WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

PowerAether Intelligence

Regulatory & Grid Intelligence for Data Center Developers & Operators

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THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

PJM's February 27 EIT filing and forthcoming June Reliability Backstop Procurement filing crystallise the data-center grid model: BYONG (Bring Your Own New Generation), NCBL (Non-Capacity-Backed Load), and a 14.9 GW two-phase procurement. FERC's end-of-June ANOPR (Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) ruling will set the national template. EIT effective July 31, 2026.

Regulatory status as of May 10, 2026. Several PJM and FERC items in this issue remain *proposed*, *pending*, or subject to *further compliance filings*. Items are flagged where status is uncertain. Readers should verify current docket status before relying on them for transaction decisions.

IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The PJM model is now the national template — in everything but name.

Six weeks ago, the regulatory architecture for hyperscale data-center grid connection in North America was a state-by-state patchwork built around first-come-first-served queues. Today it is a tiered access system in which firmness is a feature loads must *choose and pay for*. PJM's Critical Issue Fast Path (CIFP) framework — BYONG (Bring Your Own New Generation) for the expedited path, NCBL (Non-Capacity-Backed Load) for the curtailment path, and a 14.9 GW Reliability Backstop Procurement for the system-level safety valve — has crystallised the new model. The 13-state PJM-governors' January Statement of Principles, jointly issued with the White House National Energy Dominance Council, makes cost causation politically inevitable.

FERC's end-of-June ruling on the Large-Load ANOPR (Docket RM26-4-000) will determine whether this becomes federal doctrine or remains a regional experiment. **This issue maps the full framework**: Section 5 is a side-by-side deep dive on the three mechanisms; Section 3 includes the PJM Reliability Pricing Model auction trajectory that drives the urgency; Section 6 covers Virginia DEQ's new APG-576 backup-power memo, the first major state-level codification of data-center backup-generator standards in the PJM footprint.

For developers, operators and counsel, the practical implication is unambiguous: state engagement has moved from a downstream task to a critical-path activity. The 10-project annual cap on PJM's Expedited Interconnection Track (Docket ER26-1563, effective July 31) creates implicit rationing, and the PJM 28/29 Base Residual Auction in July 2026 will be the single biggest market signal of the year. Project pipelines underwritten before March 2026 should be reviewed against the new cost-causation regime; change-in-law and cost-reopener clauses are now table stakes.

SECTION 01

Regulatory Radar — Federal

FERC | June Action on Large Load Interconnection ANOPR | Docket RM26-4-000

■ HIGH IMPACT

On April 16, 2026, FERC issued an Order Regarding Intent to Act in Docket RM26-4-000, committing to take action by end of June 2026 on the large-load interconnection ANOPR initiated at DOE's direction in October 2025. The Commission stated it will translate the issues identified in the ANOPR record into "standards for processing large-load interconnection requests" in a manner that is "quick, efficient and legally durable." This is the first FERC action with the explicit potential to assert federal jurisdiction over interconnection of large loads (defined in the ANOPR as >20 MW) to the interstate transmission system, grounded in FPA §201(b) authority over transmission facilities and wholesale rates. **Form of action remains uncertain**: FERC may issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR), a final rule, a policy statement, or another procedural action. The Commission noted that ongoing public-utility §205 filings should not be discouraged in the interim.

Mechanism Affected Large-load interconnection process; cost allocation; co-location treatment; jurisdictional authority over interconnection of retail loads served via interstate transmission. See: hklaw.com · troutmanenergyreport.com

Next Milestones FERC final action by end of June 2026 (form unspecified — NOPR (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) or final rule). State-PUC (Public Utility Commission) pushback expected on jurisdictional grounds. Compliance filings likely 60–90 days after order issuance. See: ferc.gov/rm26-4 · mayerbrown.com

Developer/Operator Impact: Two-track planning is essential. If FERC asserts jurisdiction in June, the patchwork of 91+ state large-load tariffs becomes a floor rather than the binding regime; expect a multi-year compliance cycle as utilities reconcile FERC standards with state PUC filings. If FERC defers (e.g., issues a NOPR rather than final rule), the state-by-state landscape persists for at least 12–18 more months. Build both scenarios into project underwriting; cost-reopener and change-in-law clauses in interconnection agreements should be drafted to accommodate either outcome.

