



Save these Dates!

PMEA 2025 Annual Conference – September 3 – 5, 2025
Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford
****Registration Now Open****

PMEA Business Workshop
– September 3, 2025 @ Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford
****Registration Now Open****

2025 Training for Line Crews –
****Registration will open prior to each course****

Job Briefings & Analysis
August 7 & 8 - Grove City
August 11 & 12 - Chambersburg
August 13 & 14 - Lansdale

Team Building
October 16 & 17 - Grove City
October 20 & 21 - Chambersburg
October 22 & 23 - Lansdale



PMEA Spring Superintendents/ Foremen Meeting
March 26 & 27, 2026 @ The Nittany Lion Inn, State College

PJM Electricity Auction Hits Price Ceiling

PJM announced Tuesday that its 2026/2027 electricity capacity auction resulted in a record-breaking price of \$329.17 per megawatt-day, hitting the maximum price ceiling established by federal regulators. The auction secured 134,311 MW of electric generation capacity to serve the 13-state Mid-Atlantic and Midwest region.

Sharp Price Increases Drive Customer Concerns

The capacity price represents a significant 21.9% increase from the already record high 2025/2026 price of \$269.92 per megawatt-day. To put this surge in perspective, PJM's 2024/2025 auction price was just \$28.92 per megawatt-day, highlighting the dramatic escalation in electricity costs over recent years.

Total capacity costs for PJM consumers jumped to \$16.1 billion in the 2025 auction, up from \$14.7 billion in 2024. PJM estimates that customers across Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia will see electricity bill increases of 1.5 to 5 percent when the new rates take effect from June 2026 to May 2027.

Fossil Fuels Dominate Energy Mix

Despite growing clean energy commitments across the region, the cleared resource mix remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels. Natural gas accounts for 45% of capacity, followed by coal at 22% and nuclear at 21%. Renewable energy sources represent only a small fraction: 4% hydro, 3% wind, and just 1% solar.

Data Centers and Supply Bottlenecks Drive Crisis

Energy experts attribute the soaring capacity prices to two primary factors straining the regional grid. The explosive growth of power-hungry data centers across PJM's coverage area has dramatically increased electricity demand, while the supply side faces significant constraints.

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Capacity Price (continued)

A major bottleneck exists in PJM's interconnection queue, which has been closed since 2022, preventing new energy projects from joining the line to supply power to the grid. Currently, approximately 2,025 projects sit in the queue, with 1,213 solar projects and 132 wind projects awaiting approval to connect to the system.

The mismatch between surging demand and constrained supply has forced PJM to forge agreements with aging fossil-fired power plants, extending their operations for several additional years to maintain grid reliability.

Regulatory Intervention Caps Prices

The price ceiling resulted from regulatory action following a complaint filed by Governor Josh Shapiro in late 2024. Shapiro raised concerns with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission about PJM's slow pace in connecting new projects to the grid, warning that delays could cost customers more than \$20 billion over the next two years.

This led to PJM agreeing to implement a "price collar" system, establishing both a price floor and ceiling for the next two service years through May 2028. The original band was set at \$175 to \$325 per megawatt-day, though final calculations adjusted the ceiling to \$329.17.



Path Forward Requires Swift Action

Abraham Silverman, an energy researcher with the Ralph O'Connor Sustainable Energy Institute at Johns Hopkins University, emphasizes that states must prioritize projects already in the interconnection queue that are ready for development.

"First is they need to focus on projects that are through the interconnection queue and are shovel ready," Silverman said. "What can we do to get those projects deployed as fast as we possibly can? What are the local siting and permitting requirements? How can the states work with the developer to make sure that project comes online?"

The capacity price represents what ratepayers pay to ensure electricity remains available during high-demand periods, such as heatwaves when the grid faces maximum stress. While PJM notes that wholesale capacity costs account for a relatively small portion of retail electricity bills, the sustained price increases signal deeper structural challenges facing the Mid-Atlantic energy market.

As the region grapples with balancing growing energy demands against supply constraints and clean energy transition goals, the coming years will prove critical for determining whether the grid can adapt quickly enough to avoid even more dramatic price increases.

PJM also has scheduled another auction in December of this year for the 2027/2028 delivery year.

Sources: PA Environmental Digest, PA Capital-Star, Inside Climate News.

Data Center & Energy Summit in PA
With Blackstone venture, PPL is 'biggest winner' from summit

Plans to build gas-fired generation in Pennsylvania comes amid a surge in data center development across the United States, fueled in part by a race to develop artificial intelligence capacity.

In PPL Electric Utilities' service territory in Pennsylvania, there is more than 13 GW of potential data center load in advanced stages of planning, according to PPL. If all those data centers are built, there would be a 6 GW generation shortfall in PPL Electric Utilities' service territory in the next five to six years, PPL said.

It would cost about \$15 billion to build enough gas-fired, combined-cycle units to meet the shortfall, PPL said, noting that it expects the power plants would be built by the joint venture, independent power producers and — if legislation is passed to change Pennsylvania law — PPL Electric Utilities.

