WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 August 2025

2 August 2025

A Fish falls from the sky and sparks a brush fire in British Columbia

A small brush fire and power outage in British Columbia started on Wednesday not with lightning or a careless camper, but with an airborne fish, according to fire officials. With the help from nearby ranchers and employees from the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, a Canadian electric utility company, firefighters were able to contain and extinguish the blaze, Ashcroft Fire Rescue said on Facebook.

Then came the investigation. It wasn't faulty equipment, according to fire officials. It was a fish. The authorities believe an osprey flying overhead dropped its catch midflight. The fish struck power lines, producing sparks that landed on dry grass and ignited the blaze, which took up less than an acre. The closest river, the likely place where the osprey caught its prey, is about two miles from the fire scene.

It's unclear why the bird let go of the fish, the authorities said, but there is at least one theory. Ashcroft Fire Rescue wrote that it suspected that the size of the fish, combined with the heat that day, "probably caused the rather tired bird to drop its catch."

The other possibility? "It's tired of raw fish and wanted to give cooked a try," it said. Electricity was temporarily knocked out in Ashcroft, a village of more than 1,500 people that is about 210 miles northeast of Vancouver. As for the osprey, firefighters reported that "our prime suspect sustained no injuries in the incident and is still flying at large." The fish, charred and probably overcooked, was not so lucky.

NY Times
htts://www.nytimes.com

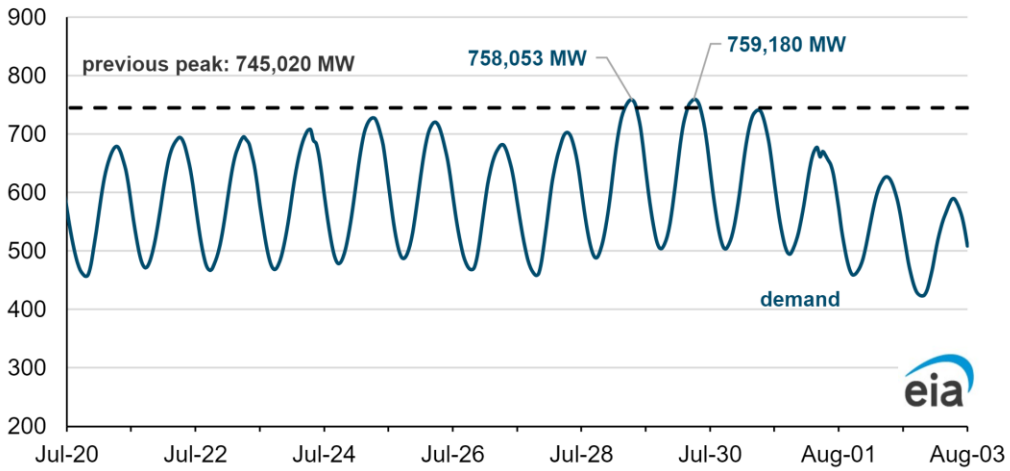
5 August 2025

U.S. electricity peak demand set new records twice in July

Electricity demand in the Lower 48 states exceeded previous peaks on two days in the last week of July.

Hot weather, which increases electricity demand for cooling, combined with an underlying trend of demand increases, pushed coincident peak demand for the Lower 48 states to a high of 758,053 megawatts (MW) on July 28 between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. eastern time, according to the preliminary data in our Hourly Electric Grid Monitor. The next day, peak demand set another record, reaching 759,180 MW, 1.9% more than the record set on July 15, 2024 of 745,020 MW.

Hourly electricity demand for the Lower 48 states from July 20 to August 3, 2025
thousand megawatts (MW)



We forecast U.S. electricity demand fulfilled by the electric power sector will grow at an annual rate of just over 2% in 2025 and 2026, according to our Short-Term Energy

Outlook. Until 2020, electricity demand was relatively flat. Forecast electricity demand growth is higher in areas with plans for large data centers and manufacturing facilities, such as in Texas and in Northern Virginia.

Coincident peak demand represents a simultaneous snapshot across the entire Lower 48 states; system peaks in individual regions or utility areas may have occurred at different hours or even on different days.

EIA
http://www.eia.gov/

5 August 2025

Australia's massive Waratah Super Battery starts operations as 'shock absorber'

Akaysha Energy has announced that the Waratah Super Battery is now actively bolstering energy security for the New South Wales (NSW) grid in Australia with the first 350 MW / 750 MWh of the battery's capacity now online in the lead up to full operation, expected later this year.