Sources: ferc.gov · hklaw.com · csis.org

FERC | PJM Expedited Interconnection Track Filing | Docket ER26-1563

■ HIGH IMPACT

On February 27, 2026, PJM filed its Expedited Interconnection Track (EIT) tariff proposal at FERC, seeking authority to fast-track up to 10 generation interconnection requests per calendar year over a two-year initial period. Eligible projects must commit to firm in-service dates and be supported by the primary siting authority or executive officer of the host state. PJM targets approximately 10 months from queue entry to executed Generator Interconnection Agreement — versus the 4–7 year norm. PJM requested a FERC order by May 28, 2026 so the process can be effective July 31, 2026. The EIT is one element of the broader Critical Issue Fast Path (CIFP) framework outlined by the PJM Board in its January 16, 2026 letter.

Developer/Operator Impact: The EIT is the most direct near-term path to capacity for PJM-zone projects. Eligibility is narrow: state executive endorsement is non-negotiable, and "shovel-ready" status is implicit. Hyperscalers pursuing BYONG (Bring Your Own New Generation) should engage state energy offices immediately on letters of support. The 10-project annual cap creates implicit rationing; expect crowded out demand to push toward bilateral contracting and the forthcoming reliability backstop.

Sources: whitecase.com · insidelines.pjm.com

FERC | Southwest Power Pool HILL (High Impact Large Load) Initiative Approved

■ WATCH

In January 2026, FERC approved SPP's High Impact Large Load (HILL) initiative, establishing protocols for accelerated interconnection of large loads (>75 MW) paired with associated new generation. HILL serves as a structural counterpoint to PJM's CIFP (Critical Issue Fast Path) framework: same problem (data-center load growth outpacing generation), different solution (joint load-and-generation interconnection study rather than separate queues). HILL gives SPP a meaningful first-mover advantage for hyperscalers willing to BYONG.

Developer/Operator Impact: SPP's HILL framework reduces queue uncertainty for hyperscalers willing to commit to bringing their own generation. Texas Panhandle, Oklahoma, Kansas, and the Dakotas now offer a structurally faster path to energization than PJM East. Rebalance pipeline geographic mix accordingly. Watch for FERC's June ANOPR ruling to potentially codify HILL-style joint interconnection nationally.

Sources: ferc.gov · spp.org

SECTION 02

State & Provincial Regulator Watch

PJM-State Coalition + White House: Joint Statement of Principles

■ HIGH IMPACT

On January 16, 2026 — the same day the PJM Board released its CIFP large-load decision — a bipartisan coalition of all 13 PJM-state governors, jointly with the White House National Energy Dominance Council, issued a Statement of Principles on data-center grid integration. Core commitments: (1) data centers bear the infrastructure costs of their own load growth, not residential ratepayers; (2) state PUCs establish new rate classes for large loads; (3) PJM run a one-time backstop auction with 15-year terms to incentivise rapid generation buildout; (4) state-led permitting and siting reforms for BYONG generation. The statement is non-binding but politically decisive: it aligns the PJM footprint behind a cost-causation framework before FERC's June ANOPR ruling.

Developer/Operator Impact: Cost causation is now a near-certainty across the PJM footprint. Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia (the four lead states) will move first on rate-class reforms. New PJM-zone DC projects should re-underwrite assuming full capacity-cost allocation to the DC plus a state-imposed Mw-day capacity-attribution charge. Existing projects with utility-scale PPAs in place benefit from change-in-law protection if drafted tightly.