Blackstone said it expects to spend \$25 billion on data centers and energy infrastructure in Pennsylvania. QTS, a data center operator backed by Blackstone, has secured land sites across northeastern Pennsylvania for data centers, the private equity firm said.

PPL owns 51% of the joint venture, with Blackstone Infrastructure owning the rest.

The joint venture lacks identified customers and gas turbines, and the first power plants likely would not be built until around 2031, so the initiative will have little effect on PPL's earnings until later in the decade, depending on data center interest, Morgan Stanley analysts said Wednesday.

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Data Center Summit (continued)

“As long as the contracts that get signed have strict risk parameters that make the financial arrangements ‘utility-like,’ we think the earnings upside would be attractive for investors, and this approach makes sense as an effort to boost grid reliability,” the analysts said.

US data centers could add 80 GW by 2030

Meanwhile, Morningstar analysts expect data center load will roughly triple to about 80 GW by 2030, at least 20% below some estimates, according to a report released Wednesday. The more aggressive forecasts overlook the practical limitations of building large-scale infrastructure and underestimate the rising energy efficiency of AI chips, the analysts said. Load growth projections vary greatly.



Morningstar expects that 60% of the new data center demand will be met by gas-fired generation, 25% by renewable energy additions and 15% by nuclear restarts and expansions. New nuclear, including small modular reactors, aren’t an option until the early 2030s at the earliest, according to the report.

“Renewables are advantaged by their attractive economics, quick time to power, and zero carbon emissions,” the Morningstar analysts said. “So, we expect rising power demand from AI to drive incremental demand for new wind, solar, and battery storage generation.”

Author: Ethan Howland, Senior Reporter. Published in Utility Dive, July 17, 2025

So, what’s in the \$93.5 billion investment that McCormick touted at his summit? The Capital-Star broke down the list.

- Six natural gas projects totaling \$24.2 billion that range from new electricity generating capacity, such as Frontier Group’s plan to convert the former Bruce Mansfield coal-fired power plant in Beaver County to a 3.6 gigawatt natural gas-fired plant, to gas driller Equinor’s plan to increase natural gas production. Two of the projects on the list include the price of natural gas that will be purchased to fuel existing or upgraded power plants, including an agreement in principle to buy \$15 billion worth of gas.
- Two projects involve nuclear energy. Constellation Energy said it will spend \$2.4 billion to increase the output of its existing nuclear power plant near Limerick, Montgomery County. That is in addition to Constellation’s announcement earlier this year of a \$1.6 billion deal with Microsoft to restart the former Three Mile Island power plant, renamed the Crane Clean Energy Center. It is also applying to renew its license for the Peach Bottom Clean Energy Center in York County to continue operating those reactors until 2054. Westinghouse Electric Co. said it will build 10 new nuclear plants in the United States, which will generate an estimated \$6 billion in economic activity and create 15,000 new jobs in southwest Pennsylvania.
- Hydroelectric power is the sole source of renewable energy among the projects announced. Brookfield Asset Management said it has a \$3 billion 20-year deal with Google to purchase electricity from the Safe Harbor and Holtwood hydroelectric dams on the Susquehanna River. Brookfield said it will relicense and overhaul dams, which were built in the early 20th century, to produce 3 gigawatts of electricity.
- Two of the commonwealth’s major electric distribution companies, PPL Corp. and First Energy, said they will expand their grid capacities to support the demand from data centers. First Energy said it will spend \$15 billion on infrastructure improvements in 57 counties. PPL said it will spend \$6.8 billion on grid improvements and a joint venture with investment manager Blackrock Inc. to build a gas fired power plant near Marcellus shale gas supplies.
- Three tech firms said they will invest in workforce development projects. AI product developer Anthropic will inject \$2 million towards programs at Carnegie Mellon University to support advancing AI-powered energy solutions and building the cybersecurity workforce needed to protect America’s energy infrastructure. Social media company Meta will make a \$2.5 million gift to support early-stage Carnegie Mellon University-affiliated startups, including those in energy, infrastructure, health care and defense industries. Google said it has launched a new “AI Works for PA” initiative offering free training for one million Pennsylvania small businesses and Pittsburgh residents. The tech giant also provided a grant to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and National Electrical Contractors Association electrical training program.

Author: Peter Hall, reporter. Published in Pennsylvania Capital-Star, July 21.2025.



There has never been a more important time to attend the PMEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE! Learn more about PJM and other key issues!

Governors Seek More Influence over PJM Amid ‘Crisis of confidence’

Facing an “unprecedented crisis of confidence,” the PJM Interconnection needs fundamental change and new leadership, according to nine governors representing the majority of electric customers in the grid operator’s footprint.

“At a time of rapidly rising load growth, PJM’s multi-year inability to efficiently connect new resources to its grid and to engage in effective long-term transmission planning has deprived our states of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in investment that may flow to other regions,” the governors said to PJM’s board in a letter released Thursday.