Commissioned by the NSW government and delivered and operated by Blackrock-owned Akaysha Energy, the Waratah Super Battery will provide 850 MW / 1,680 MWh capacity when fully commissioned, operating as part of a broader System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS) that is designed to support the grid by providing reserve transmission capacity and stability in the event of any sudden power surges. The SIPS includes the battery, built at the site of a shuttered coal-fired power station at Lake Munmorah on the NSW Central Coast, about 100km north of Sydney, control system, arrangements for paired generation services, and upgrades to existing power lines.

With the first 350 MW / 700 MWh of the battery now online, Transgrid has confirmed that the SIPS control system comprising a software system and signalling equipment has also been enabled, helping to unlock the benefits of the battery.

Oregon-based lithium iron-phosphate (LFP) battery supplier Powin supplied the battery hardware and software, a company that filed for bankruptcy in July this year. Powin is also supplying Akaysha's 150 MM / 300 MWh Ulinda Park battery under construction in northern Australia as well. Fluence will optimize Akaysha Energy's battery assets.

Transgrid Executive General Manager of Delivery Jennifer Hughes said the control system represents a "true feat in detailed design and innovation."

"The SIPS control system is the largest automated scheme of its kind in Australia, monitoring 36 transmission lines across NSW in real time, detecting overloading and responding in seconds," she said. "In network contingency events such as lightning strikes, the SIPS acts as a shock absorber to return the network to a stable condition and maintain continuity of supply for consumers."

The scheme, which was designed and installed by Transgrid specialist teams at 19 sites across NSW, helps transfer more power through existing transmission lines in the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong regions by temporarily increasing their capacity. It can automatically detect potential line overloads on transmission lines that connect generation in the northern and southern regions of NSW to the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong region and signals the Waratah Super Battery to discharge stored energy into the network. Simultaneously, the SIPS will signal paired solar, hydro, and wind generators to reduce output to balance supply across the grid.

The scheme requires the Waratah battery to provide a guaranteed continuous active power capacity of at least 700 MW, and a guaranteed useable energy storage capacity of at least 1400 MWh. "It's like an insurance policy for NSW and the whole system is triggered automatically, making it fast and reliable in responding to a system event or fault," Hughes said. Akaysha said at 850 MW, the Waratah Super Battery is currently the world's most

powerful battery in terms of power and energy storage capacity. When fully operational later this year, the battery will have the capacity to supply 970,000 homes with electricity for one hour.

ESS News
http://www.ess-news.com/

6 August 2025

Ameren gains approval for $1.6bn Illinois power transmission project

Ameren's unit in the US state of Illinois has secured regulatory approval to construct 380 miles of new and upgraded high-voltage transmission lines as part of a $1.6bn project.

The Illinois Commerce Commission has approved the proposed route via a certificate of public convenience and necessity. Known as the Central Illinois Grid Transformation Program (CIGTP), the project comprises three new substations and upgrades to existing substations. The project will run from Iowa's border through 13 counties: Adams, Brown, Champaign, Ford, Fulton, Hancock, Iroquois, McDonough, McLean, Morgan, Peoria, Pike,and Tazewell.

Construction will begin in the second half of 2025 and will be completed in 2029. Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois chairman and president Shawn Schukar stated: "At a time when the Midwest faces a persistent shortage of the electricity needed to meet rising demand, this vital project will provide energy access and certainty for businesses and residential growth. "Adding system capacity and increasing access to energy resources will improve reliability, boost economic development and help keep bills affordable for energy consumers in Illinois." The majority of the work will be carried out along existing infrastructure corridors to minimise land use.

By replacing ageing infrastructure and increasing transmission capacity, CIGTP will ensure a consistent energy supply and facilitate greater access to diverse energy sources for communities within central Illinois. CIGTP project manager Thomas Pauk said: "We look forward to working with local communities to deliver these benefits to our customers, as we have been for over 100 years. "When we increase system capacity, everyone wins. Opening new energy pathways promotes lower costs in the future and helps keep customer rates affordable." The initiative will lower supply costs by creating new channels for delivering energy efficiently to millions within Ameren's service territory. Ameren Illinois regulatory policy and energy supply vice-president Matt Tomc stated: "MISO [the Midcontinent Independent System Operator] is advancing projects that directly address the energy supply challenges that are driving up those costs for our customers.

