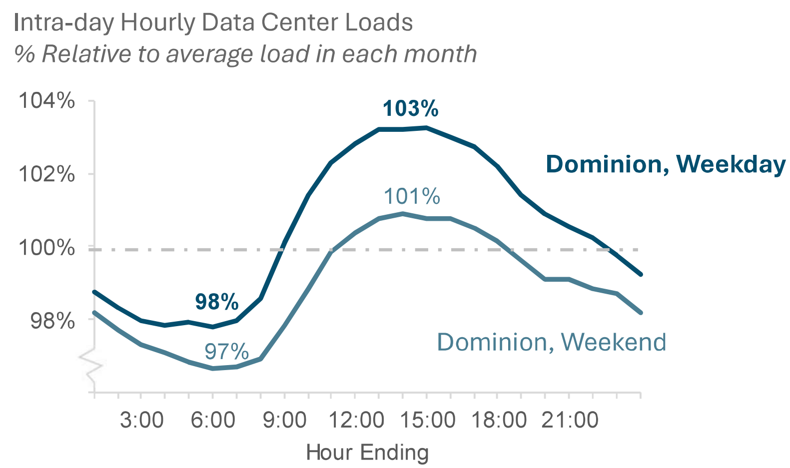


Hourly Data Center Load Profiles

+ **The data center load projections provided by WCC are in annual and monthly energy**
+ **Seasonal variations of data center loads are driven by cooling needs amongst other factors**
  - Loads are the highest in summer months, with August having average loads 4% higher than the annual average
  - With lower cooling needs and ideal operating temperatures, the spring months see the lowest average loads

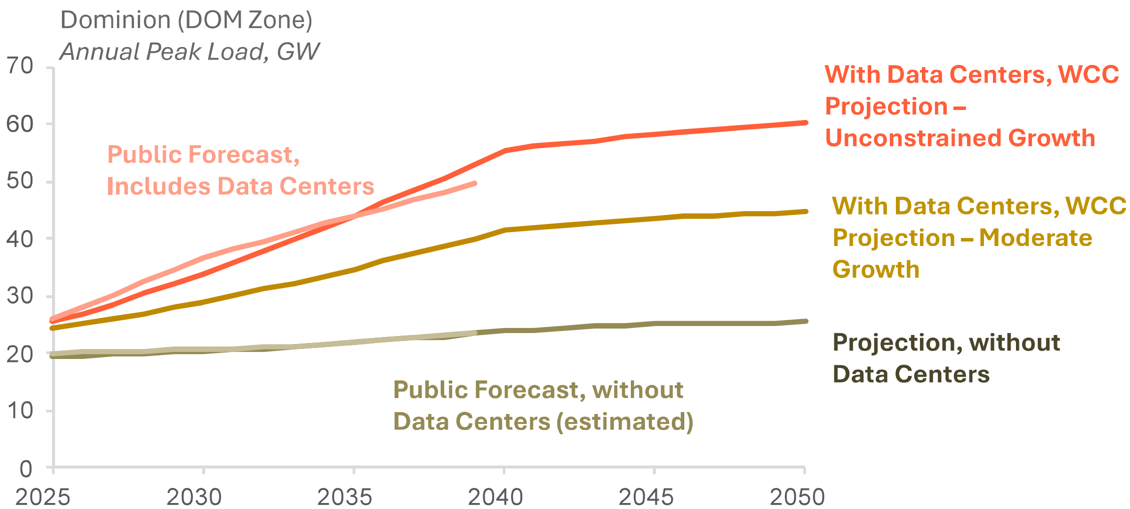


+ **Hourly data center load shapes were developed by E3**
  - **Monthly average loads** from WCC forecast, with +-5% variation throughout the year
  - **Intra-day hourly loads** from PJM's public report of example July peak day July hourly load for Dominion and NOVEC data centers, with +-2.5% variation hour-by-hour
  - **Final load shapes** from applying hourly variations to each month's load, with maximum annual variation of +-6.5%



Peak Projections Compared to PJM Forecast

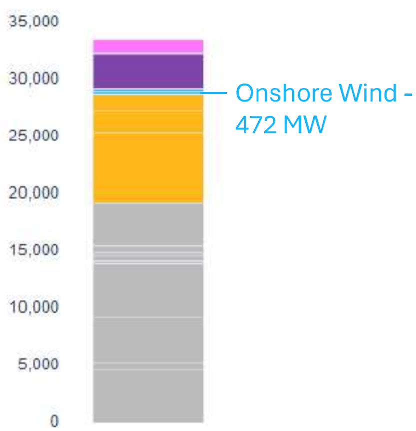
- **Projected median peak for the DOM zone using E3 assumed load profiles generally aligns with PJM's 2024 load forecast**
  - Small differences can result from variations in the weather dependent hourly profiles for the baseline and transport electrification loads
  - The peak impact of data centers in the PJM 2024 forecast is estimated from the July peak loads reported in the forecasts' supplement
- **While data center loads in Dominion came from WCC, other projected data center loads in AEP, APS, and East outside Virginia were kept from PJM's 2024 forecast**



Appendix C: Reliability Modeling

Dominion Wind ELCCs

Incremental additions relative to existing resource portfolio

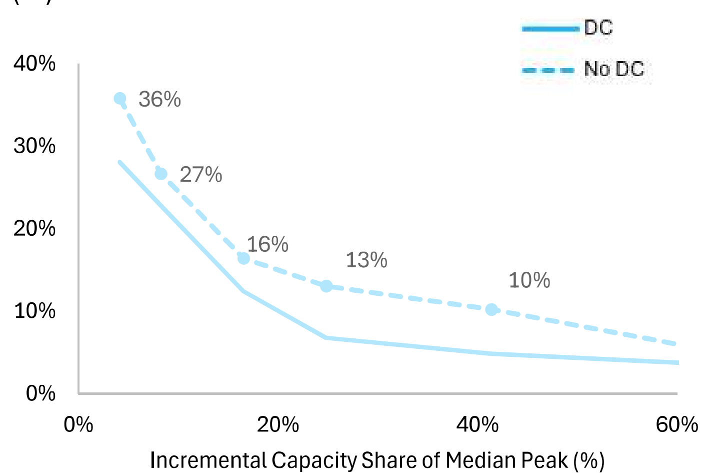


Modeled 2050 DOM Portfolio in RECAP

Wind ELCCs are lower when data center loads are presented

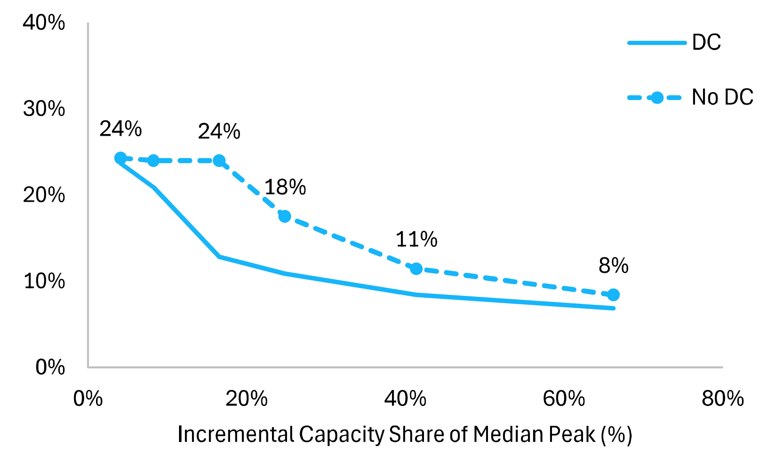
which shift system loss of load risks to summer when wind generation is lower

Offshore Wind Incremental ELCC (%)



Onshore Wind ELCC is generally lower than Offshore Wind given the lower capacity factor

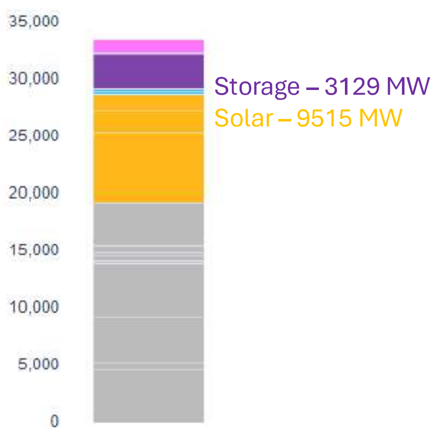
Onshore Wind Incremental ELCC (%)



Med peak w DC: 68 GW
Med peak w/o DC: 31 GW

Dominion Solar and Storage ELCCs

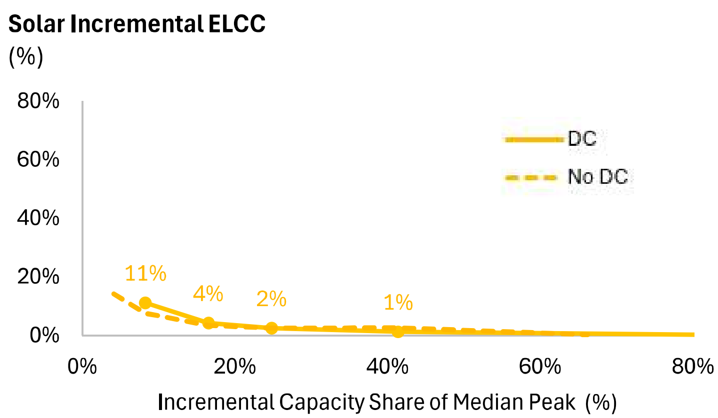
Incremental additions relative to existing resource portfolio



Modeled 2050 DOM Portfolio in RECAP

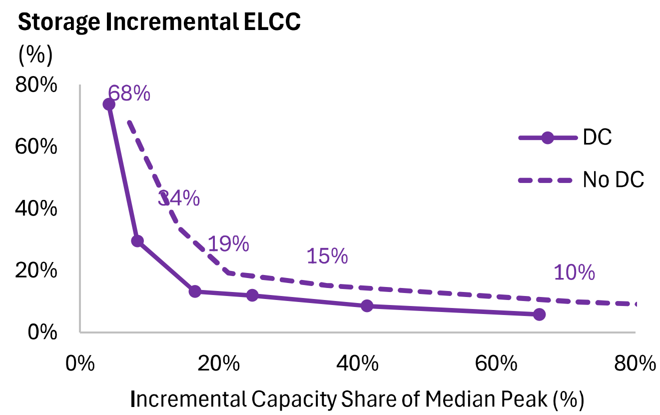
Solar ELCCs are slightly <u>higher</u> when data center loads are presented

when most of the loss-of-load expectations are in summer when solar generation peaks



Storage ELCCs <u>start higher, but saturate quickly</u> when data center loads are presented

given the strong saturation effect in summer early evenings when storage are quickly needed to discharge for a long time-frame

