15 August 2025

Connecticut Green Bank and Goodleap Link to Develop VPPs

On Friday, Connecticut Green Bank and GoodLeap announced a partnership to establish and operate a network of AI-powered virtual power plants (VPPs) in Connecticut. This effort is part of the state's Energy Storage Solutions program, which focuses on deploying residential solar systems combined with battery storage to improve energy affordability and grid reliability.

The initiative leverages GoodLeap's GoodGrid platform, a leading VPP network in the U.S., integrated with utility-managed distributed energy resource systems. By coordinating thousands of residential solar and storage systems, these VPPs will provide essential grid services, such as reducing peak demand. This strategy aims to alleviate strain on the electrical grid and postpone costly infrastructure upgrades, potentially lowering energy costs for homeowners by optimizing distributed energy resources.

Bryan Garcia, president and CEO of Connecticut Green Bank, highlighted the initiative's goals: "Together with GoodLeap, we are working to ensure that Connecticut residents — especially those in vulnerable communities — benefit from clean, resilient and affordable energy solutions." He further noted: "We saw GoodLeap leading on VPPs in other states around the country and felt that their technology, products and services were needed in Connecticut to help our families realise the benefits of these distributed energy resources."

Homeowners participating in the program will be eligible for monthly cash incentives through GoodGrid's rewards scheme, encouraging involvement. The initiative supports Connecticut's commitment to clean energy and carbon reduction. The Connecticut Green Bank will facilitate the project by offering technical support for development and grid integration, while also conducting community outreach to ensure equitable access and increase participation across diverse populations.

The partnership includes ongoing collaboration to monitor performance metrics, integrate VPPs into existing grids, and assess community impacts. Administered by Connecticut Green Bank alongside utilities Eversource and UI, the Energy Storage Solutions program is overseen by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and funded by electric ratepayers. This initiative underscores Connecticut's dedication to sustainable energy and enhanced grid stability for its residents.

Solar Power World Online
http://www.solarpowerworldonline.com

18 August 2025

Energy transmitted via Nordic and Baltic direct current (HVDC) interconnections continued to grow in 2024

ENTSO-E statistics on the availability of Nordic and Baltic direct current (HVDC) interconnections for 2024 has been published on Fingrid's website. The statistics present information on transmission, availability, and outages of HVDC links.

HVDC links are essential for the operation of the Nordic and Baltic electricity systems. In 2024, a total of 85.1 TWh (terawatt hours) of electricity were transmitted via the links. This was an increase of 8.7 TWh from the previous year, mainly due to two new 700 MW connections between Denmark and the United Kingdom.

The availability of all links was 89% and utilisation 65%, which corresponds to the figures of the previous year 2023. Disturbances, maintenance outages and power limitations, which cause unavailability of the links, stayed on average levels. 6.5 TWh of electricity was transmitted via HVDC links between Finland and Sweden and 4.2 TWh between Finland and Estonia.

The availability of the links between Finland and Sweden was: Fenno-Skan 1 (85%) and Fenno-Skan 2 (93%). The numbers are somewhat lower than average due to planned work such as Rauma AC-substation renewal and Fenno-Skan 1 and 2 control and monitoring system renewal.

The availability of the links between Finland and Estonia was: EstLink 1 (98%) and EstLink 2 (38%). The low availability of EstLink 2 was due to a cable failure near the Estonian coast in January. The repair took more than seven months. The cable was again damaged, this time by an anchor, in late December, but this outage will be more visible in the 2025 statistics.

The utilisation of the Finnish links were: Fenno-Skan 1 (76%), Fenno-Skan 2 (55%), EstLink 1 (77%) and EstLink 2 (32%). More information on the Nordic and Baltic HVDC links can be found in the report ENTSO-E HVDC Utilisation and availability statistics 2024. The report can be viewed here.

Fingrid
http://www.fingrid.fi/

19 August 2025

28 April Blackout in Spain and Portugal: Expert Panel finalises data collection and prepares factual report

On 18 August, the Expert Panel held its fifth meeting to advance the ongoing investigation into the 28 April 2025 blackout in Spain and Portugal. The data collection phase is now nearly complete, providing the foundation for a comprehensive factual report on the causes of this exceptional and unprecedented power system incident.

Although significant difficulties in collecting relevant and high-quality data from several DSOs and generation companies have delayed the initial, more ambitious schedule, the Expert Panel still plans to publish its factual report on 3 October – ahead of the legal deadline – subject to confirmation at its next meeting.

The ENTSO-E webpage dedicated to the blackout now includes new information on the scope of both the factual and final reports. Further updates will be published after the Panel's next meeting on 2 September.

ENTSO-E
http://www.entsoe.eu/

20 August 2025

South Africa's Eskom seeks solar buyers in shift away from coal

South Africa's Eskom Holdings called for proposals from large power users to buy solar energy, in a step by the utility to wind down its dependence on coal. Eskom, which generates more than 80 percent of its electricity from the dirtiest fossil fuel, issued a request for long-term power-purchase agreements from industrial customers, the company said in a statement Tuesday. The contracts will range from five to 25 years, with the earliest project reaching commercial operation by the end of 2027.