"By expanding transmission capacity and improving access to a range of energy resources, these investments will help stabilise market prices and support our ongoing efforts to keep energy affordable and reliable for the communities we serve." In June 2025, Ameren Missouri submitted a proposal to the Missouri Public Service Commission for the construction of an 800MW simple-cycle natural gas power facility in conjunction with its first significant battery storage system.

Power Technology
http://www.power-technology.com/

7 August 2025

The Baltic states have wavered: the price of electricity jumps by 1100 percent during the day

The Baltic countries are experiencing record fluctuations in wholesale electricity prices. On August 7, they change during the day by 1100%. This is due to unstable green

generation and the need for backup capacities, with which Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia clashed after leaving the energy ring with Russia.

August 7 wholesale electricity prices in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonias change by more than 1100% during the day. So, according to the Nord Pool exchange, from three to four o'clock in the morning the cost of MW-h was 12 euro cents, and from 21.00 to 22.00 it will grow to 159.9 euros per MW-h.

At the same time, growth will not be smooth, but ragged — depending on the peak of consumption. The highest prices will be in the evening.

Obviously, this is due to the unstable operation of green power plants. Especially with solar generation. In addition, when renewable energy generation drops, power system operators are forced to switch to traditional gas and coal-fired power plants and reserve voltage power to ensure stable supply. This leads to additional costs and price increases during peak consumption hours.

The Estonian operator Elering stated that this year its spending on reserve capacity will amount to 100 million euros instead of the projected 60 million euros. The Baltic countries were forced to create a reserve voltage capacity market after leaving the energy ring with Russia and Belarus BRELL. Earlier, the Russian side took over the energy balance. According to Nord Pool, tomorrow, August 8, the jumps in wholesale prices will be less strong, but still impressive — 39 times (4 and 159 euros per MWh).

EA Daily
http://eadaily.com

7 August 2025

Lord Vallance calls on tech experts to design ways to help reduce electricity bills

Science Minister Lord Vallance calls on businesses and researchers to develop cutting edge tech, that could cut energy costs in the long-term. Households could benefit from cheaper bills thanks to AI as Science Minister Lord Vallance challenges tech experts to come up with cutting edge tech that will help shift peak electricity demand by 2030 (Thursday 7 August).

An initial £4 million for the first year of a five-year challenge will support researchers to come up with solutions that help shift electricity demand in evenings and weekends by 2 gigawatts – potentially cutting energy costs in the long-term for the consumer, boosting our energy security, and further reducing our reliance on fossil fuels – helping to make Britain a clean energy superpower and delivering on our Plan for Change. As demand for energy spikes – like in the early evening when people return home – the grid often turns to gas-fired power stations, which are more expensive and more polluting, while leaving the UK exposed to volatile global gas markets.

The work of innovators across the UK will deliver better forecasting, as well as help manage and shift demand at busy times by the equivalent to the amount used by one and a half million homes. Examples could include: Getting AI to predict how much energy we'll use days ahead of time. It can do this by plugging in data from things like smart meters, weather forecasts, and when people have the telly on.Automatically heating or cooling buildings when clean energy is most available, and at its cheapest. Using parked electric cars as giant batteries - charging them when electricity is cheap and sending power back to the grid when it's needed.

This could reduce the need to build network infrastructure and new power plants, leading to a reduction in consumer bills in longer term – supporting our mission to make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower by 2030 through generating at least 95% of UK electricity from clean sources and delivering on a key pillar of our Plan for Change. The Clean Energy: 2GW Peak Time Flexibility challenge is the first of 5 to be announced as part

of the R&D Missions Accelerator Programme – backed by £500m set out in the Spending Review. It is also the first time government has set a clear, measurable and stretched target for R&D to deliver its core missions.

The project will be led by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) in collaboration with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), which is responsible for leading the government's clean energy mission. The initial £4m of funding will by April 2026 bring Britain's expert AI and energy businesses, universities and research organisations together to explore where current solutions can be scaled up, build use-cases and enable testing – including building simulation and modelling capability – so successful products can be brought to market more quickly.

The programme will also look at where government involvement and funding can help to get them moving and improve people's lives more quickly. Further challenges will be launched over the coming weeks and months on how cutting-edge research can help make our streets safe, build an NHS that is fit for the future, break down barriers to opportunity and unlock growth to deliver our Plan for Change. Funding will be awarded to a consortium of existing world-leading centres based around the UK including the Energy Systems and Digital Catapults, and other leading research institutions to lead the work.