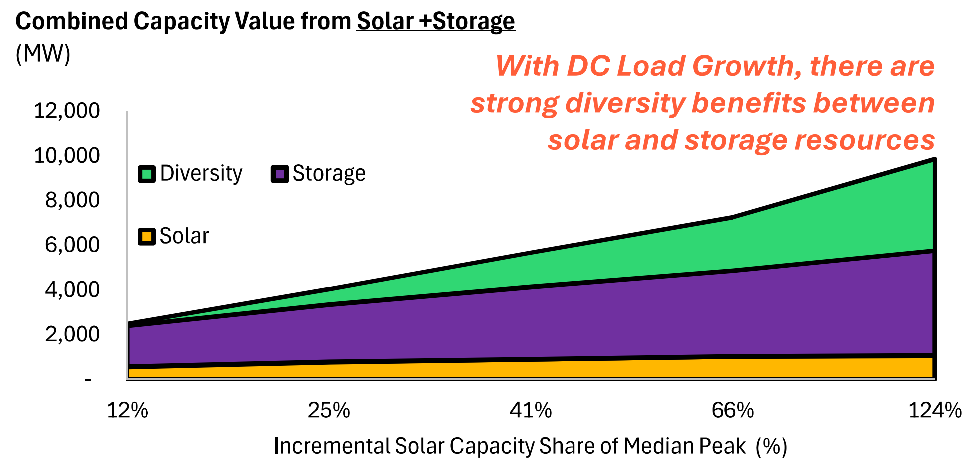


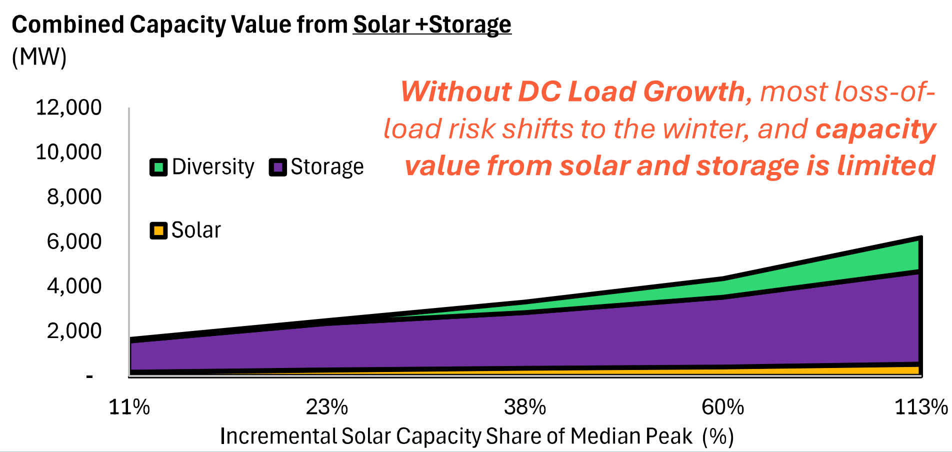
Med peak w DC: 68 GW
Med peak w/o DC: 31 GW

Complementary Reliability Impacts between Solar and Storage

- **Adding solar and storage can quickly exhibit saturation effects, while combinations of the two resources exhibit interactive benefits**
  - Positive interactive effects between solar and storage are referred to as "diversity benefits"

- **This comes from the complimentary nature of the two resources**
  - Abundant solar makes the net load evening peaks sharper, which increases value of limited duration energy storage resources
  - This is more prominent when data center load growth is presented, which creates concentrated reliability challenges in summer afternoons

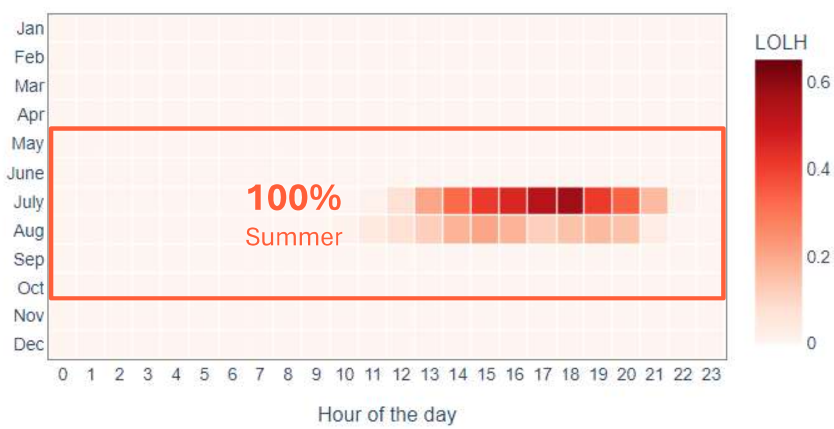




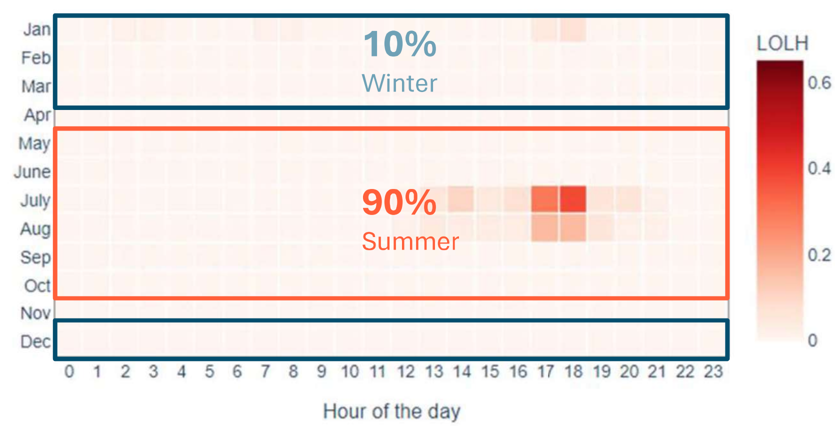
PJM System Reliability Risks

- In 2025, all loss of load risks are concentrated in summer in PJM
- While winter becomes more challenging in 2050, the majority of system needs are still in summer afternoon through evenings
- Higher data center load growth in Virginia is expected to drive more concentration of loss of load risks in summer and will have limited impacts on system reliability needs or resource accreditation across PJM

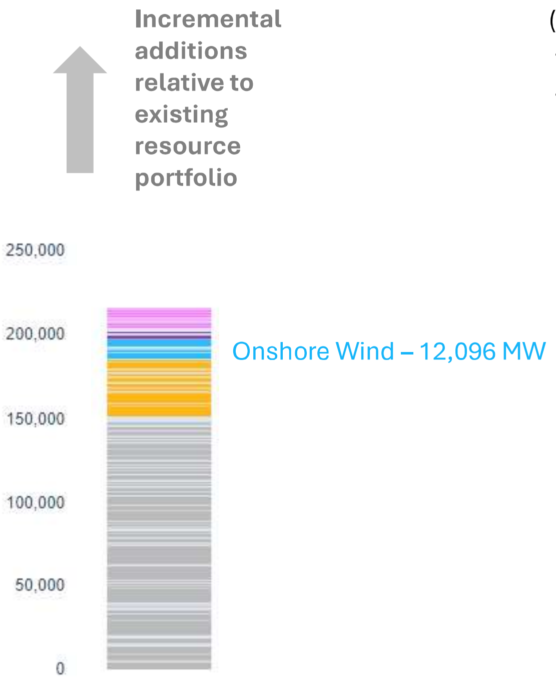
2025 – Existing PJM System



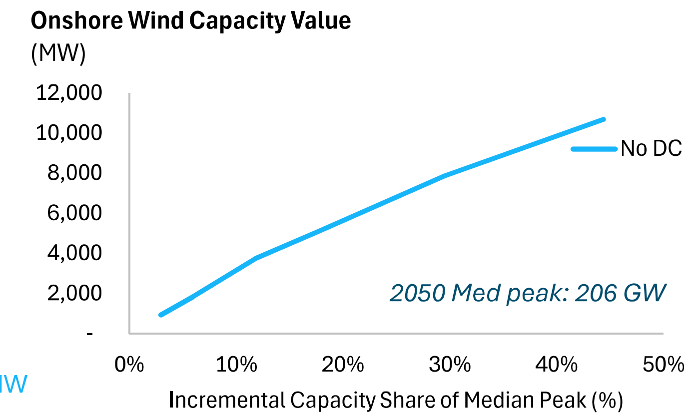
2050 – Existing PJM System, No Data Center Growth