Sources: penncapital-star.com · insidelines.pjm.com

Active large-load tariffs — comparative reference (selected states)

State / Utility	Threshold	Cost contribution	Notable terms
CO / Xcel Energy	≥50 MW (proposed)	100% causation; long-term commitments	Large-load tariff proposal filed April 2026; includes termination fees, credit requirements, incremental cost tests
VA / Dominion	≥50 MW	Capacity reservation fee	GS-5 schedule update Feb 2026; minimum bill 80% of contract demand
OH / AEP Ohio	≥25 MW	Demand-ratchet clause	PUCO Case 24-508-EL-AIR; resolved March 2026 in AEP favor
IN / I&M	≥50 MW	10-yr bill commitment	IURC approved Jan 2026; covers AWS New Carlisle complex
PA / PPL & PECO	TBD	Pending PUC rulemaking	New rate class proposed April 2026 per Governors' Statement
CO/MD/NJ/VA + 9 others	50–100 MW	BYONG or NCBL pathway	13-state joint principles, Jan 16 2026
TX / ERCOT	≥75 MW	SB 6 framework	Kill-switch hardware mandatory from Dec 31 2025

Tracker now covers 91 active or pending large-load tariffs across 38 states — up from 77 across 36 states at Issue #1 publication. Source: SEPA DELTa Database

Canadian Provincial Update: Quebec Bill 69 Implementation, Alberta Phase 2

■ WATCH

Quebec's Bill 69 framework for selective allocation of large industrial loads is now in implementation, with Hydro-Quebec's proposed 13¢/kWh data-centre tariff (announced February 19, 2026 for projects ≥5 MW) expected to take effect H2 2026, subject to Régie de l'énergie approval. Alberta's AESO Phase II is in active stakeholder engagement to develop the longer-term large-load integration framework; Phase I established the interim 1,200 MW large-load connection cap. Ontario IESO opened consultation on a Quebec-style selective framework in late April 2026; outcome expected Q3.

Developer/Operator Impact: The Canadian provincial frameworks are converging on a "regulated entry" model: capacity is allocated by policy, not queue. Hyperscalers should treat each province as a separate regulatory negotiation. Alberta remains the most attractive entry point for projects with BYONG-aligned natural gas generation; Ontario is the next jurisdiction to watch closely.

Sources: osler.com · mccarthy.ca

SECTION 03

ISO/RTO Grid Desk — US & Canada

PJM | Reliability Backstop Procurement: 14.9 GW Two-Phase Design

■ HIGH IMPACT

On April 10, 2026, PJM released its formal proposal for a one-time, two-phase reliability backstop procurement of 14.9 GW of new resources. Phase 1 (September 2026 – March 2027): PJM facilitates bilateral contracting between power suppliers and large loads. Phase 2 (March 2027): central PJM-administered procurement for any residual capacity gap. PJM's March 5 "Refined Thinking" update clarifies PJM as administrator and counterparty (not bilateral matchmaker), with cost allocation back to the load zone where capacity is needed. Final auction design to be filed at FERC in June 2026 alongside an RFI deadline of May 4. Capacity shortfall driver: PJM projects 50–60 GW gap by 2035 absent action.

Backstop Auction Parameters (proposed) • Volume: 14.9 GW • Term: up to 15 years (per Governors' principles) • Phase 1 window: Sep 2026 – Mar 2027 (bilateral) • Phase 2: March 2027 (central procurement) • Cost allocation: zonal, to LSEs short due to incremental load growth • Counterparty: PJM as administrator

Open Issues / Watch List • Whether existing or only new resources can clear • Interaction with the Reliability Pricing Model (RPM) capacity auction • Stranded-cost protections if loads do not materialise • FERC market-design durability (§205 vs cost-of-service) • Price collar extension to 28/29 and 29/30 auctions

Developer/Operator Impact: The backstop creates a new procurement regime parallel to RPM (Reliability Pricing Model). Hyperscalers in PJM should evaluate whether bilateral Phase-1 commitments to suppliers offer better economics than Phase-2 central clearing. Cost allocation by zone means projects in high-growth zones (Dominion South, AEP, PPL) carry disproportionate cost causation. 15-year terms mark a structural shift toward cost-of-service contracting; legal review of §205 versus cost-of-service jurisdictional implications is essential before signing. Watch for the May 4 RFI response deadline as the first market-signal data point.

