



## Save these Dates!

**PMEA Reception – June 1, 2026**  
5:00 – 7:00 pm @ PSAB Conference, Cocoa Boardroom, Hershey Lodge

**PMEA 2026 Annual Conference – September 9 – 11, 2026**  
Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford

**PMEA Business Workshop**  
– September 9, 2026 @ Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford

**2026 Training for Line Crews**  
*\*Registration opens prior to each class\**

Overhead Troubleshooting  
April 9 & 10 – Grove City  
April 13 & 14 – Chambersburg  
April 15 & 16 – Lansdale

Underground Troubleshooting & Grounding  
September 14 & 15 – Grove City  
September 21 & 22 – Chambersburg  
September 23 & 24 – Lansdale

Advanced Transformer  
June 4 & 5 – Grove City  
June 8 & 9 – Chambersburg  
June 10 & 11 – Lansdale

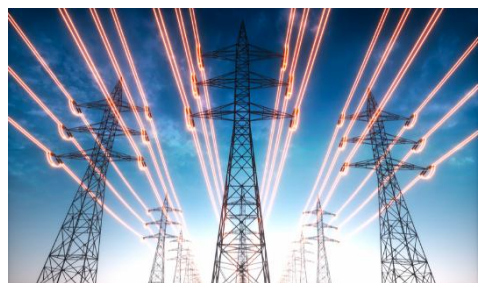
Safety for Lineworkers  
October 22 & 23 – Grove City  
October 26 & 27 – Chambersburg  
October 28 & 29 – Lansdale

## PUC, Team PA, and Governor Partner on Accelerated Transmission & Energy Redevelopment Study

The US Department of Energy (DOE) awarded the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PA PUC) a \$2 million grant for the Pennsylvania Accelerated Transmission and Energy Redevelopment (PATER) Study. The PA PUC will partner with Team Pennsylvania, Governor Josh Shapiro's Office of Public Policy, the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Department of Environmental Protection's Energy Programs Office, and the Office of Consumer Advocate to study cost effective opportunities to make grid additions to power our growing economy.

With electricity demand rising at unprecedented levels, the PATER Study will evaluate where energy development efficiencies can be achieved, where new power can be brought online, and how the transmission grid can be modernized for residents and businesses across the commonwealth.

"I'm an all-of-the-above energy Governor, and I am laser focused on bringing more power to the grid while keeping costs down for the good people of Pennsylvania," said Governor Josh Shapiro. "Our Commonwealth is already a net energy exporter and a national energy leader. My Administration has built on that strong position of leadership by introducing my Lightning Plan to generate more energy, create more energy jobs, and lower costs for consumers — and at the same time, we've brought Pennsylvania utilities and our grid operator, PJM, to the table to discuss significant reforms that will further keep costs down for Pennsylvanians. This study will build on that work by enabling our Commonwealth to identify cost-effective projects and upgrades to bring even more power onto the grid, and more valuable sites back into use."



Over the course of the next year, the study will evaluate recently retired power generation sites in Pennsylvania, prioritizing those that would be most cost-effective to bring back into productive use due to their existing transmission infrastructure. The study will also investigate and map installed high-voltage transmission infrastructure in the commonwealth, evaluating where new investments would serve to enhance the grid through upgrades or replacements.



## Capitol Hill (continued)

One of the more pointed conversations centered on recent federal efforts to override local authority over pole attachments. Municipal utilities have long managed pole attachment policies at the local level, balancing the needs of multiple users while maintaining system safety and integrity. The PMEA delegation made clear that any federal move to preempt that local control would be a step in the wrong direction, undermining the ability of communities to manage their own infrastructure.

Direct engagement with elected officials and their staff is a critical part of ensuring that the perspective of public power is heard as Congress considers energy policy. As the legislative environment grows more active around grid reliability, generation, and infrastructure, PMEA's presence at the APPA Legislative Rally reflects the association's commitment to advocating for Pennsylvania's municipal electric utilities at the highest levels.

---

## Overview of APPA Report on Average Revenue per Kilowatt Hour

The American Public Power Association (APPA) recently released its report on the average electricity rates (in cents per kWh) for U.S. electric utilities in 2024, broken down by utility ownership type — **Public Power** (not-for-profit, community-owned), **Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs)**, and **Cooperatives** — across all states, territories, and individual utilities.

### Key National Findings:

- Public power utilities are consistently the most affordable option. In **35 out of 45 states** with comparable data, public power customers had the lowest average residential rates.
- Nationwide, the average public power residential rate was **17% lower** than the IOU residential rate in 2024.
- In states with retail choice, the average retail choice residential rate is nearly **60% higher** than the average full-service rate — a significant premium for customers who shop alternate suppliers.