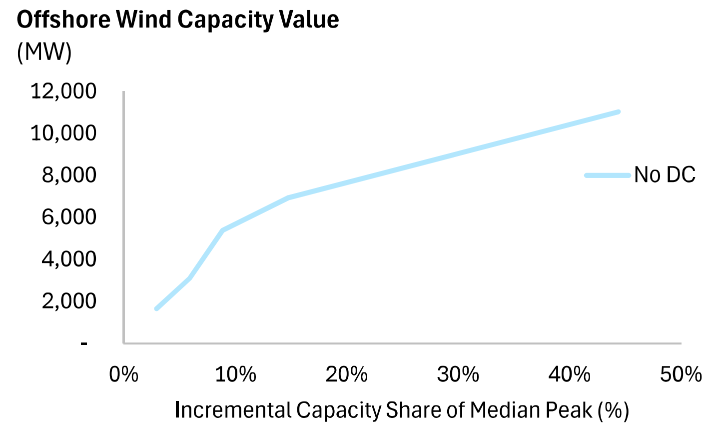


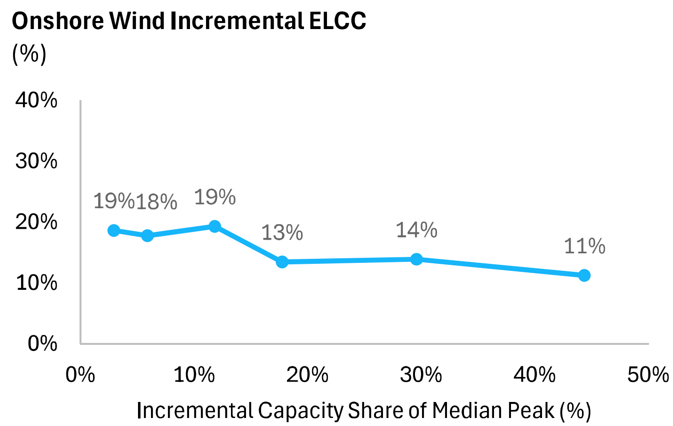
PJM Wind ELCCS

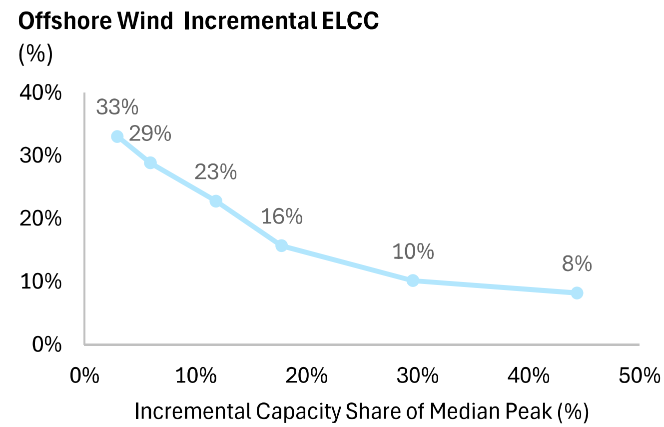


Modeled 2050 PJM Portfolio in RECAP

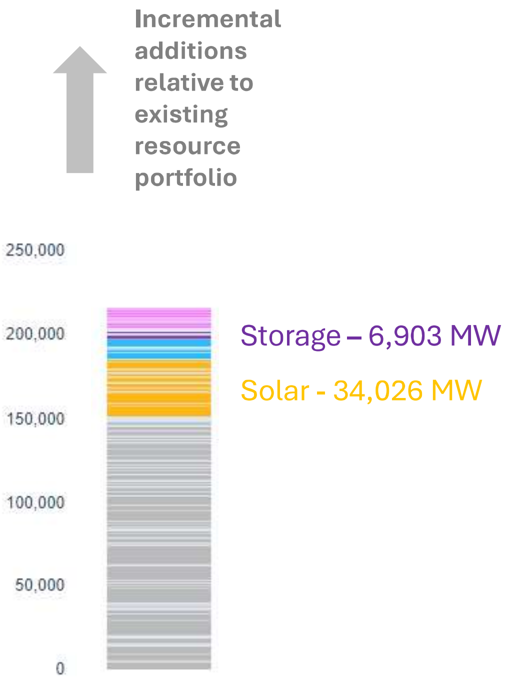




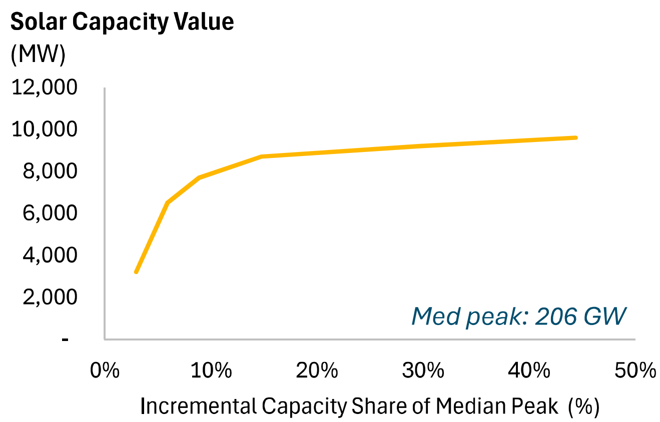


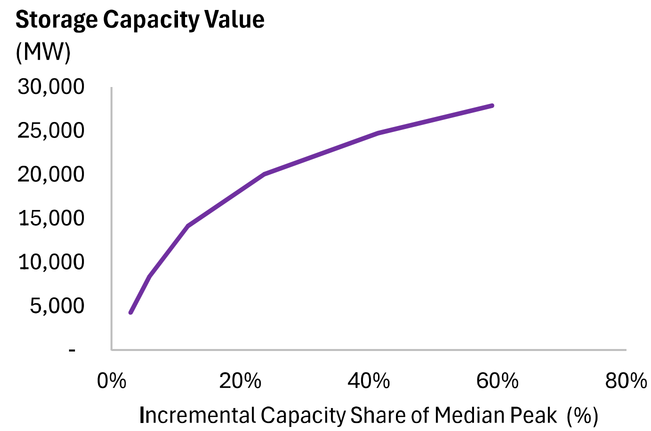


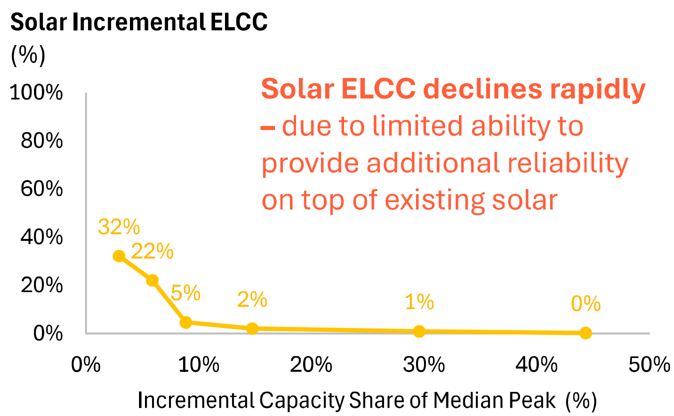
PJM Solar and Storage ELCCs



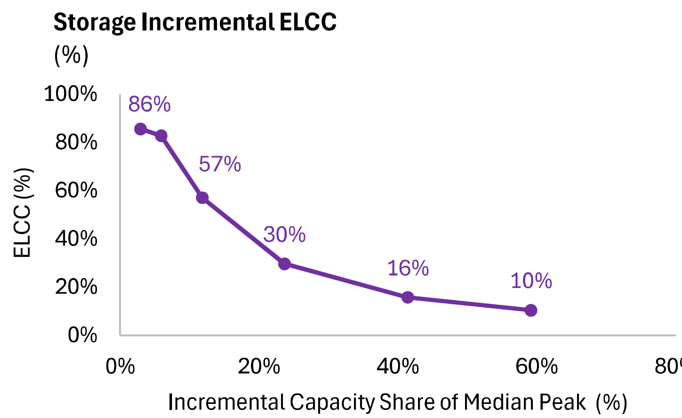
Modeled 2050 PJM Portfolio in RECAP







Solar ELCC declines rapidly – due to limited ability to provide additional reliability on top of existing solar



Appendix D:
Value of Flexibility
With Unconstrained Data Center Growth and Statewide VCEA Achievement (S3C)

Energy+Environmental Economics

Context of the Flexibility Sensitivity Study

+ **Most of the data center facilities currently located in Virginia are cloud computing facilities, which have low latency (and thus high power intensity) requirements and are generally not flexible**
  - DC load shapes are roughly flat throughout the year, with small seasonal variations due to higher cooling requirements in the summer
+ **Data center facilities providing AI training services may have higher flexibility, but are generally less expected to be located in Virginia**
+ **Data center customers are generally less incentivized and not required by policy to explore demand response and load flexibility options**
+ **E3 performed a few exploratory sensitivity analysis to examine the potential value of load flexibility in Virginia in a future with high data center load growth and stringent requirements of the VCEA to inform potential policy discussions**
  - Flexibility in load is generally expected to offset the need for capacity additions in a system, which could help mitigate the pressure of rapid resource and transmission expansion
  - E3 examined the capacity value of short-duration on-site backup generators and technologies allowing longer-duration load shedding/shifting through RECAP modeling as an approximation of the capacity offset these technologies could provide

Flexibility in Data Center Load Offsets System Capacity Need

- **Assuming 10% of the total DC load in 2050 (~3GW) is coupled with short-duration onsite storage, which enables load shifting during emergency events, 266 to 606 MW of system capacity need can be offset when these resources are added on top of a reliable system**
  - This approach shows the value in a scenario in which this flexibility is called upon only in emergencies (e.g. a diesel generator violating its air permit, or a data center shedding very valuable load)
- **2,223 to 2,410 MW of system capacity need can be offset when these resources are added upfront before other capacity resources are added to the system**
  - This approach represents a scenario in which this flexibility is made more readily available when the new data center load is added to the system, e.g. if data centers are required have on-site storage that they can dispatch, or if there are AI loads that are not critical, etc.
  - The value is higher when the load flexibility can be called more often or on a regular basis, which offsets some of the need of adding new capacity at utility level
- **The capacity value is higher when longer-duration load reduction can be achieved in the last-in case, potentially enabled through onsite backup gas generator or other emerging technologies**
  - The 120-hr backup generator was modeled as a demand response resource with up to 5 call times per year; This specific assumption and model setup limits the capacity value under the first-in case

Last-in ELCC

Proxy Data Center Resource	Capacity Value (MW)	ELCC (%)
2-hour storage 3 GW	266	9%
4-hour storage 3 GW	331	11%
8-hour storage 3 GW	606	20%
120-hour backup generator 3 GW	1,292	43%

First-in ELCC

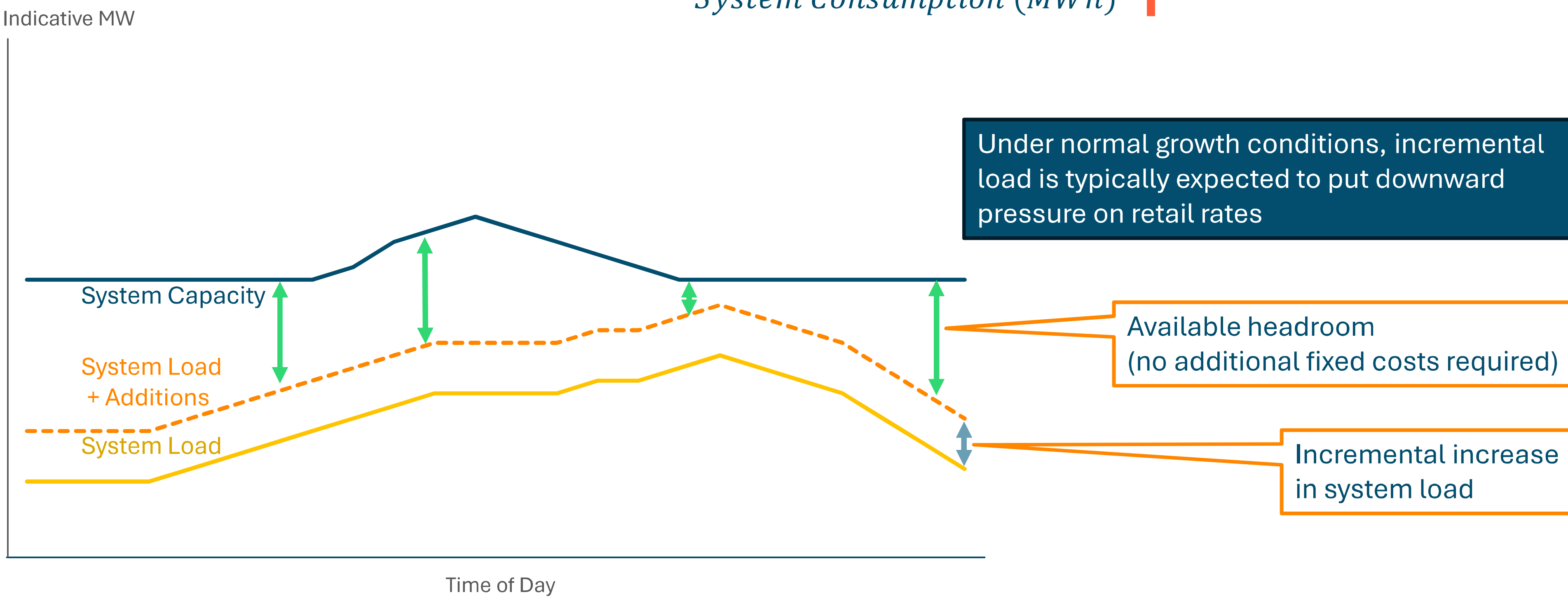
Proxy Data Center Resource	Capacity Value (MW)	ELCC (%)
2-hour storage 3 GW	2,223	74%
4-hour storage 3 GW	2,375	79%
8-hour storage 3 GW	2,410	80%
120-hour backup generator 3 GW	1,963	65%