GOV.UK
http://www.gov.uk/

11 August 2025

Tesla, Sunrun hail 'win-win for the household and the grid' with California virtual power plant test

A 535MW fleet of aggregated household battery storage systems, including Tesla Powerwalls, effectively reduced net load on the California grid in a recent test event.

The event took place on 29 July. During the evening peak between 7pm and 9pm, aggregators participating in virtual power plant (VPP) programmes with utilities discharged their portfolio of batteries into the CAISO grid. The test was held in anticipation of heat waves likely to hit California in August and September, resulting in spikes in electricity demand.

Tesla, and solar and storage leasing company Sunrun, the two biggest aggregators involved in the test, commissioned consultancy The Brattle Group to analyse the findings. VPP participants were in all three territories of California's investor-owned utilities (IOUs), Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E).

Most battery systems taking part were already enrolled with the state's Demand-Side Grid Support (DSGS) load relief programme, which runs from May to October each year. According to a source close to the VPP test, it was a "good representation of likely performance during a grid emergency," noting similarities to how the aggregated systems performed per-site last year during a grid emergency and market-driven events. The source said that available capacity is growing rapidly due to the accelerating adoption of residential energy storage, combined with several years of good outcomes for California VPP programmes.

Meanwhile, the intelligence behind dispatch technologies has significantly improved, resulting in yearly improvements in event preparation, dispatch performance and better forecasting of customer bill savings, the source said. In short, customers get paid for letting the aggregator use their home battery system in the programme and the aggregator gets paid by the grid operator. Sunrun said it pays US$150 per battery per dispatching season, while Tesla is thought to have paid around US$9.9 million to VPP customers enrolled in its own aggregation programmes around the world in 2024.

"This customer-led solution is a win-win for households and the grid. Distributed home batteries are a powerful and flexible resource that reliably delivers power to the grid at a moment's notice, benefiting all households by preventing blackouts, alleviating peak demand, and reducing extreme price spikes," Sunrun CEO Mary Powell said. 'Residential batteries provide dependable, planning-grade performance at scale'

Brattle Group said the event occurred during the CAISO system's net peak, when solar and wind generation are low, but evening demand adds load.

The firm said that the VPP's discharging created "a visible reduction in net load" and posited that the technology could help reduce the effect of California's famous 'Duck Curve'. "Performance was consistent across the event, without major fluctuations or any attrition. Events like these demonstrate to system operators that residential batteries provide dependable, planning-grade performance at scale," Brattle Group principal Ryan Hledik said.

The role VPPs could play in mitigating CAISO's net peak could reduce the need to invest in additional generation capacity and relieve strain on the system associated with the evening load ramp-up. "PowerWall owners have responded to the call to create a large distributed capacity resource for California," Tesla lead for VPPs and electricity retail, Kevin Joyce, told Energy-Storage.news. However, at this point, the CAISO grid only calls on distributed storage systems in emergencies. The grid operator began issuing 'Flex Alerts' in August 2022, allowing batteries in homes to dispatch to the grid as part of the state's Emergency Load Relief Program.

The resources quickly showed their value alongside utility-scale battery energy storage systems (BESS), helping California to avoid rolling blackouts of the kind that had occurred just two years before. At the time, Sunrun was dispatching around 80MW of batteries to the California grid daily and Sunrun senior director of market development and policy, Chris Rauscher, said in a 2022 interview that it was unfortunate that aggregated residential batteries were only being tapped in emergency events and not to mitigate daily peaks. The provider accounted for some 360MW of systems in the recent test, but the grid still leaves that growing resource largely untouched. "Realising the full potential of VPPs beyond an emergency capacity use case is California's next great challenge," Tesla's Kevin Joyce told Energy news Joyce said Tesla looked forward to working with stakeholders including CAISO, the regulatory California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC), "to address roadblocks and bring this timely resource to California's capacity, energy, and ancillary services markets."

Sunrun's storage attachment rate for residential leases reached 70% in Q2 2025, the company said in its recent results release. During the quarter, it deployed 392MWh of batteries. Meanwhile, Tesla reported a 2% year-on-year growth in energy storage deployments, versus a 13% decrease in vehicle sales in its most recent quarterly results.

Energy Storage News
http://www.energy-storage.news/

11 August 2025

Taskforce to tackle regulatory barriers holding back nuclear

Nuclear projects which could create skilled jobs and growth are being held back by regulatory barriers, an independent taskforce commissioned by the government has found.