Sources: utilitydive.com · insidelines.pjm.com · whitecase.com

PJM Capacity Market | 27/28 Auction Shortfall, Price Collar Extension Debate

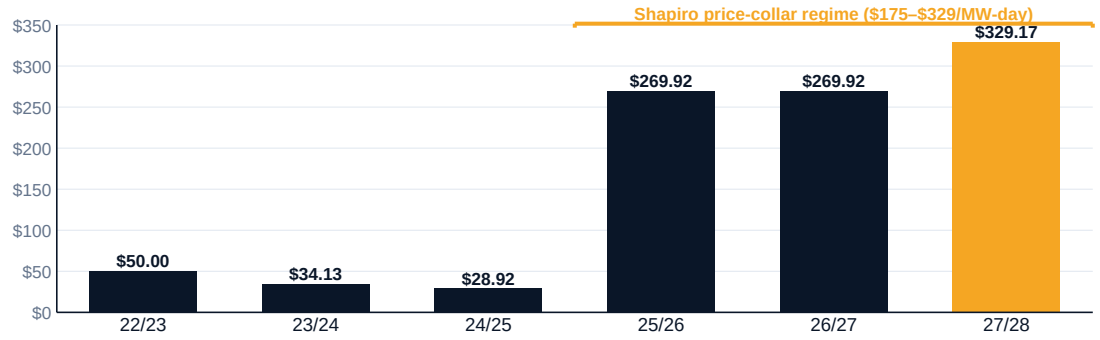
■ HIGH IMPACT

PJM's 2027/28 capacity auction cleared at the price collar ceiling of $329.17/MW-day, the third record auction in succession. Reserve margin came in at 14.8% — well below the 20% reliability target, prompting FERC commissioner alarm at the December 18, 2025 open meeting. Governor Shapiro's $175–$325/MW-day price collar (negotiated for the 26/27 and 27/28 auctions) is set to expire after 27/28. The PJM Board has signaled willingness to consider extending the collar to 28/29 and 29/30, with a holistic market review proceeding in parallel through 2026. The price-floor element remains contentious: consumer advocates (CUB, NRDC) urge keeping only the cap, dropping the floor. The 28/29 auction is scheduled for July 2026.

Developer/Operator Impact: Capacity-cost exposure is the dominant variable for new PJM DC projects in 2026–28. Subscribers structuring co-location or BYONG deals should model scenarios at the current cap ($329) plus a 30% headroom for the 28/29 auction. The price-floor extension is a free option for incumbents and a tax on entrants — oppose its extension in stakeholder filings if your project is exposed.

Sources: utilitydive.com · pjm.com (Board letter)

PJM RPM Base Residual Auction — Clearing Price Trajectory ($/MW-day)



Sources: PJM RPM Base Residual Auction reports (2022–2026); Shapiro price-collar regime applies to the 25/26, 26/27, and 27/28 auctions. The collar ceiling rose from $269.92/MW-day to $329.17/MW-day between the 26/27 and 27/28 auctions. Both 26/27 and 27/28 cleared at their respective collar ceilings.

ERCOT | 2030 Generation Queue Update; SB 6 Implementation Year One

■ **WATCH**

ERCOT's 2030 generation queue currently shows 47 GW of accepted interconnection requests, of which 23 GW are accompanied by Texas SB 6-compliant curtailment commitments. The PUCT's three SB 6 implementation rulemakings (Projects 58317 cost contribution; 58482 voluntary demand reduction; 58484 4CP review) remain on track for Q3 2026 completion. Project 58317 staff papers continue to favour 100% cost causation — the strictest large-load cost allocation standard in any major US ISO.

Developer/Operator Impact: ERCOT remains the deepest near-term capacity opportunity for hyperscalers in North America, but at the price of full cost causation and curtailment exposure. Pair every new ERCOT project with battery storage sized to absorb at least 4-hour curtailment events to maintain critical IT load.