Appendix E: Rate Dynamics

Modest Incremental Load Growth

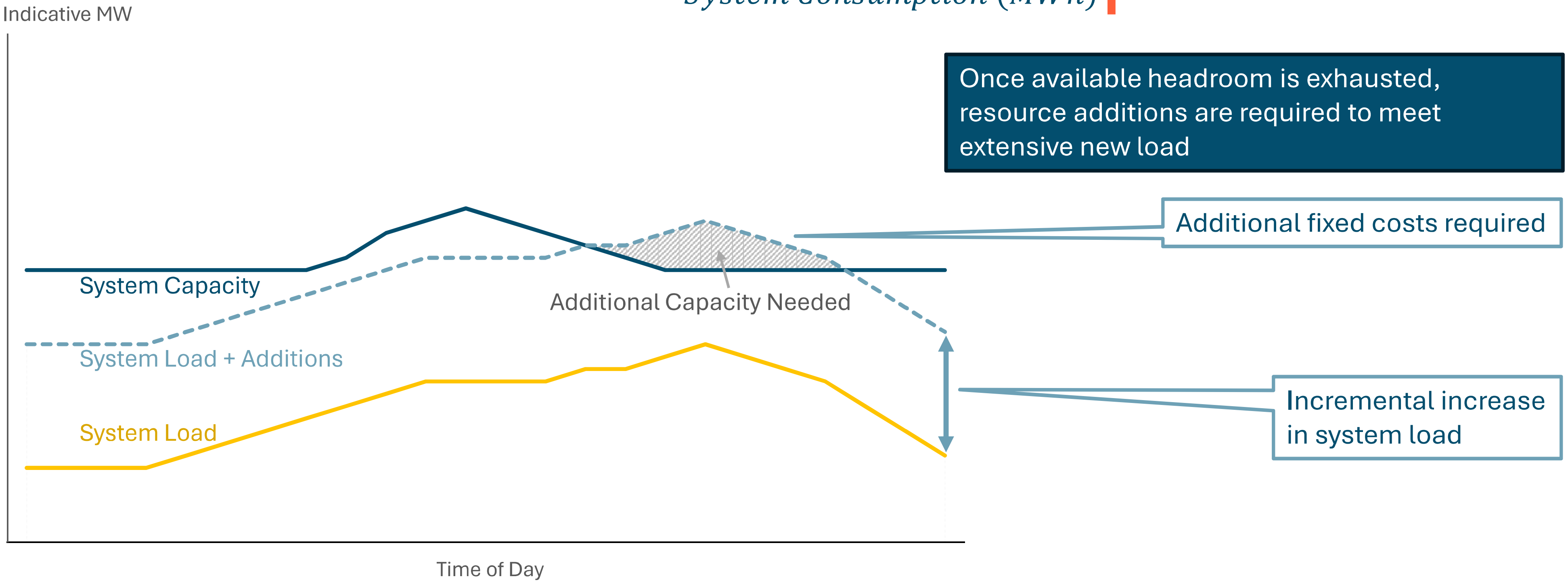
$$Retail\ Rates \propto \frac{(Fixed\ Costs + Variable\ Costs)}{System\ Consumption\ (MWh)}$$

Under normal growth conditions, incremental load is typically expected to put downward pressure on retail rates



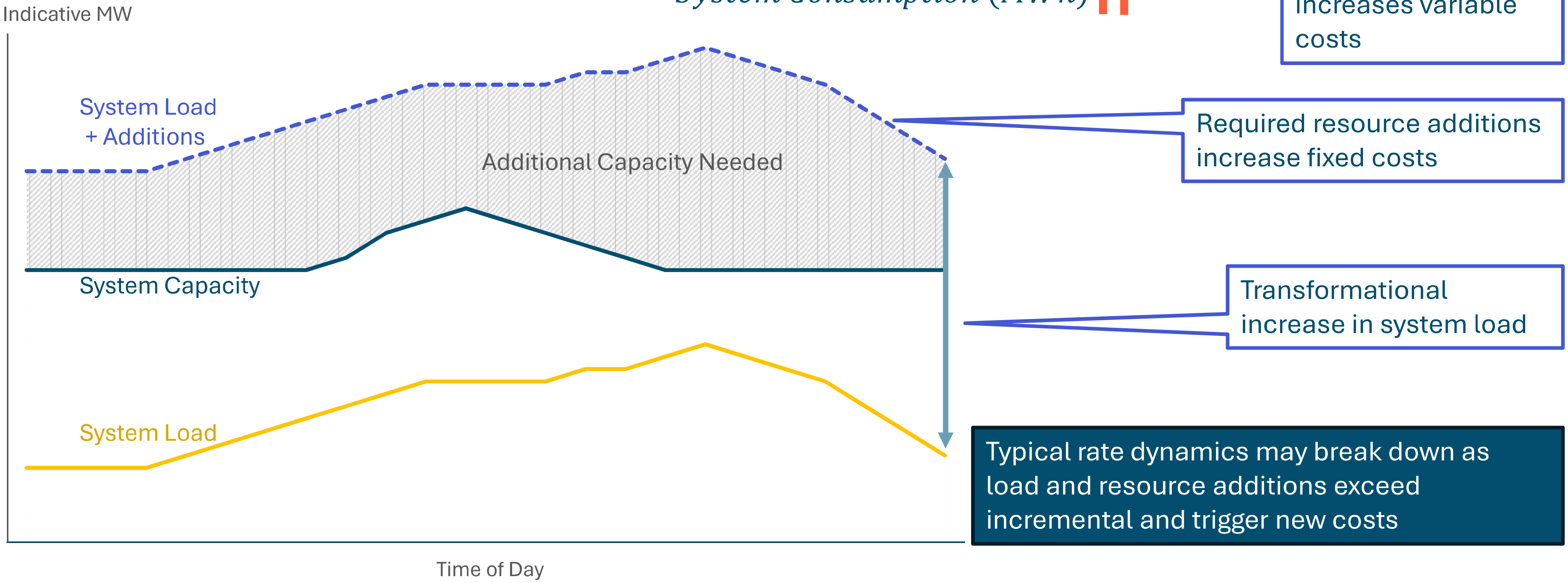
Moderate Incremental Load Growth

$$Retail\ Rates \propto \frac{(Fixed\ Costs + Variable\ Costs)}{System\ Consumption\ (MWh)}$$



Transformational Load Growth

$$Retail\ Rates \propto \frac{(Fixed\ Costs + Variable\ Costs)}{System\ Consumption\ (MWh)}$$



Typical rate dynamics may break down as load and resource additions exceed incremental and trigger new costs

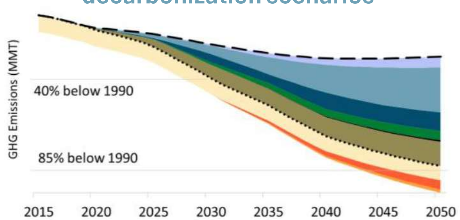
Appendix F: Overview of E3 Modeling Capabilities

Energy+Environmental Economics

E3's comprehensive modeling toolkit positions E3 well to study future energy system dynamics

PATHWAYS

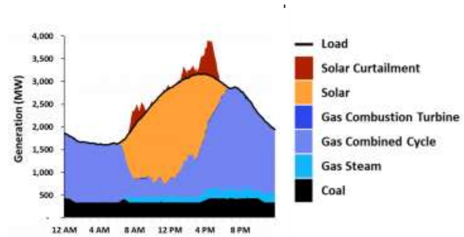
Economy-wide accounting of energy supplies and demands under deep decarbonization scenarios



Production Simulation

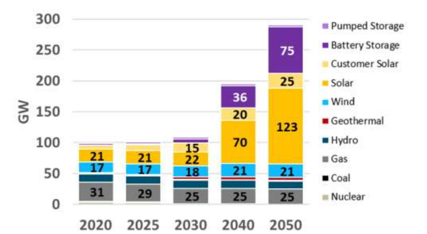
(AuroraXMP and PLEXOS)

Detailed operational simulations of system dispatch and flexibility needs



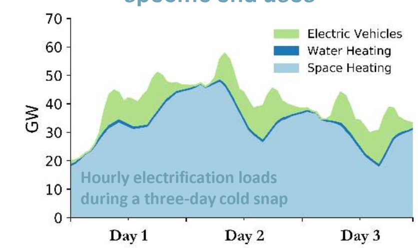
RESOLVE

Optimal capacity expansion model for electric systems



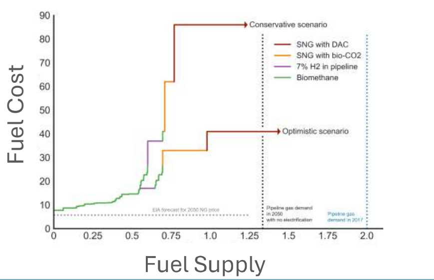
RESHAPE & EVGrid

Hourly simulations of electric loads for specific end uses



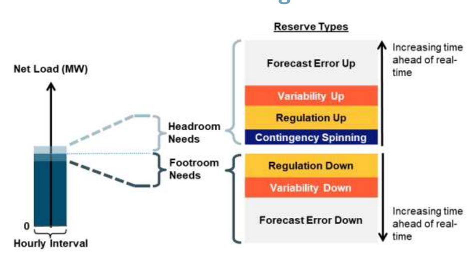
Low-Carbon Fuels and Future of Gas

Role of fuels in deep decarbonization



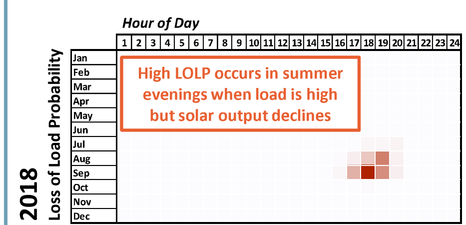
RESERVE

Dynamic operating reserves for renewable integration



RECAP

Loss of load probability simulation to measure resource adequacy



RESTORE & IDSM

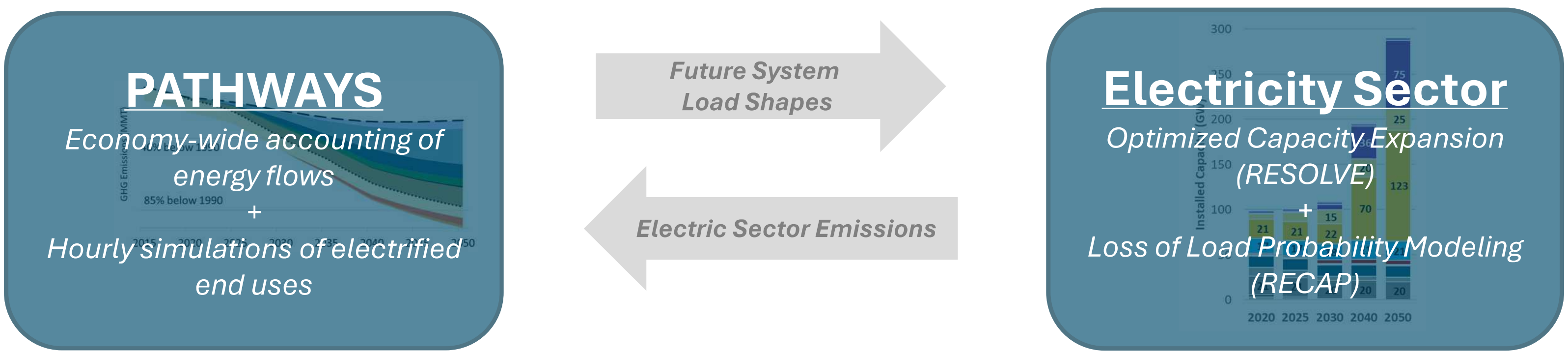
DER Toolkit for optimizing DER value stacking opportunities and adoption