In its first report published today (Monday 11 August), the taskforce says a "radical reset" is needed to speed up vital nuclear projects and encourage more companies to build in Britain, delivering a new golden age of nuclear with thousands of good jobs and investment - supporting government's mission to make Britain a clean energy superpower.

The taskforce, announced by the Prime Minister in February and led by John Fingleton, former CEO of the Office of Fair Trading, will today publish its interim report. The findings reveal an "unnecessarily slow, inefficient and costly" system which is hampering the delivery of clean energy infrastructure needed to power Britain's future, as well as increasing costs of the UK's vital nuclear deterrent.

Radical, once-in-a-generation reform could transform nuclear delivery in several critical areas, while maintaining the highest safety standards. These include overly complex and inconsistent regulatory processes, risk-averse cultures that prioritise bureaucracy over proportionate safety measures, and outdated planning frameworks that fail to support new technologies like small modular reactors.

It comes after the Chancellor announced action to reduce the administrative cost of regulation by 25%. Minister for Energy Consumers Miatta Fahnbulleh said:

For too long, big British infrastructure projects have been held back by needless bureaucracy. It's time for a new approach to getting nuclear projects off the ground more quickly, and at a lower cost. We look forward to working with the expert taskforce to modernise outdated regulations so we can unlock growth, jobs and energy security for the British people.

The final report and recommendations will be published in the autumn. As a first step, the government will work with the taskforce to develop a new strategic direction for nuclear operators and regulators to prioritise quick, effective and safe delivery of nuclear programmes.

The government's nuclear programme is now the most ambitious for a generation and reforms will be essential to unlock the potential of the industry. Once small modular reactors and Sizewell C come online in the 2030s, combined with Hinkley Point C, this will deliver more new nuclear to the grid than over the previous half century combined. It follows government action earlier this year to shake up the planning rules to make it easier to build nuclear across the country – delivering cheaper clean power, energy security and jobs.

The final report's recommendations will focus on:

- tackling a culture of risk aversion and reluctance to challenge and debate, impacting costs and time, to ensure that risk management is proportionate
- addressing complex and inconsistent regulations, with processes often duplicated across multiple overlapping regulators
- an outdated planning framework that doesn't support innovative technologies such as small and advanced modular reactors
- maintaining a range and depth of expertise across the workforce
- the potential for greater standardisation across international regulators, which could cut down complexity, costs, and delays when seeking approvals
- improving the regulatory understanding of the cost of project delays to ensure safety measures are proportionate

GOV.UK
http://www.gov.uk

11 August 2025

Arrêt automatique des réacteurs n°2, 3, 4 et 6

Le dimanche 10 août 2025 entre 23h00 et 00h00, les unités de production n°2, 3 et 4 de la centrale nucléaire de Gravelines se sont arrêtées automatiquement, conformément aux dispositifs de sûreté et de protection du réacteur. Ce lundi 11 août 2025 à 6h20, l'unité n°6 s'est arrêtée automatiquement à son tour. Ces arrêts sont consécutifs à la présence massive et non prévisible de méduses dans les tambours filtrants des stations de pompage,

situés en partie non nucléaire des installations. Ils n'ont pas eu de conséquence sur la sûreté des installations, la sécurité du personnel ou sur l'environnement.

Les équipes de la centrale sont mobilisées et procèdent actuellement aux diagnostics et interventions nécessaires pour pouvoir redémarrer les unités de production en toute sûreté. Les unités de production n°1 et n°5 sont en arrêt pour maintenance.

EDF
http://www.edf.fr/

12 August 2025

PJM launches fast-track push to set rules for adding data centers

The PJM Interconnection has launched a fast-track stakeholder process to develop rules for interconnecting data centers and other large loads to its system while ensuring the region has enough power supplies, according to a letter from the grid operator's board released Monday.

The Critical Issue Fast Path initiative will aim to develop a proposal that could be filed for approval with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by the end of the year, according to the letter. That timing would allow the rules to be in effect for PJM's 2028/2029 base capacity auction, which is set to be held in June.

The effort comes as PJM's most recent long-term load forecast shows its peak load growing by 32 GW from 2024 to 2030 — with almost all the growth coming from data centers, the board said. PJM's system peaked last year at about 153 GW.

At the same time, PJM already faces tight supply-demand conditions, which helped drive record-setting price spikes in the grid operator's last two capacity auctions.