### Pennsylvania Data

#### State Averages (cents per kWh, 2024):

Rate Type	Public Power	Investor-Owned	Cooperative
Residential	12.0¢	17.3¢	15.6¢
Commercial	11.7¢	13.9¢	13.4¢
Industrial	12.0¢	8.8¢	10.3¢
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.2¢</b>	<b>16.4¢</b>	<b>14.9¢</b>

Pennsylvania follows the national trend — **public power is the most affordable** for residential and commercial customers. Interestingly, investor-owned utilities have lower industrial rates (8.8¢), which is likely driven by large industrial customers with negotiated rates.

### Notable Individual Utility Rates (Total Rev/kWh):

#### Investor-Owned:

- Duquesne Light Co: **20.2¢** (highest in state)
- PPL Electric Utilities Corp: **16.3¢**
- PECO Energy Co: **15.0¢**
- FirstEnergy Pennsylvania Electric Co: **16.7¢**
- Citizens Electric Co: **13.6¢** (lowest IOU)

#### Public Power (selected):

- Saint Clair - **21.2¢**
- Chambersburg - **10.5¢**
- Mont Alto - **10.2¢**
- Pitcairn - **19.6¢**

#### Cooperatives:

- Warren Electric Coop: **21.4¢** (highest co-op)
- Sullivan County R.E.C.: **20.8¢**
- Somerset Rural Electric Coop: **13.2¢** (lowest co-op)

**Bottom Line for Pennsylvania:** Public power and cooperative customers generally pay less than those served by investor-owned utilities, particularly for residential service. However, rates vary across the state — from around 10¢ to over 21¢ per kWh depending on the utility.

---

## Utility Profits Rise as Household Bills Soar, New Analysis Finds

Investor-owned utility profits have soared as consumer utility bills have skyrocketed in recent years, according to a new analysis of dozens of electricity providers.

The Energy and Policy Institute, a watchdog group tracking fossil fuel and utility industries, analyzed financial disclosures from 110 investor-owned electric utilities between 2021 and 2024, as well as available 2025 filings. The recently published report does not include nonprofit electric providers such as municipal utilities or rural electric cooperatives.

Last year, state-regulated, investor-owned electric utilities kept about 15 cents of every dollar they collected as profit, the report concluded. (For a customer paying a \$200 monthly electric bill, that means about \$30 went to corporate profits.) The 2025 figure is up from around 13 cents on average between 2021 and 2024, it said.

## Utility Profits (continued)

The utilities examined in the analysis reported almost \$186 billion in profits between 2021 and 2024, the study concluded.

“These patterns suggest that a substantial share of what customers pay for electricity is consistently flowing to investors as profit,” the report said, “a finding that is especially significant as consumers face persistently high energy costs and financial stress.”

The analysis found regional variation in utility profits.

Utilities in the Southeast operating outside of organized wholesale electricity markets, where electricity is sold and bought in bulk, earned higher profits. Across Alabama, Florida, Georgia and other Southeastern states, utilities retained nearly 16% of their revenue as profit between 2021 and 2024, the report said.

By contrast, utilities in the PJM Interconnection regional market serving the mid-Atlantic averaged about 11.8%, while utilities in New York and New England reported similar or lower levels. Some of the highest margins in the PJM region are PPL Electric at 20.5% profit margin PPL Electric customers pay some of the highest portions of their bill toward profits in the country. PECO stands at 17.4% profit margin For PECO customers, roughly \$34.76 of every \$200 bill goes toward profits. Additionally, PECO's net profits shot up 47.7% to \$814 million in 2025, up from \$551 million in 2024, following rate hikes that included a 10% electricity increase that kicked in for ratepayers in January 2025.

The report found the utilities with the highest average margin between 2021 and 2024 were MidAmerican Energy (27.22%), Florida Power & Light (23.51%), Nantucket Electric (23.24%), Empire District Electric (22.45%), and Florida Public Utilities (20.35%).

The analysis comes as consumer utility bills continue to outpace the rate of inflation and state lawmakers of both parties increasingly scrutinize utility prices.

Most consumers get their electricity from utilities that must seek state approval for rate changes, with appointed or elected state boards approving price structures.

While state lawmakers, governors and regulators are increasingly questioning utility prices, the Energy and Policy Institute says states can take more action to control profits.

Thursday's report calls for states to set lower profit rates for investor-owned utilities, scrutinize the financing of new capital investments, link utility earnings to customer results and strengthen the role of consumer advocates in rate decisions.

Note: EPI also has an interactive profit tracker tool at [utility profit tracker](#) where you can enter your specific bill amount and see your utility's margin compared to others nationally.

Reprint: Kevin Hardy, *Stateline*, March 12, 2026.

---

## Grassroots Resistance to Data Centers Rises in PA

Plans to build more than fifty data centers in Pennsylvania face opposition from a growing network of community groups, environmental activists, and state lawmakers from both major parties.

Driven by concerns about the industry's huge electricity demands, heavy water consumption, use of polluting diesel generators for backup power and industrialization of rural areas, an increasing number of grassroots groups are mobilizing in an attempt to stop or at least delay the massive buildout.