Economy-wide energy systems | Bulk grid power systems | Grid edge & behind-the-meter

E3's Best-in-Class Modeling for Grid Decarbonization

- E3's integrated analytical framework combines a detailed accounting model of energy supplies and demands across the entire economy with an optimized capacity expansion model in the electric sector
- Detailed modeling of the rest of the economy provides a clear picture of how both the magnitude and timing of electric sector loads will need to change, as electrification plays a key role in the decarbonization of buildings, transportation, and industry

1 Use detailed energy accounting model to examine pathways to reaching long-term economy-wide goals and implications for electric loads



3 Iterate between different levels of electrification-driven load growth and resulting electric sector impacts

2 Use capacity expansion to optimize future portfolios to meet electric sector policy goals while maintaining reliability

Recent Applications of RECAP

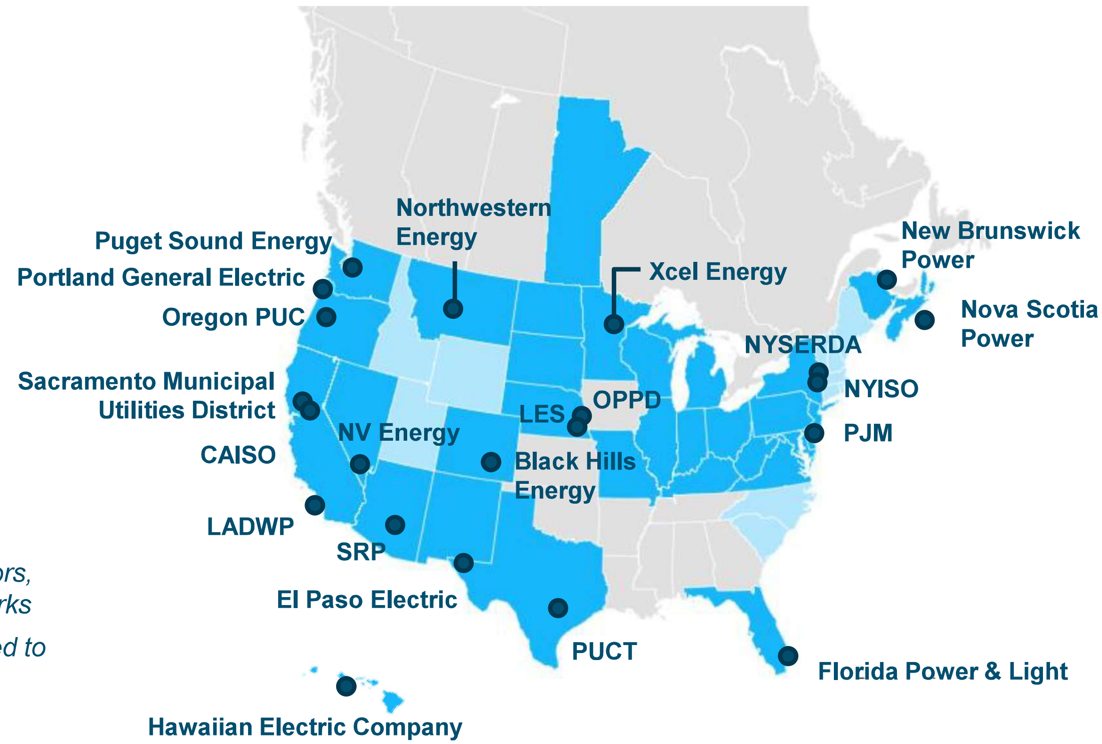
E3 has developed RECAP, a proprietary model for performing loss of load analysis

- Simulation model for assessing resource availability over **hundreds of simulation years**
- **Time-sequential dispatch** for capturing energy-limited resource dynamics for hydro, energy storage, and demand response

States where E3 has provided direct support to utilities, market operators, and/or state agencies to perform RA modeling or develop RA frameworks

Areas where E3 has worked with other clients to examine issues related to resource adequacy

E3 has worked directly with utilities across North America to study resource adequacy needs



E3 Model Ecosystem for Market Price Forecasts: Built on Decades of Experience and 360˚ Analysis

E3 Model Toolkit

Input Models

E3 PATHWAYS
Least-cost decarbonization pathways across sectors to meet GHG targets

E3 RESHAPE
Load simulation for building electrification & EVs

E3 Pro Forma Model
Levelized costs of new resources including financing and tax incentives

E3 RECAP
Stochastic reliability modeling for ELCCs of renewables and storage

Output Models

E3 RESTORE
Optimized battery operations and revenues

E3 Scarcity + RT Price Model
Forecasts scarcity and real-time energy prices with regression analysis

E3 Nodal Price Model
Node-zone basis forecast for nodal prices

E3 Ancillary Services Model
Forecasts AS prices with regression analysis and market saturation

E3 Capacity Market Models
Capacity price formation by market, aligned with unique market dynamics

E3 REC Market Models
Renewable Energy Credit prices aligned with unique market dynamics

Market Price Forecasting Approach

Key Scenario Variables

1 **Load Forecasts**
Regional load growth, energy efficiency, building electrification, and EVs

2 **Policies**
RPS, CES, GHG, other mandates

3 **Regional Coordination**
Transmission, Trading, and policy alignment

4 **Costs:**
- New resource costs
- Gas prices
- Carbon prices

PLEXOS Model Outputs

5 **Long-Term Capacity Expansion (Annual)**

New Resource Additions
- Economics
- Policies and mandates (RPS, CES, GHGs)
- System reliability needs
- Retirements

6 **Production Cost Simulation (Hourly)**

Energy Market Forecasts
- Hourly day-ahead energy prices by zone
- Dispatch, renewable curtailment, and transmission flows

E3 Forecasts

Market Product	Geographic Granularity	Temporal Granularity
Energy **(Day-Ahead and Real-Time)**	Zonal	Hourly
Capacity **(low, medium, high forecasts)**	System / Local	Annual
Ancillary Services **(Reg, Spin, Non-Spin)**	ISO	Hourly
ELCC Curves	Regional	Annual
RECs	State / ISO	Annual
System Operations	System / Local	Hourly / Monthly

Fundamentals-based market modeling built on day-ahead energy prices

Earnings call transcript: Duke Energy Q4 2025 beats expectations, stock rises

Duke Energy Corporation (DUK) reported its fourth-quarter earnings for 2025, surpassing analysts' expectations with an earnings per share (EPS) of $1.50, slightly above the forecasted $1.49. The company also reported revenue of $7.94 billion, exceeding the projected $7.57 billion. Following the announcement, Duke Energy's stock saw a premarket increase of 0.18%, trading at $121.94. This performance reflects a positive market reaction, supported by the company's strategic growth initiatives and robust financial outlook.

Key Takeaways

- Duke Energy's Q4 2025 EPS and revenue surpassed forecasts.
- The stock price increased by 0.18% in premarket trading.
- The company plans significant investments in energy generation and storage.
- Duke Energy forecasts a 6%-7% EPS growth by 2028.
- The company maintains a strong regulatory position and competitive rates.

Company Performance

Duke Energy demonstrated resilience and strategic foresight in Q4 2025, achieving a 7% growth in EPS compared to the previous year. The company continues to benefit from its substantial capital investment plan and strategic focus on renewable energy and infrastructure development. Duke Energy's growth aligns with broader industry trends towards sustainable and reliable energy solutions.

Financial Highlights

- Revenue: $7.94 billion, exceeding the forecast of $7.57 billion.
- Earnings per share: $1.50, slightly above the forecast of $1.49.
- Year-over-year EPS growth: 7%.

Earnings vs. Forecast

Duke Energy’s actual Q4 EPS of $1.50 surpassed the forecasted $1.49 by 0.67%, while revenue exceeded expectations by 4.89%. This positive surprise is consistent with the company’s historical trend of outperforming market predictions, reflecting effective management and strategic planning.

Market Reaction

Duke Energy’s stock experienced a 0.18% increase in premarket trading, reaching $121.94. This rise reflects investor confidence in the company’s strong financial performance and future growth prospects. The stock remains within its 52-week range, indicating stable investor sentiment amidst broader market volatility.

Outlook & Guidance

Looking ahead, Duke Energy has set ambitious targets, including a 6%-7% EPS growth by 2028 and significant investments in new energy generation and infrastructure. The company plans to add approximately 14 GW of incremental generation and 4.5 GW of battery storage by 2031. These initiatives are expected to enhance Duke Energy’s competitive position and drive long-term growth.

Executive Commentary

CEO Harry Sideris expressed confidence in the company’s growth trajectory, stating, "We are more confident than ever in our ability to earn the top half of the 5%-7% EPS range beginning in 2028." CFO Brian Savoy highlighted the capital plan’s expansion, noting, "Our capital plan is increasing as we progress further into the generation build cycle."

Risks and Challenges

- Regulatory challenges in managing large load customers.
- Potential delays in infrastructure projects due to supply chain disruptions.
- Economic uncertainties impacting energy demand and pricing.
- Balancing capital investments with maintaining competitive rates.
- Ensuring grid reliability amidst increasing energy demands.

Q&A

During the earnings call, analysts inquired about Duke Energy's strategies for storm response and cost recovery. The company detailed its approach to managing data center load growth and emphasized its commitment to maintaining constructive regulatory relationships. Analysts also explored the company's financing strategies and rate base growth, highlighting Duke Energy's proactive measures to address potential challenges.