"This onrush of demand has created significant upward pricing pressure and has raised future resource adequacy concerns," the board said. "To further complicate matters, while demand expansion is clearly evident in recent system behavior, there exists a large cone of uncertainty around the trajectory and amplitude of future growth." Also, power plant developers face major challenges in advancing their projects, such as siting and permitting hurdles and supply chain backlogs, the board said.

The PJM board said the fast-track effort will focus on four main issues: resource adequacy; reliability criteria; interconnection rules; and coordination. On the issue of resource adequacy — the ability of the power system to meet its needs at all times — the board said it wants "reliability-focused solutions" that allow large loads to be integrated rapidly and reliably.

"These solutions may include adjustments to the load utilized and/or cleared through [capacity] auctions, if such load is not capacity backed," the board said. The board asked stakeholders to consider existing resource adequacy tools, such as demand response and options for large load customers to bring new power supplies to meet their electricity needs.

Utility Dive
http://www.utilitydive.com/

12 August 2025

Blackout hits central, southern Iraq, sources say

Major oil producer Iraq began gradually restoring power on Monday, the state news agency reported citing the electricity ministry, after a power outage hit central and southern regions of the country.

Electricity ministry sources had told Reuters earlier a sudden shutdown at the Hamidiya power plant in the western province of Anbar led to a fault in the electricity transmission network. The temperature in the capital Baghdad reached a high of 47 degrees Celsius on Monday.

"An emergency power outage occurred this afternoon in the power transmission lines, causing widespread outages across the national electricity grid," Mohammed Nehme, electricity ministry undersecretary for production affairs, said in a statement later. The chair of Iraq's parliament energy committee said in a statement that the outage did not affect the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region. The oil ministry could not immediately be reached for comment. The electricity ministry said it was working in "full emergency mode" to restore power, the state news agency reported.

Many Iraqis for years have relied on privately operated generators for power as government-provided electricity was only intermittently available. Some others have turned to solar power to help cover their electricity needs. A member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, and one of the world's leading oil producers, Iraq has struggled to provide its citizens with energy since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

In the ensuing turmoil, under-investment and mismanagement have left the national grid unable to cope with demand. Hundreds of Iraqis protested in Baghdad in the summer of 2021, when power and water cuts gripped large parts of the country as temperatures exceeded 50 degrees Celsius.

In March, U.S. President Donald Trump's administration rescinded a waiver that had allowed Iraq to pay Iran for electricity, as part of Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran. Iraq is heavily dependent on Iranian natural gas imports to generate power.

Reuters
http://www.reuters.com/

12 August 2025

Department of Energy announces initial selections for new reactor pilot program

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today officially kicked off President Trump's Nuclear Reactor Pilot Program, announcing DOE will initially work with 11 advanced reactor projects to move their technologies towards deployment. DOE will work with industry on these 11 projects, with the goal to construct, operate, and achieve criticality of at least three test reactors using the DOE authorization process by July 4, 2026. Today's initial selections represent an important step toward streamlining nuclear reactor testing and unleashes a new pathway toward fast-tracking commercial licensing activities.

"President Trump's Reactor Pilot Program is a call to action," said Deputy Secretary of Energy James P. Danly. "These companies aim to all safely achieve criticality by Independence Day, and DOE will do everything we can to support their efforts."

President Trump is committed to re-establishing the United States as a global leader in nuclear energy and securing a reliable, diversified, and affordable energy supply to drive American prosperity and technological advancement.

DOE announced the Reactor Pilot Program in June 2025, following President Trump's Executive Order 14301, which reforms reactor testing at the Department. The goal of the Reactor Pilot Program is to expedite the testing of advanced reactor designs that will be authorized by the Department at sites that are located outside of the national laboratories. Seeking DOE authorization provided under the Atomic Energy Act will help today's selected companies— Aalo Atomics Inc., Antares Nuclear Inc., Atomic Alchemy Inc., Deep Fission Inc., Last Energy Inc., Oklo Inc., Natura Resources LLC, Radiant Industries Inc., Terrestrial Energy Inc., and Valar Atomics Inc.— unlock private funding and provide a fast-tracked approach to future commercial licensing activities.

The diversity of applications received shows the remarkable breath of innovation and ingenuity in American reactor developers. Each company will be responsible for all costs associated with designing, manufacturing, constructing, operating, and decommissioning

their test reactors. DOE looks forward to working with these 11 projects to safely and efficiently accelerate the deployment of advanced nuclear technology.