Sources: ercot.com/gridinfo/resource · puc.texas.gov · jw.com (Jackson Walker)

AESO | Phase II Stakeholder Engagement; Phase I 1,200 MW Cap

■ **WATCH**

Alberta AESO Phase I established the interim 1,200 MW large-load connection cap and an allocation framework. AESO Phase II is in active stakeholder engagement to develop the longer-term large-load integration framework; no firm effective date has been published. Wonder Valley Energy Hub remains a major proposed Alberta BYONG project per Section 6.

Developer/Operator Impact: Alberta's 1,200 MW cap functions as a hard gating mechanism. Hyperscalers that did not secure Phase 2 capacity in the first RFP window face a multi-year wait. Pairing with Wonder Valley's natural-gas generation is now the practical-only path to large new Alberta DC capacity before 2029.

Sources: aeso.ca · osler.com

SECTION 04

Tariff Terms Tracker

Comparative reference: tariff term convergence baseline as of May 2026. Trend across the 91 tracked tariffs: contract length is lengthening (10 → 15 yr), minimum bill commitments are tightening (60% → 80% of contract demand), and cost contribution is shifting from "shared with class" to "100% causation." Curtailment terms are the new front in negotiation — PJM's NCBL framework is becoming the default reference standard.

Term	Issue #1 baseline	Issue #2 update
Contract length	10–15 yr typical	15 yr emerging as new floor (PJM backstop, Governors' principles)
Minimum bill	70–80% of contract demand	80% becoming standard; 90% in scarcity zones
Cost contribution	50–100% case-by-case	100% causation in CO, IN, IA, OH, KS; PJM-zone moving by Q3
Curtailment / NCBL	Concept; few defined	PJM NCBL service moving to FERC filing; ERCOT SB 6 mandatory
Power factor	±0.95 standard	Unchanged; ±0.97 in tightest zones
Voltage THD limit	IEEE 519 referenced	Still 5% voltage THD norm; current TDD 8% at PCC
Termination	Liquidated damages ≈ NPV of remaining demand bills	Tightening; some now require continuing capacity-cost contribution

Source: PowerAether tracker, drawing on SEPA DELTa, primary docket filings, and law-firm tariff alerts.

SECTION 05

Grid Connection Regulation & Interruptibility — PJM Large-Load Framework

PJM's January 16 Board decision and February 27 EIT filing establish the most comprehensive RTO-level data-center grid framework in North America. Three mechanisms work in concert: **BYONG** (Bring Your Own New Generation, the expedited path); **NCBL** (Non-Capacity-Backed Load, the curtailment path); and the **Reliability Backstop Procurement** (the system-level safety valve, still proposed). Together they replace the current "first-come, first-served" interconnection queue with a tiered access system where firmness becomes a feature loads choose and pay for.

The Three Mechanisms — side-by-side comparison

	BYONG (Bring Your Own New Generation)	NCBL (Non-Capacity-Backed Load)	Reliability Backstop
Who is it for	Hyperscalers committing to bring matched generation	Loads accepting curtailment in exchange for faster connection	System-wide safety valve for PJM as a whole
Mechanism	Expedited Interconnection Track (EIT) for paired generation; up to 10 projects/yr	"Connect and manage" — first to be curtailed during emergencies	14.9 GW one-time procurement, two phases
Capacity status	Load matched MW-for-MW with new generation	Load not in capacity auction; gets credit for emergency curtailment	Procures new generation; cost allocated zonally to short LSEs
Effective date	July 31, 2026 (subject to FERC May 28 order)	Tariff filing pending; expected Q3 2026	Phase 1: Sep 2026; Phase 2: Mar 2027
State role	Executive endorsement required; siting/permitting reform encouraged	States set curtailment priority order (DCs first, hospitals last)	States and PJM coordinate cost allocation principles

BYONG Mechanism: How the Expedited Interconnection Track Works

■ HIGH IMPACT

Eligibility: 10 generation interconnection requests per year selected by PJM on the basis of (a) firm commercial in-service date commitment, (b) explicit state executive endorsement, and (c) demonstrated readiness ("shovel-ready"). PJM commits to executing Generator Interconnection Agreements within approximately 10 months of queue entry — versus the current 4–7 year norm. Projects must commit to firm commercial operation dates with material penalties for delay. The framework was structured to support natural-gas, nuclear, and battery resources roughly equally, though gas-fired projects are expected to dominate Phase 1 due to permitting velocity. Renewable BYONG is theoretically eligible but practically constrained by interconnection physics.