Full transcript - Duke Energy (DUK) Q4 2025:

Harry, Call Coordinator: Hello everyone, and thank you for joining the Duke Energy fourth quarter and year-end 2025 earnings conference call. My name is Harry, and I'll be coordinating your call today. All lines will remain in listen-only mode for the presentation portion of the call, and there will be an opportunity for questions and answers at the end. During the presentation, you can enter the queue for questions by pressing followed by 1 on your telephone keypad. If you change your mind, please press followed by 2 to exit the queue. I will now hand the call over to Abby Motsinger, Vice President of Investor Relations. Please go ahead.

Abby Motsinger, Vice President of Investor Relations, Duke Energy: Thank you, Harry, and good morning everyone. Welcome to Duke Energy's fourth quarter 2025 earnings review and business update. Leading our call today is Harry Sideris, President and CEO, along with Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO. Today's discussion will include the use of non-gap financial measures and forward-looking information. Actual results may differ from forward-looking statements due to factors disclosed in today's materials and in Duke Energy's SEC filings. The appendix of today's presentation includes supplemental information along with a reconciliation of non-gap financial measures. With that, let me turn the call over to Harry Sideris.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Thank you, Abby, and good morning everyone. Let me begin by acknowledging our teammates for their incredible response to the recent winter storms that impacted our states. We were prepared, and our system performed well, which is a testament to the efforts of our team and the benefits of our grid-hardening investments. Moving to financial results, today we announced 2025 earnings per share of $6.31, representing 7% growth over 2024 and above the midpoint of our guidance range for the year. I'm proud to say we executed on all fronts. Our performance reflects the strength of our regulated utilities, our teammates' unwavering focus on operational excellence, and our commitment to generating sustainable shareholder and customer value. Looking ahead, we're introducing 2026 earnings guidance of $6.55-$6.80. We're also extending our 5%-7% long-term EPS growth rate through 2030 off the original 2025 guidance midpoint of $6.30.

I am more confident than ever in our ability to deliver in the top half of the range beginning in 2028 as load growth accelerates. Our earnings profile is underpinned by a $16 billion increase in our five-year capital plan to $103 billion. Our capital plan will drive 9.6% earnings-based growth and is the largest fully regulated capital plan in the industry, focused on critical energy infrastructure investments that strengthen the system and serve increasing load. As the investment needs of our utilities accelerate, I want to emphasize that the cost of energy has been and will remain a key focus for Duke Energy. I'm proud that we have kept rate changes below the rate of inflation on average over the last decade, supported by our continuous improvement culture as well as sensible federal and state energy policies.

Before I turn our focus areas for the year ahead, I want to reflect on the significant financial accomplishments in 2025 as outlined on slide 5. It was a tremendous year of execution. We delivered strong reported and adjusted earnings above our guidance midpoint. We also announced two strategic transactions at premium valuations that positioned the company for growth. And our credit profile continued to strengthen. Over the last 12 months, we worked with regulators and other stakeholders to recover and securitize nearly

$3 billion of storm cost, which was key to achieving 14.8% FFO to debt in 2025. We also advanced our all-of-the-above generation strategy, adding capacity to our system across a diverse mix of resources. This includes a 100-MW battery storage system we installed in North Carolina, the largest on our system to date.

We also broke ground on 5 gigawatts of new natural gas generation in the Carolinas and Indiana. Importantly, we put contracts in place to secure the long lead time equipment and workforce needed to support this new dispatchable generation. While we build for the growth of tomorrow, we remain focused on adding value for our stakeholders today by providing safe, reliable power at the lowest possible cost. Moving to slide 6, this year will be defined by continued execution in four core areas: delivering value for our customers, advancing construction on new generation, converting our economic development pipeline into firm projects, and building on our demonstrated track record of constructive regulatory outcomes. Our customers remain our top priority, and we will never waver on our commitment to value and affordability.

We'll continue to utilize every tool available to keep rates as low as possible, including managing costs, leveraging tax credits, and minimizing financing costs through regulatory mechanisms like securitization and CWIP and rate base. In 2026, we'll also move forward through the process to combine our Carolinas utilities, which, if approved, will save customers more than $1 billion through 2038. These are some of the many solutions we'll employ as we continue to challenge ourselves to find new ways to deliver affordable energy for our customers. We're also protecting existing customers from costs associated with new large load projects through tariff structures and contract provisions. This is important as we continue to convert economic development prospects into firm projects. Since the third quarter call, we signed electric service agreements for another 1.5 GW of new data centers.

These projects form industry clusters that create value for communities for years to come and benefit our existing customers as fixed costs of the system are spread across a larger base. Finally, we will build on our established track record of delivering constructive regulatory outcomes, which includes our recent South Carolina rate case orders. As a reminder, we reached comprehensive settlements in both cases last year, which were fully approved by the Commission in December. In North Carolina, we're progressing our requests for new multi-year rate plans, which would take effect January 1st of 2027. These requests cover investments to strengthen the grid and upgrade our fleet, and importantly, reflect cost control initiatives that have allowed us to maintain flat O&M cost structure despite inflationary pressures and a growing asset base. We know there's never a good time for energy bills to go up.

Families and businesses feel every increase in affordability matters. That's why our focus is straightforward: keep costs as low as possible while maintaining reliability. Moving to slide 7, providing the reliable power our customers expect requires us to add every available megawatt to the grid and increase speed to power as we build for economic growth. We are adding approximately 14 GW of incremental generation over the next five years, which demonstrates our commitment to meet the accelerated growth in front of us by maximizing our current fleet as we add new generation. As I mentioned earlier, we already have agreements in place for the supply chain and workforce to support this incredible build, including provisions with EPC contractors to create efficiencies over time and a framework agreement with GE Vernova on turbine procurement.

With over $1 billion of capital deployed every single month, Duke Energy's scope and scale uniquely positions us to lead this record generation build. We have extensive experience from building nearly 4 gigawatts of gas generation across our fleet over the last decade, and we've been actively preparing for this next build cycle for more than 3 years, giving us full confidence in our ability to execute the work ahead. Consistent with our all-of-the-above strategy, we will also continue to add battery and solar projects at a steady pace. Our battery deployment, in particular, will ramp significantly through the 5-year plan, with approximately 4.5 gigawatts of additions through 2031. Finally, we continue to evaluate the potential for new nuclear, maintaining optionality for future development. In December, we submitted an early site permit for a potential SMR at our Belews Creek site in North Carolina.

We're taking a disciplined approach to do nuclear, sharing our operational expertise and advancing limiting licensing activities while reducing supply chain risks and allowing technologies to mature. We also continue to seek solutions that mitigate financial risk for customers and investors before we make a decision to move forward with any new nuclear development. Investing in our existing fleet, advancing new generation, and evaluating emerging technologies are critical to ensure we can support our growing communities. We enter 2026 with incredible momentum and are poised to deliver. We're executing our strategy and creating meaningful value for our shareholders and customers. With that, I will now turn over the call to Brian.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Thanks, Harry, and good morning everyone. As shown on slide 8, we delivered 2025 reported and adjusted earnings per share of $6.31, a 7% increase year over year. Results reflect strong execution of our financial plan, including top-line growth from efficient regulatory constructs in place across our growing states. These drivers will continue in 2026, and we've set our adjusted EPS guidance range at $6.55-$6.80. The electric segment will continue to drive most of the growth in 2026 as we move into year 3 of our multi-year rate plans in North Carolina, year 2 in Florida, and implement phase 2 rates in Indiana. New rates from constructive rate case orders in South Carolina will be effective in the first quarter, and we also expect to see steady growth from grid riders in the Midwest and Florida.

In addition, our plan assumes normal weather and retail sales growth of 1.5%-2% in 2026. In the gas segment, we will see growth from Piedmont Integrity Management riders and new rates at Duke Energy Kentucky. Finally, higher financing costs will drive results in the other segment. Consistent with prior guidance, we expect the Tennessee and Florida transactions to be earnings-neutral, with interest savings at the holding company fully offsetting lower earnings at Piedmont and Duke Energy Florida. I'm proud of the results we delivered in 2025, and I'm bullish about the future. We are well-positioned to execute our investment plan to serve our growing jurisdictions. Turning to slide 9, our economic development pipeline continues to progress, increasing confidence in our growth profile.

Since the third quarter earnings call, we signed an additional 1.5 GW of electric service agreements with data center customers, including Microsoft and Compass, and now have approximately 4.5 GW of data center load secured under ESAs. Our success underscores the attractiveness of our service territories to prospective large load customers. Duke Energy is a one-stop shop, providing significant speed-to-power advantages. We work with customers in our communities to optimize siting, which ensures we can connect new load quickly while minimizing system upgrade costs. As we execute our ambitious generation build cycle, we will grow together as customers ramp into their full energy demand. We are partnering with our states to attract hyperscale customers to our service territories and remain laser-focused on meeting their energy needs in a way that protects our existing customer base.

These incremental volumes will support affordability over the life of the contract as system costs are spread over a larger base. The ESA contract provisions, including minimum billing requirements, termination charges, and refundable capital advances, ensure new large load customers pay their fair share of overall system costs. As a reminder, we've consistently taken a risk-adjusted approach to evaluate which projects to include in our load forecast. I'm proud of the work we've done to streamline processes across the organization to accelerate projects through the pipeline, which is yielding results. This allows us to focus our resources and efforts on high-confidence projects, supporting speed to power. With signed ESAs that lock in ramp schedules and minimum demand, we have high confidence in the load forecast underpinning our broader financial plan.

On slide 10, our $103 billion capital plan is the largest among regulated utilities and represents an increase of 18% versus our prior plan. Our capital plan is increasing as we progress further into the generation build cycle and invest in fuel security infrastructure to support future combined cycle plants in the Carolinas, as outlined in the IRP. Beyond generation, we continue to strengthen the grid to improve reliability and resiliency, delivering value for customers. Our industry-leading capital plan drives 9.6% earnings-based growth through 2030, up over 150 basis points versus the prior plan. This accelerated earnings-based growth, combined with efficient recovery mechanisms across our utilities, underpin our confidence in delivering sustainable, long-term growth. Beyond the five-year plan, we see a long runway of capital investment opportunities as our generation modernization strategy advances well into the next decade.

As the investment plans of our utilities accelerate, we remain committed to customer value and affordability. We are focused on making the right investments at the right time in a way that enhances reliability and affordability. Turning to the balance sheet on slide 11, we reported 14.8% FFO to debt in 2025. The significant improvement over 2024 reflects timely storm recovery and improving operating cash flows from continued regulatory execution. We are forecasting 2026 FFO to debt of approximately 14.5% and remain well-positioned to achieve our long-term target of 15% as proceeds from the Tennessee and Florida transactions are received. Our financing plan includes $10 billion of equity in the 2027 to 2030 time frame to fund accretive growth. This represents approximately 35% equity funding of the capital plan increase and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to balance sheet strength.