The opponents say the popular outcry against data centers is stronger than previous community campaigns against the resource-rich state's extractive industries, which include coal and natural gas.



According to Data Center Proposal Tracker, a website that tracks public plans for data centers, 52 projects are in the early planning stages, officially proposed or under construction throughout the state.

They include an Amazon Web Services data center in Salem Township, for which the company would pay \$18 billion to Talen Energy to supply up to 1.92 gigawatts of nuclear power from an adjacent plant through 2042; a plan to construct 22 buildings on two campuses covering more than 470 acres at Archbald borough in northeast Pennsylvania; and the Aliquippa Data Center Campus in western Pennsylvania's Beaver County on the site of a former steel mill.

Data center opponents scored a notable victory in February when commissioners in Montour County in central Pennsylvania denied a proposed rezoning that would have allowed construction of a data center. Sam Burleigh, a resident who helped to lead public opposition to the plan, attributed the commission's ruling to the strength of that opposition. Although his pressure group, Concerned Citizens of Montour County, started in August 2025 with only four members, it soon gathered hundreds of supporters across the county.

(continued on next page)

## Data Center Resistance (*continued*)

Four days after the group formed, its first town hall meeting drew some 120 people, Burleigh said. A petition to commissioners the group organized was signed by about 3,000 people, or about twice the total population of the township where the land in question is located.

### How lawmakers are responding

Democratic state Sen. Katie Muth said in a February memo to fellow senators that she will soon propose a three-year moratorium on data center construction to give local governments—which make land-use decisions—time to evaluate risk, enact protective ordinances and update zoning.

“A three-year moratorium is a measured, responsible and necessary step to protect public health, safety, fiscal stability and environmental integrity while ensuring that future decisions are informed, coordinated and equitable,” Muth’s memo said.

Across the aisle, state Rep. Jamie Walsh, a Republican representing parts of Luzerne County, said he too will soon introduce a package of bills to regulate the development of data centers. “These proposals are not anti-technology,” Walsh wrote in a memo. “They are pro-community and pro-taxpayers, grounded in the simple idea that long-term development must serve the public interest and provide real benefits to local communities.”

Pennsylvania’s House Energy Committee on Monday narrowly approved a bill that would direct state officials to write a model ordinance for municipalities faced with data center applications. HB 2151, which passed 14-12 and is supported by Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro, was also amended to clarify that towns would not be required to use the ordinance if the measure becomes law.

Shapiro has said he wants new data centers to locate in Pennsylvania but only if they bring their own power or pay for the extra power they would take from the grid. In a speech supporting his proposed budget for fiscal 2026-27, Shapiro also said data center developers should be transparent with the communities where they hope to operate, and must hire and train local workers. Those who meet those demands will get the state’s “full support,” the governor said.

Lackawanna County commissioner Bill Gaughan urged Shapiro in an open letter to support calls such as Muth’s for a three-year moratorium on data-center construction. Gaughan, a Democrat, called the planned centers “facilities of extraordinary size and unprecedented infrastructure demand” that promise advances in technology and potentially extra tax revenue, but also raise unresolved questions about energy and water use, environmental impact and strain on housing and local infrastructure. “The intensity and consistency of public concern have been unmistakable,” Gaughan wrote.

He urged the governor and the legislature to pause approvals for new large-scale data centers to allow time to study their environmental and resource impacts and develop statewide standards. “A temporary moratorium is not an act of hostility toward innovation,” he wrote. “It is an act of prudence.”

*Reprint in part: Jon Hurdle, [Inside Climate News](#), March 3, 2026*

---

## Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars for an exceptional networking opportunity this June! PMEA is pleased to host an exclusive reception on **Monday, June 1, at the Hershey Lodge** during the PA State Association of Boroughs Annual Conference.

Whether you are attending the full PSAB Conference or simply available that evening, we extend a warm invitation to all elected and appointed officials to join us. This is your chance to connect with fellow municipal leaders, exchange insights, and strengthen relationships. We look forward to seeing you there! Complete event details will be shared as the date approaches.

---

## PJM Videos Available

PMEA’s annual 2025 Business Workshop included an essential session on PJM, giving attendees a comprehensive look at how PJM operates and its critical role in managing the regional power grid. [Click here](#) to view on PMEA’s private YouTube channel.

PMEA’s Public Power Governance 101 educational video is available exclusively to member municipalities. Designed for elected officials and staff across Pennsylvania’s 35 public power communities, this comprehensive module delivers invaluable insights into the management and operation of municipal electric systems. To receive your private viewing link, contact Diane Bosak at [bosak@papublicpower.org](mailto:bosak@papublicpower.org).

---

## 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](mailto:bosak@papublicpower.org) at any time and they will be used in upcoming editions. We also welcome your suggestions for topics of interest for our newsletters.