Developer/Operator Impact: The EIT is a capacity-rationing mechanism, not a capacity-creation mechanism. Hyperscalers competing for the 10 annual slots should treat state engagement as the primary success variable. Expect federal-state tension over which projects qualify; preserve change-in-law flexibility in any paired offtake or PPA agreement. The 10-month GIA (Generator Interconnection Agreement) target is aspirational — budget for 14–16 months realistic.

Sources: whitecase.com · insidelines.pjm.com

NCBL Mechanism: Curtailment as a Service

■ HIGH IMPACT

PJM's NCBL ("Non-Capacity-Backed Load") tariff service offers a faster connection path to loads that agree to be curtailed during system emergencies. Because NCBL load is not capacity-backed, it is excluded from the RPM capacity auction — producing material cost savings for the load while reducing system-wide capacity demand. NCBL load is curtailed first during emergency conditions, with state PUCs determining priority order (the Citizens Utility Board recommends data centers first, residential last; hospitals and other critical infrastructure carved out). Tariff filing expected Q3 2026 alongside the FERC ANOPR ruling. PJM's 50 MW threshold definition (Board letter, Jan 16) sets the floor; utilities may request consideration of <50 MW additions case-by-case.

Developer/Operator Impact: NCBL is the right structural choice for projects with workloads that can be deferred (training, batch inference, non-real-time analytics). It is wrong for latency-sensitive serving infrastructure. Expect tier separation in data-center business models: training campuses on NCBL terms; serving sites on firm capacity-backed terms. Battery storage sized for emergency-event coverage becomes the differentiator between curtailment that's commercially viable and one that costs more in lost revenue than the capacity savings.

Sources: citizensutilityboard.org · insidelines.pjm.com

PJM Co-Location Compliance: Four Transmission Service Options

■ WATCH

Following FERC's December 18, 2025 order in Docket EL25-49-000, PJM proposed new transmission-service pathways for co-located load: (1) NITS (Network Integration Transmission Service — traditional firm); (2) Interim Non-Firm Transmission Service (only for customers also seeking NITS); (3) Firm Contract Demand Transmission Service (FCDTS); (4) Non-Firm Contract Demand Transmission Service (NFCDTS). On April 16, 2026, FERC **partially accepted and partially rejected** elements of PJM's compliance proposal, directing a further compliance filing due May 18, 2026. Existing BTMG (Behind-the-Meter Generation) arrangements have a transition period ending December 18, 2028; new BTMG materiality threshold TBD by PJM in compliance filing.

Developer/Operator Impact: The four-service taxonomy creates four distinct cost and risk profiles for any co-located DC + generation arrangement. Run all four scenarios through your project model. The interim non-firm option is a temporary bridge — don't structure long-term economics around it. Consult with PJM-specialist counsel before signing any new co-location interconnection agreement; existing arrangements should confirm grandfather status before the December 2028 transition deadline.

Sources: akerman.com · daypitney.com

SECTION 06

On-Site & Behind-the-Meter Power Strategies

Virginia DEQ Guidance Memo APG-576: Backup Power for Data Centers

■ HIGH IMPACT

On April 24, 2026, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued Air Permit Guidance Memo APG-576 establishing standardised review criteria for emergency backup generators at data centers across the Commonwealth. The memo applies to data center campuses in Loudoun, Prince William, and Fauquier counties and codifies what had been case-by-case permitting practice into uniform technical standards. Key elements: (1) annual run-time cap of 100 hours per engine for non-emergency operation (testing, maintenance, and demand-response participation combined); (2) Tier 4 emissions standards required for new installations regardless of fuel type; (3) facility-wide aggregate NOx and PM2.5 thresholds that apply across all generators on a single campus, not per unit; (4) explicit restriction on generators participating in PJM's Synchronized Reserve or Day-Ahead Scheduling Reserve markets without separate review; (5) cumulative-impact analysis required for any new campus within 5 km of an existing data-center cluster.