While our base plan assumes common equity issuances through our DRIP and ATM programs, we'll also evaluate hybrids and other equity content securities to fund a portion of our equity needs over the planning horizon. Brookfield's minority interest investment in Duke Energy Florida and the sale of our Piedmont Tennessee business to Spire will further strengthen our credit profile and satisfy our 2026 equity needs. We remain on track to close the Tennessee sale by the end of the first quarter and the first tranche of the DEF investment in early 2026. With efficient recovery mechanisms in place, a disciplined focus on capital deployment, and a balanced funding approach, we are positioned for sustainable, long-term growth. Let me close with slide 12. I'm proud of the work of our employees in 2025 to deliver on our commitments.

It takes all of us executing at a high level to succeed in this dynamic environment, and we will continue to build on this momentum. As load growth and capital investment accelerate, we are more confident than ever in our ability to earn the top half of the 5%-7% EPS range beginning in 2028. Combined with our attractive dividend yield, our growth targets provide a compelling, risk-adjusted return for shareholders. Before we move to questions, I'd like to recognize Abby's exceptional work leading our investor relations function for more than three years. She has set the model of excellence for the industry, and we wish her continued success in her next chapter as she becomes our Chief Accounting Officer and Controller on March 1.

I also want to congratulate Mike Switzer, who will succeed Abby as our Head of Investor Relations, in addition to continuing to oversee corporate development. I know many of you are familiar with Mike's leadership from our strategic transactions this year, and we look forward to the opportunity for you to work more closely with him in the coming weeks and months ahead. With that, we'll open the line for your questions.

Harry, Call Coordinator: Thank you, Brian. To ask a question, please press star followed by 1 on your telephone keypad. If you change your mind, please press star followed by 2 to exit the queue. And finally, when preparing to ask your question, please ensure that your device is unmuted locally. Our first question will be from the line of Nicholas Campanella with Barclays. Please go ahead. Your line is open.

Nicholas Campanella, Analyst, Barclays: Hey, good morning. Thanks for all the updates. Appreciate it.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo1: Morning, Daniel.

Nicholas Campanella, Analyst, Barclays: I just wanted to ask. Hey, morning. You brought up the storms and your prepared remarks and the response. Just any costs or impacts from that that you could disclose? And is that already kind of embedded in the midpoint view of the 668? If you could just confirm that.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo1: From this quarter specifically?

Nicholas Campanella, Analyst, Barclays: Yes, we're still in.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo1: In one queue. Thank you.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Yeah, we're still compiling those costs, but I'm really proud of the response the company had there. We had 200,000 outages. We restored over 95% of those within 24 hours, and really a testament to the team and their preparation, as well as our grid strengthening that we've done over the years. We do have mechanisms in the Carolinas for recovery of those costs, so we'll be finalizing that. But we don't anticipate any impacts to our guidance for this year.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Nick, I would add to that.

Nicholas Campanella, Analyst, Barclays: Great. Thanks.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Nick, this is Brian. I would just add, we budget for storms. This might affect the shaping in some of the expenses throughout the year because sometimes the storms come more in Q3 when hurricanes have impacted our regions. But we budget for storms, and we have really good recovery mechanisms in place that allow us to defer costs for future recovery that are above a certain deductible level. So no impact to the guidance for 2026.

Nicholas Campanella, Analyst, Barclays: Great. Thanks. Appreciate that. And then on the North Carolina rate case, the Carolinas rate case specifically, you brought up affordability in your comments. Obviously, a lot of stakeholders are kind of watching the case. And since it is a larger case with the merger being a big item, just curious on how you're viewing the strategy of, do you need to kind of go the full distance here, or do you think that you can constructively get to an agreement to settle it like you have in prior cases? And I recognize it's early in the process, but just kind of understanding how you're viewing that potential.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Yeah, Nick. We don't take rate cases lightly, especially in this environment of affordability. I know our customers are struggling with housing costs, insurance costs, healthcare costs, as well as food prices. But we're really focused on delivering reliable and affordable energy, which is what our commission and our legislators want as well. So we're aligned there. We have a lot of tools in our bag with tax credits, our one utility merger that you mentioned. These are all things that are going to help mitigate some of those increases. We have a good case that shows a lot of value for our investments going forward. So we feel we have a good case if we get to litigation. But in the past, we've always tried to settle or settle portions and have a constructive track record of doing that, and we'll look to do that again.

But again, we're just focused on making sure that our customers in the Carolinas get reliable and affordable energy from us.

Nicholas Campanella, Analyst, Barclays: Thank you.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Thank you.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Thanks, Daniel.

Harry, Call Coordinator: The next question will be from the line of Shah Pourreza with Wells Fargo. Please go ahead. Your line is open.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo: Hey, good morning, everyone. It's actually Alex on for Shah. Thanks for taking our questions.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Morning, Alex.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo1: Good morning, Alex.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo: Good morning. Good morning. So just on the CapEx outlook and the drivers behind it, obviously, a healthy number you put out there. Can you help us think about the incremental data center opportunities you're seeing on the slides? And can you just talk about your level of confidence in rolling that into plan? We've seen data centers pull out of other states despite signing ESAs. So at what point does this move the needle for you? And how do you think about customer protections in lieu of having a blanket large load tariff? Thanks.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Yeah, I'll start off, and then Brian can add some color. But we're very confident in our 5%-7% growth rate, as well as our capital plan that supports that. The ESAs that we've signed, all of those are under construction. They're turning dirt. They have zoning in hand. So we don't anticipate any of those backing out. And then we have a robust pipeline that we continue to work. So we feel very confident with our projections of 5%-7% through the period, as well as in the top half starting in 2028 as some of those loads come online. So a very durable plan, consistent with what we've been talking about the last several times. Brian, I don't know if you want to add anything.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Yeah, I would just say that signing these ESAs, Alex, gives us high confidence in the growth outlook of Duke Energy because we're risk-adjusting our load forecasts basically to the minimum billing demands of these contracts, which clearly gives us high confidence in the revenue profile as these projects come online. And we've got 4.5 gigawatts of ESAs signed. You think about those, those will start coming online in late 2027 and really ramp in 2028. That's why we're pointing to 2028 as an inflection point in earnings. And our pipeline in the late stage, the ones that are moving through the funnel at pace, is about double that. So you think about 9 gigawatts is what we're working through, and you should expect new announcements over the course of 2026 as we progress the pipeline in a very expedient manner.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo: Great. That's very helpful. Thank you. Just on the long-term growth rate outlook, so you raised the rate base to about 9.6%, and you reiterated the top half of that 5%-7% by 2028. Can you just walk us through what's driving the delta between the two? You're obviously seeing a lot of growth and investment opportunities, especially in the Carolinas. Do you see an opportunity for that delta to narrow between rate base and EPS prior to 2028, or is that just based on timing of load ramp? Thanks.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Yeah, Alex, the delta between the earnings base CAGR and EPS CAGR, there's always a difference, right? And we have our holding company. We're funding these investments partially with equity, partially with debt. There is a drag there that we would see, but I would point to the revenues are accelerating into that 2028 time frame because that's when these customers will start taking energy. And we are locking in these ramp schedules, so we have high confidence in this revenue acceleration. Our earnings outlook is robust. We're pointing to the top half, which is the 6%-7% of the 5%-7% CAGR. And we see a very robust plan in front of us.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo: Great. That's all I had. I'll leave it there. Thank you.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Thank you.

Harry, Call Coordinator: The next question today will be from the line of Julian Dumoulin-Smith with Jefferies. Please go ahead. Your line is open.

James Ward, Analyst, Jefferies: Hi, guys. We've got James Ward here on for Julian. How are you this morning?

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Hey, James. We're good.

James Ward, Analyst, Jefferies: Hey. Awesome. I'm going to ask just a little bit differently. So in November, you reaffirmed the 5-7 through 2029. You've extended to 2030. You've got the 9.6 of earnings base growth. Assuming about 2.5% dilution from financing, what has to go right to deliver the top half performance beginning in 2028 in terms of earned ROEs and so on?

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Yeah, James, we feel very confident in our plan that we laid out. 2028, like Brian mentioned, is an inflection point for our load, late 2027. And 2028 is those data centers start ramping up. So that's what's driving our confidence in that upper end of the 5%-7%. And we see that extending out as those ramp rates continue in 2029 and 2030 and beyond. So we feel like our plan is very durable. We're very confident in our regulatory outcomes that we have a very strong track record of, again, providing value and showing that value to our customers and our regulators is important.

And then the tools I mentioned earlier, how are we going to use one utility to offset some of these costs, how the data centers are paying for their fair share, and then over time reducing the cost to the customers as we spread out our fixed cost over a broader base. So we feel very confident that we'll continue to have constructive outcomes regulatorily and that our shaping of the load that we've laid out and our contracts will deliver that upper half of the range starting in 2028.

James Ward, Analyst, Jefferies: Got it. Thank you for that. And then second question was on FFO to debt. You obviously achieved 14.8% 2025. You're targeting 14.5 in 2026, 15% longer term. With a larger capital plan, what are the key assumptions that keep you within those guardrails? Timing of Tennessee and Florida proceeds, you spoke to already, but thinking on regulatory cash flow mechanisms, dividend payout, and what would cause you to adjust the funding mix?

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Yeah, James, one, I'm incredibly proud of the improvement in our cash flow profile that we made in 2025 and will continue into the future. So it's underpinned by improving operating cash flows. So the great work we've done with our regulators and policymakers over the last several years is paying dividends because recovering our investments for customers in a timely way is a way to support the balance sheet and keep rates low for customers. So we're seeing that. So what has to happen to get to the 15%? Basically, the fundamentals are in place. We don't need a change in regulatory policy. We don't need a law passed. We need to continue to execute the plan we have and support our capital investments with some equity funding.

You'll see that the increase in capital we funded with 35% equity, that's a good gauge of where we might be to maintain that 15% FFO to debt once we're in 2028 and beyond.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Yeah, no, I would add a lot of the regulatory work we've already accomplished with some of the multi-year rate plans that we have in place. We'll be looking at multi-year rate plan in Ohio. Those help, as well as CWIP recovery. That helps with our customer costs, but also helps with our cash positions. That was work that we've accomplished over the last several years that will continue to help us support our FFO to debt number.

James Ward, Analyst, Jefferies: Very clear. Thank you both. Much appreciated. I'll hop back in the queue.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Thank you.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Thanks, James.

Harry, Call Coordinator: The next question will be from the line of Carly Davenport with Goldman Sachs. Please go ahead. Your line is open.

Carly Davenport, Analyst, Goldman Sachs: Hey, good morning. Thanks so much for taking the questions and for all the updates. Maybe just on the generation build cycle you've referenced, outside of the CPCN approvals, are there any outstanding items or constraints to signing firm EPC contracts for the execution of the gas generation build in your plans?

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Yeah, good morning, Carly. Yeah, we've been planning for this for the last three years, making sure that we had the supply chain built out to make sure we had all the long lead items, whether it's transformers, circuit breakers, as well as gas turbines, and also the EPC contracts. We've taken a different approach going forward with how we do this, where we're looking at more of a programmatic approach with one EPC vendor that will get us efficiencies that will help us deliver the projects on time and on budget and move them from one project through the next project through the next project. So as we stage those out and layer them out, we feel like that'll keep us with a solid workforce, as well as the experience to be able to develop these projects in a timely and qualitative manner.