The letter from the governors comes about a year after total capacity costs in PJM’s last capacity auction jumped to \$14.7 billion from \$2.2 billion in the previous auction. The increase led to potential electric bill hikes in some states in the 10% to 20% range. Some states took steps to ease those bill increases. PJM is set to release the results of its most recent capacity auction on Tuesday.

Increasingly, states are considering leaving PJM, the governors said. The letter was signed by governors from Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia.

“We are deeply concerned that PJM’s response has been typified by halting, inconsistent steps and rising internal conflicts within the stakeholder community that have recently culminated in the abrupt termination of two long-standing members of the Board of Managers and the imminent departure of the CEO,” the governors said.

Manu Asthana, PJM president and CEO, on April 14 said he plans to step down from his job at the end of this year. He joined PJM in January 2020. PJM is seeking a replacement.

Also, at a May 12 Members Committee meeting, two incumbent board nominees — Chairman Mark Takahashi and Terry Blackwell — failed to receive enough votes to be reelected to three-year terms, according to PJM. Blackwell joined the PJM board in 2015, and Takahashi joined a year later. PJM’s board has 10 members, including the grid operator’s CEO.

The two vacant board seats should be filled by candidates proposed by states instead of through “closed-door deliberations,” according to the nine governors.

Reported by Ethan Howland, Senior Reporter, Utility Dive, July 18, 2025.

PMEA Highlights



PMEA President and Chambersburg Manager, Jeffrey Stonehill, participated in a session – Efficiently Developing Local Distributed Generation - at the June APPA National Conference.

PMEA hosted a reception for members during the recent PA State Association of Boroughs Annual Conference in Hershey.



Scenes from PMEIA’s recent training on Metering for the LineWorker.



Associate Member Spotlight



With more than 15 years in the U.S. renewables business, RWE has an outstanding track record in developing, constructing, and operating renewable energy facilities. Together with our partners, they develop innovative solutions and drive technological progress for their customers to help re-shape the energy supply for future generations. RWE Clean Energy, a subsidiary of RWE AG, operates a renewable energy portfolio

of more than 11 gigawatts (GW) installed capacity of onshore wind, solar, and battery storage, making it the number three renewable energy company in the U.S. and the country's third largest solar owner and operator, present in most U.S. states. RWE owns and operates more than 170 facilities in 27 U.S. states and has 4+ GW of projects under construction from coast to coast. In alignment with RWE Group's Growing Green strategy, RWE is investing in expanding its generation portfolio. This is backed by a project pipeline of 36+ GW in onshore and offshore wind, solar, and battery storage, which provides for one of the largest development platforms in the U.S.

As an energy company with a successful history spanning more than 125 years, RWE has an extensive knowledge of the energy markets and an excellent expertise in all major power generation and storage technologies, from nuclear, coal and gas to hydro, batteries, wind and solar. For more information, please visit <https://americas.rwe.com/rwe-clean-energy/> or contact David Klein at David.Klein@rwe.com.

Announcements from Associate Members

Utility Seminar

TE Connectivity (TE) cordially invites you to participate in their Utility Seminar from September 9-11 in Fuquay-Varina, NC facility (near Raleigh). Learn more about their products and solutions directly from the company's engineers, product managers and field service technicians. There will be hands on time to install many of the products in the labs. Topics will include:

- Introduction to TE
- Cable accessories (low, medium, and high voltage) & connectors
- Cable design/preparation techniques
- Wildlife and Asset protection.

[Register Today](#)

2025 PCB Management Workshop

TCI of Ohio is pleased to announce that Mark Pennell, President of Regulatory Compliance Service (RCS) will conduct a PCB compliance workshop this Fall at the Hilton Garden Inn located in Dublin, Ohio. TCI will host this two-day training event and provide additional opportunities to participate in plant tours, and recreational outings in the Columbus Ohio area. Topics will include:

- State of the Agency Report Priorities at the EPA
- Foundational Training for new PCB Program Coordinators
- Use Authorization and Conditions, Marking and Labeling
- Transformer Change-outs, Hauling and Drop-off
- PCB Storage Options & EPA Notification Requirements
- PCB and Non-PCB Spill Response
- Cleanup and Reporting Fresh vs. Non-Fresh PCB Spills

Dates: September 9-11, 2025

Class Times 8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M. EDT September 10-11, 2025

Lodging: Available at \$109.00/night

Class Cost: \$945.00 Includes course materials, refreshments, lunch, and certificate of completion.

[Register Here](#)

Share Your News....

Please share with us your exciting new projects, photos, personnel updates, and any other news! Your submissions should be sent to bosak@papublicpower.org at any time and we will use them in upcoming editions. We also welcome your suggestions for topics of interest for our newsletters.

Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association
1801 Market St., Suite 300
Camp Hill, PA 17011
Tel: 717-489-2088
info@papublicpower.org