Developer/Operator Impact: Northern Virginia's 100-hour annual non-emergency cap effectively closes the door on diesel-backup-as-grid-services business models that emerged in 2024–25. The cumulative-impact requirement will materially slow the permitting of campus-clusters in already-dense Loudoun submarkets. Plan for 6–9 months added to the air-permit timeline for any new Northern Virginia campus filed after April 24. Existing permits are grandfathered. Review whether your current backup architecture remains compliant if you intended to use it for PJM ancillary-services revenue.

Sources: deq.virginia.gov · troutmanenergyreport.com

PJM BTMG Materiality Cap: Diesel and Natural Gas Backup Exemption

■ WATCH

PJM's February 27 tariff revision proposes that backup diesel and natural-gas units be exempted from the BTMG materiality caps — i.e., they would not count against load-netting limits, provided they remain genuinely backup-only (not offsetting normal-operation load draw from the grid). This preserves industry-standard BTM backup architecture while closing the loophole that allowed continuous-duty BTM generation to net against the grid bill. Network customers using BTMG to net normal-operation load face a new MW threshold (precise number to be specified in compliance filing).

Developer/Operator Impact: BTM backup remains protected. BTM continuous-duty generation paired with grid-following load is materially constrained. Operators should audit any existing BTMG arrangement that runs prime-power against the forthcoming MW threshold; pre-2026 arrangements may grandfather, post-2026 will not.

Sources: whitecase.com

Talen-Amazon Susquehanna Update: 1,920 MW PPA Operating

■ WATCH

Talen Energy and Amazon signed a 1,920 MW, 17-year power purchase agreement (PPA) in June 2025 for power from Susquehanna nuclear plant, following FERC's November 2024 rejection of the earlier amended interconnection service agreement (ISA). The PPA structure operates under PJM's existing tariff rules pending implementation of the new four-service co-location taxonomy. Constellation, Public Service Enterprise Group, and Vistra are reportedly evaluating similar arrangements at other PJM nuclear sites; analyst commentary (Capstone) characterises FERC's December 18 order as a "major victory" for PJM nuclear-plant owners.

Developer/Operator Impact: Nuclear-paired co-location is now commercially viable but requires careful structuring under FERC's new four-option framework. Susquehanna is the model; expect 5–8 similar arrangements announced through 2026 at sites like Limerick, Salem, Calvert Cliffs, and Davis-Besse. Premium pricing for nuclear-firmed DC capacity reflects the structural rarity of large nuclear sites with adjacent developable land and grid headroom.

Sources: utilitydive.com · ferc.gov

Canadian BTM Update: Wonder Valley 7.5 GW BYONG — Status Snapshot

■ WATCH

Wonder Valley Energy Hub remains a major proposed Alberta BYONG (Bring Your Own New Generation) project. Public sources describe a 7.5 GW full-build campus in Grande Prairie, Alberta, with Phase 1 detailed as a 1.4 GW off-grid power system per the Alberta Major Projects database. **Construction timing and tenant commitments are not publicly confirmed** and should be treated as unverified market intelligence.

Developer/Operator Impact: Wonder Valley remains the most-watched gas-fired BYONG concept in North America, but should be tracked as a proposed project until tenant commitments and construction milestones are publicly confirmed. Comparable greenfield BYONG opportunities in Saskatchewan and rural Texas are coming into focus on similar timelines. The emerging economic threshold for hyperscaler-led BYONG: at 1+ GW with provincial expedited permitting and access to gas infrastructure, returns appear competitive with grid-only models on early-stage pro-forma analysis.