Carly Davenport, Analyst, Goldman Sachs: Great. Thank you for that. And then maybe just on some of the uprate opportunities that you've given us, I think, some more details just on the type of generation that you're looking at those opportunities. Could you talk a little bit about the timing of sort of the cadence of the gas, nuclear, and hydro uprate opportunity, and also any indication on the capital investment required to execute on those projects?

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Yeah, so there's about 1,000 megawatts of uprates across the system. A lot of that is on the gas fleet with advanced materials, as well as packages into those. We've done a lot of that work already in Florida. We also have about 300 megawatts of nuclear uprates, and then the rest are some hydro uprates. These are very competitive to new generation. They're actually cheaper than anything that we can do on the system. That's why we're going forward. They also add an efficiency component that allows you to get more megawatts for the same fuel, which helps with fuel costs and drives that affordability number that we were talking about earlier. So we feel very comfortable with our plan and our costs that we have in our plan, and those are very good investments for our customers.

Carly Davenport, Analyst, Goldman Sachs: Great. Thank you for the time.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Thanks, Carly.

Harry, Call Coordinator: The next question will be from the line of Anthony Crowdell with Mizuho. Please go ahead. Your line is open.

Anthony Crowdell, Analyst, Mizuho: Hey, thanks so much. Good morning, team. Abby, congrats. Last quarter, last quarterly call. I'm sure you're going to really miss it.

Carly Davenport, Analyst, Goldman Sachs: Thanks, Anthony.

Anthony Crowdell, Analyst, Mizuho: Also, Harry, kudos to you, an operator with the same first name. It's probably not happened in a while.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: We planned it that way just for you.

Anthony Crowdell, Analyst, Mizuho: All right. Just quickly, it's not so much Duke specific. I'm curious because I know you guys have 2 pending rate cases to follow up on Nick's question earlier. But in the current environment where affordability has really reached a new level of concern for policymakers, do you think it's easier for parties now to come to a settlement, or do you think with that affordability backdrop, and it seems like every politician is using this as a stump speech, it's getting more challenging to reach a settlement?

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Well, affordability is definitely on everybody's mind. Like I mentioned earlier, it's not just electricity prices that they have on their mind. It's really housing, healthcare, food prices. So it is definitely a topic of discussion. What we focused on talking to stakeholders and legislators is making sure that we show the value that Duke Energy provides to our customers through storm response, reliability, economic development, bringing more jobs and businesses into the communities, but also showing that we have always, for over 120 years, focused on cost. That's what's made us successful in the past. That's why we have auto manufacturers and other businesses in our territory because we've always had low rates. We continue to have rates well below the national average. Our rate increases, on average, have been below the rate of inflation.

Those are very important points as we talk to the stakeholders about what we're trying to accomplish. And then we have a lot of tools. Like I mentioned, the tax credits, $500-plus million a year of nuclear credits because of our well-run nuclear plants allow us to turn that back into the customers, helping absorb some of those increases as we build out the system for the future. So we feel like we're positioned very well. We have a history of having constructive settlements. And again, we feel like we have a strong case based on value, reliability, and affordability for our customers if we have to litigate it.

Anthony Crowdell, Analyst, Mizuho: Great. And then just again, maybe this one may be more specific to Duke on the data centers that are signing up and I guess maybe regulatory approval of them. You guys highlighted earlier, and you've been pretty steadfast on making sure that data centers or the big hookups, large loads don't really impact residential customers or residential customers are made whole from these large loads. I'm just wondering, do you think there are regulatory shifts where not only you have to show that it's no impact to the residential or the small customer, but actually that this new load is beneficial or some net benefit, and that maybe their regulators want to quantify that sooner? Or do you think that the current backdrop of just showing that there's no impact to the smaller customer really will stay hold for the next several years?

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: I think this is another hot topic among regulators and politicians as well. And we continue to show that our data centers are paying their fair share, and then over time, they're actually reducing the cost to the broader base of customers through spreading out the fixed cost over a larger base. So we continue to show those results to them. We have a tariff filed in Florida, but in the other jurisdictions, we're using currently approved tariffs that protect the customer. And these minimum take requirements, these termination fees, these upfront capital investments from them are all tools that we're using to show that these folks are not only carrying their weight, but they're actually, over time, going to help our customers. So we've been very constructive discussions with our regulators on that.

Anthony Crowdell, Analyst, Mizuho: Great. Thanks so much for taking my questions.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Appreciate it. You're welcome. Thank you.

Harry, Call Coordinator: The next question today will be from the line of David Arcaro with Morgan Stanley. Please go ahead. Your line is now open.

David Arcaro, Analyst, Morgan Stanley: Oh, hey, good morning. Thanks so much for taking my question.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Good morning, David.

David Arcaro, Analyst, Morgan Stanley: Let me see. Morning. I was curious with the data center pipeline, are you evaluating interruptibility or flexibility as kind of one of the characteristics as a way to speed up interconnection? Is that something that you think data centers would be willing to consider or something that you're exploring as you firm up the ESAs?

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Yeah, great question, David. Yes, we absolutely have done that with the contracts that we have signed. That's been one of the provisions. It helps us get them online faster. They've been open to doing it because it does give them that speed to the power that they need. And it also helps us, as we discussed, benefits to the customers in the fact that it's going to maintain reliability, having that ability to curtail their load or have them go on their backup generation for 50 hours or so a year. So very constructive discussions, and that's in our contracts that we have signed.

David Arcaro, Analyst, Morgan Stanley: Great. Okay, thanks so much. We'll leave it there. Appreciate it.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Thanks, David.

Harry, Call Coordinator: The next question will be from the line of Stephen D'Ambrisi with RBC. Please go ahead. Your line is open.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo0: Hi, Harry and Brian. Thanks very much for the time this morning.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Hey, Steve.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo0: Just had a quick one on sales growth and the incremental 1.5 GW of data center ESAs that you've signed. Can you just level set us on what amount of data center load growth is embedded in the 3%-4% enterprise load growth and the 4%-5% Carolinas load growth, and just if there's any sensitivities that we can think about to the extent you have incremental data center ESA signings?

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo1: Yeah. So as you intimate, it's becoming a more increasingly larger component of the load growth profile as we get later in the decade. And just for a number, the economic development profile that we have in the Carolinas and across the system, data centers comprise about 75% of that by the end of 2030, right? So it's a growing component. That was only

50% just a couple of quarters ago, but as we sign new customers, it becomes a larger component. And so if you break down the 3%-4% long-term load growth enterprise-wide, I think residential and existing customers are maybe a third of that, and then the other two-thirds relate to economic development, of which a big portion is data centers.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo0: Okay. And then that's really helpful. And then just to the extent that we have incrementally you referenced 9 GW of pipeline. To the extent where we roll forward a couple of quarters and the 4.5 GW of ESAs goes to 6, obviously, there's timing considerations, but how should we think about that layering into load growth and rolling forward your load growth projections?

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo1: It definitely is a tailwind, Steve. But your point about timing is important because contracts that we signed in 2026 are going to be a year behind those we signed in 2025, and then the ramp will start. So I would think about it as two ways. One, it's a tailwind to the load growth around the 2030 timeframe, and then it extends that ramp well into the 2030s.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Yeah, a lot of those that are in the pipeline now will be a little further out as they start their development. So that ramp rate will be towards the back end of the plan.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo0: Okay. That's helpful. And then the only other question I had was just on the rate-based CAGR. It says you raised it, obviously, to 9.6%. I noted that the footnote said that it's growth of minority interest investments or minority investments. And so just with the impact of the DEF transaction, can you talk about what that number is on maybe a net basis?

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo1: Yeah, happy to, Steve. And I would say first, we put the footnote for clarity, but we've always shown the rate-based growth because we've had the GIC investment in Indiana since 2021. So this isn't new, and it's how we're investing the CapEx growth, and then the minority interest is taken out at the bottom of the income statement. So we're not doing any trickery here with the rate-based growth. But the 9.6, if we took out the minority investment in Florida that's going to happen during this five-year window, would knock the CAGR to 8.8%. But I want to underscore the proceeds coming in from Brookfield are going to offset a hold coe.

If you're doing the detailed model, whatever you're modeling for holdco interest expense should be less than it would be otherwise if you were going to have it on a gross level.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo0: Perfect. Yeah, wasn't implying that there was any trickery. Just wanted to get the clarity.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo1: No, no, no. I just.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo0: Appreciate it.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo1: No, I wanted to be clear. I wanted to be clear. We added the footnote this time. That was a new add.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo0: Yeah. Yeah. Thank you very much.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Thank you.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo1: Thanks, Steve.

Harry, Call Coordinator: The next question will be from the line of David Paz with Wolfe Research. Please go ahead. Your line is open.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo0: Thank you. I appreciate the confidence in your growth inflection in 2028. But I want to make sure I heard you correctly. Did you say that you could still reach the top half or 6%-7% in 2028 reflecting just the minimum takes? So in other words, you'll hit at least 6% even if for some reason the data centers do not show up in 2028.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Yeah. Good morning, Dave. That is absolutely correct. We are fully confident in being able in 2028 as that load comes online with these minimum take contract provisions that we have of reaching that top half, that 6%-7% growth rate.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo0: Okay. Great. Thank you. And then just on the 4.5 gigawatts ESAs, would any of those or I guess any signed from now until there's potentially some kind of order ruling on a large load tariff in North Carolina? If we were to see a large load tariff, do you anticipate they would impact 4.5 gigawatts?

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: No, not at all. We have existing tariffs that these things are signed under, and they'll continue to function under that. Any new changes to tariffs will only apply to the new ones. We've had conferences and technical conferences with the commission in North Carolina, and they are supportive of the way that we're approaching this, and we don't see any impacts there.

Alex, Analyst, Wells Fargo0: Great. Thank you so much.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Thank you.

Brian Savoy, Executive Vice President and CFO, Duke Energy: Thank you.

Harry, Call Coordinator: Thank you. This will conclude Q&A, so I'll now hand back to Harry Sideris for some closing remarks.

Harry Sideris, President and CEO, Duke Energy: Yeah. Thank you for the questions today. I just wanted to wrap up real quick and reemphasize that our business has never been stronger. We delivered on 2025 commitments, and we're going to build on that momentum into 2026. We are fully executing on all gears on our strategy, reaching new milestones in our generation build, and converting our economic development pipeline into real projects. I am more confident than ever of our ability to earn the top half, like we talked about, of our 5%-7% EPS growth range starting in 2028, and also the fact that this will be durable into the future. So again, thanks for joining us today, and thank you for your investment in Duke Energy. Take care.

Harry, Call Coordinator: This concludes the Duke Energy fourth quarter and year-end 2025 earnings call. Thank you for joining. You may now disconnect your line.

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