DOE
http://www.energy.gov/

12 August 2025

German solar industry warns against ending subsidies after minister proposes cuts

Germany's solar industry warned on Tuesday against ending subsidies for new rooftop photovoltaic systems, as proposed by the economy minister, arguing that withdrawing support for small installations would jeopardise the country's climate goals.

The feed-in subsidies were introduced 25 years ago to aid an expansion of the solar power sector by providing a guaranteed price for renewable energy producers selling their power onto the grid. They have helped Germany make progress towards its target of covering 80% of its electricity consumption needs with renewable sources by 2030.

But Europe's biggest economy is struggling to grow following two consecutive years of contraction, and government finances are under pressure as it seeks to boost defence spending, revive industry and renew ageing infrastructure.

Economy Minister Katherina Reiche in an interview with the Augsburger Allgemeine newspaper published on Sunday said that new small rooftop systems, which benefit mainly private households, no longer needed public funding.

"New, small PV systems are already profitable in the market today and don't require any subsidies," she said, adding that system operators could also bear some of the costs of grid expansions needed to accommodate growing solar power generation. However, Carsten Koernig, the head of the German solar industry federation, said the subsidy provided necessary security for the financing banks. Without them, he added, only four out of ten customers would still purchase a solar power system for their homes.

"The subsidy is already clearly paying off for society as a whole," Koernig told Reuters. As the government works to meet its renewable power generation target, it will need to leverage rooftop solar capacity by making it more attractive to small producers, Berlin-based renewable energy firm Enpal said. "What is beyond question is that this requires a reliable regulatory framework," a spokesperson for the company told Reuters.

Reiche's proposal to curtail subsidies comes as the solar sector is already facing slowing demand due to rising interest rates, a shifting political climate and general economic uncertainty. It also contradicts policies agreed between Reiche's conservative CDU party and its governing partner, the Social Democrats (SPD), when they formed an alliance earlier this year, according to the SPD's energy policy spokesperson.

"We agreed in the coalition agreement that we want to make private households the actors in their own energy supply," Nina Scheer told Reuters. "We now need progress in the expansion of storage and not uncertainty."

Reuters
http://www.reuters.com/

13 August 2025

EIA: US Power Use to Reach Record Highs in 2025 and 2026

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) released its Short-Term Energy Outlook on August 12, 2025, forecasting record-high electricity consumption for 2025 and 2026. The EIA projects power demand will increase to 4,186 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) in 2025 and 4,284 billion kWh in 2026, surpassing the 2024 record of 4,097 billion kWh.

This rise in electricity use is driven by growing demand from data centers supporting artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency, as well as increased reliance on electricity for

heating and transportation in homes and businesses. The EIA estimates 2025 power sales will reach 1,515 billion kWh for residential consumers, 1,476 billion kWh for commercial customers, and 1,051 billion kWh for industrial customers. These figures compare to historical peaks of 1,509 billion kWh for residential users in 2022, 1,434 billion kWh for commercial users in 2024, and 1,064 billion kWh for industrial users in 2000.

The EIA also outlined shifts in power generation sources. Natural gas is expected to account for 40% of U.S. power generation in 2025 and 2026, down from 42% in 2024. Coal's share will increase slightly to 17% in 2025 from 16% in 2024, then decline to 15% in 2026 as renewable energy grows. Renewable sources are projected to rise from 23% in 2024 to 24% in 2025 and 26% in 2026. Nuclear power's contribution is expected to decrease from 19% in 2024 to 18% in both 2025 and 2026.

Natural gas sales for 2025 are forecasted to increase to 13.1 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd) for residential consumers, 9.7 bcfd for commercial customers, and 23.5 bcfd for industrial customers. However, gas used for power generation is expected to decline to 35.8 bcfd in 2025, compared to a 2024 peak of 36.9 bcfd. Historical highs for gas sales include 14.3 bcfd for residential users in 1996, 9.6 bcfd for commercial users in 2019, and 23.8 bcfd for industrial users in 1973.

In a separate development, Danish wind farm developer Orsted announced on August 11, 2025, a $9.4 billion rights issue, citing challenges in the U.S. offshore wind market. The company stated: "This rights issue is a proactive step to strengthen our financial position amid adverse developments in the U.S. offshore wind sector." The growing demand for electricity and the shift toward renewables highlight the evolving energy landscape in the United States.

Reuters
http://www.reuters.com/