Sources: datacenternews.ca · aeso.ca

SECTION 07

Deals, Projects & Market Signals

Date	Project / Counterparty	Significance
Apr 2026	Homer City Energy Campus (PA)	Former coal-plant site → 4.5 GW gas + DC; first major coal-to-DC conversion in PJM
Q2 2026	Wonder Valley 7.5 GW (AB)	Major proposed BYONG campus; construction timing and tenant commitments unconfirmed
Jun 2025	Talen-Amazon Susquehanna 1,920 MW PPA	First nuclear-paired DC PPA at scale; operating under existing PJM tariff post-FERC December 2025 order
Mar 2026	PJM "Refined Thinking" backstop update	Confirms PJM as administrator/counterparty rather than bilateral matchmaker
Feb 2026	PJM Board CIFP final decision	12 stakeholder proposals → BYONG + NCBL + EIT + Reliability Backstop framework
Jan 2026	13-state Governors + WH Joint Statement	Cost causation for DCs; rate-class reforms; 15-yr backstop terms
Q1 2026	PA RGGI exit settlement	Pennsylvania withdraws from RGGI; signals deregulatory turn ahead of DC build-out
Apr 2026	PJM 14.9 GW backstop RFI	May 4 response deadline; first market signal on supplier appetite for 15-yr terms

PowerAether tracks announced deals ≥ 100 MW with public regulatory or financial filings.

SECTION 08

Regulatory Calendar — Next 60 Days

Date	Filing / Action	Docket / Authority
May 4, 2026	PJM backstop procurement RFI response deadline	PJM internal
May 18, 2026	PJM further compliance filing on co-located load definition	FERC Docket EL25-49
May 28, 2026	FERC target order on PJM EIT proposal	FERC Docket ER26-1563 (EIT)
End of June 2026	FERC final action on Large Load ANOPR	FERC Docket RM26-4-000
June 2026	PJM final reliability backstop auction design FERC filing	PJM / FERC
July 2026	PJM 28/29 RPM Base Residual Auction	PJM RPM
July 31, 2026	PJM EIT effective (subject to May 28 FERC order)	PJM Tariff
Q3 2026	PJM NCBL service tariff filing expected	FERC
Q3 2026	PUCT Project 58317 (cost contribution) target completion	PUCT
Sept 2026	PJM backstop procurement Phase 1 (bilateral) opens	PJM

Calendar maintained from PJM Inside Lines, FERC eLibrary, PUCT proceedings, and primary regulatory websites. Dates subject to change.

SECTION 09

The Bottom Line — 3 Takeaways for Leadership

1

PJM has crystallised the new model: BYONG is the price of admission.

The combination of EIT (Expedited Interconnection Track) + NCBL (Non-Capacity-Backed Load) + Reliability Backstop Procurement establishes that grid access for new large loads in PJM (and likely the rest of the US after FERC's June 2026 ANOPR action) requires either bringing matched generation, accepting curtailment priority, or paying into a long-term backstop procurement. Hyperscaler strategy should reorganise around these three paths; the era of "find an interconnect point and queue" is closing. State engagement is now a critical-path activity, not a downstream task.

2

FERC's June 2026 ANOPR action will set the national template — plan for both outcomes.

If FERC asserts jurisdiction over large-load interconnection in a binding final rule, expect 12–18 months of compliance turbulence as the 91-tariff state patchwork harmonises (or does not) with new federal standards. If FERC issues only a NOPR (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) or policy statement, the patchwork persists and BYONG/NCBL-style frameworks spread informally through other RTOs. Either way, projects underwritten today should include explicit federal-jurisdiction sensitivity in their model. The PJM 28/29 capacity auction (July 2026) is the single biggest market signal of the year.

3

Cost causation has won the political argument; the only question now is form.

The 13-state PJM governors' January joint statement aligned with the White House makes residential cost-shifting politically untenable. State PUCs (Public Utility Commissions) will translate this into rate-class reforms over 12–18 months. BYONG-aligned projects — including Homer City and similar gas-paired campus models, plus Wonder Valley if tenant commitments materialise — will be commercially advantaged versus pure grid-only DC projects. Assume a structural 20–40% cost-of-power premium for grid-only projects in PJM-zone development through 2028; budget accordingly.

Key Reference Links · ferc.gov · sepapower.org/large-load-tariffs-database · agreements.pjm.com/oatt/3898 · caiso.com/planning · ercot.com/gridinfo/resource · nerc.com/pa/Stand · poweraether.com