The move puts the century-old utility in direct competition with private renewable energy companies and platforms, creating a more dynamic environment in Africa's most industrialized nation. Business-lobby groups earlier this month called for Eskom to withdraw its legal challenge against trading licenses granted by the national regulator. Electricity Minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa echoed this, asking the utility to withdraw or suspend the action.

Eskom has largely stabilized South Africa's electricity grid after years of record power outages that crimped economic growth. The government has taken measures to split the

company into generation, transmission and distribution units and design regulation to open the market to private traders.

Politiko
http://subscriber.politicopro.com/

21 August 2025

Pacifico Energy Unveils Off-Grid Project for AI Data Centres

Pacifico Energy is developing the GW Ranch project in Pecos County, Texas, an off-grid power facility to support data centers and AI operations, targeting 5 GW of power. Launched in early 2024, the 8,000-acre project uses natural gas turbines and battery storage for reliable, grid-independent energy. The facility will deliver 1 GW by 2028 and 5 GW by 2030, with 1.8 GW of storage, N+2 redundancy, and dual pipelines ensuring 99.999% uptime. Constantyn Gieskes, Pacifico Energy vice-president, said: “GW Ranch is not just about scale — it is about certainty. Every aspect of the project has been designed to solve problems with the status quo in data center development. By building off-grid and working hand-in-hand with local officials, we’re delivering the speed, reliability and responsible development that our customers and communities both demand.”

Permitting is underway with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, ensuring compliance. Local officials support the project, with Remie Ramos, Pecos County economic development director, stating: “Pecos County’s continued effort to diversify the local economy directly aligns with the development of GW Ranch. The minimal impact of an off-grid data center will increase the county tax base, create new jobs and have an overall positive impact on our county while conserving water and placing no constraints on local infrastructure.” The project will create jobs and boost tax revenue. Pacifico Energy is also developing the 456-MW Ft Spunky project in Dallas.

DCD
http://www.datacenterdynamics.com/

21 August 2025

DOE extends order to delay retiring Consumers’ Michigan coal plant

The U.S. Department of Energy on Wednesday issued a second emergency order directing the Midcontinent Independent System Operator and Consumers Energy to continue running a coal-fired power plant in Michigan that had been set to retire in May.

DOE issued an initial emergency order to prevent Consumers from retiring its majority-owned 1,420-MW J.H. Campbell power plant in West Olive, Michigan, on May 31. That order expired on Aug. 21. The new order runs to Nov. 19.

DOE’s initial emergency order and its contention that MISO faces an emergency is being challenged in court by Michigan’s attorney general and a coalition of groups, led by the Sierra Club and Earthjustice.

“Midwestern families and businesses should not be forced by the U.S. Department of Energy to pay millions of dollars in higher electricity bills for an old coal plant that is demonstrably not needed for reliability and much more expensive than sensible alternatives,” Howard Learner, CEO and executive director of the Environmental Law & Policy Center, said Thursday in a statement. “There is no emergency need for this coal plant as the Michigan Public Service Commission has concluded based on the facts, especially as electricity demand drops from the hot summer to the fall.”

Under the Federal Power Act, DOE can order power plants to operate for 90 days during emergencies. Under an order that runs until Aug. 28, DOE also directed Constellation Energy to keep operating two 380-MW units at its Eddystone power plant near Philadelphia.

DOE contends that emergency conditions exist in MISO, according to its latest order. Reflecting the emergency, the power plant produced 664,000 MWh in June, running at a 61% capacity factor, DOE said. The power plant produced 7.9 million MWh in 2024, according to Consumers' annual report filed on Feb. 11 with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

In what DOE said was another sign of emergency conditions, MISO issued "dozens" of alerts to manage grid reliability in its central region between June 11 and Aug. 18.

Further, MISO's resource adequacy problems are not limited to the summer, DOE said. "The evidence indicates that there is also a potential longer term resource adequacy emergency in MISO," DOE said. "The emergency conditions resulting from increasing demand and accelerated retirements of generation facilities supporting the issuance of [the initial Campbell order] will continue in the near term and are also likely to continue in subsequent years."

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Friday determined that the costs of keeping the Campbell plant online will be shared across MISO's northern and central regions. Consumers reported to the SEC last month that it spent $29 million in the first 38 days of the DOE order to keep the Campbell plant online.

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

22 August 2025

National Grid awards £12bn in HVDC supply chain contracts

National Grid has completed the award of its HVDC civil works supply chain framework, with £12 billion ($16.1 billion) worth of agreements confirmed. The announcement marks the third and final stage of the utility giant's £59 billion ($79.1 billion) supply chain framework awards. It follows their March announcement of two contracts valuing £45.9 billion ($59.4 billion at the time) under the framework.

With the announcement, a total of six HVDC converter civil works suppliers have been awarded positions on Lot 1 of the Framework Agreement totalling approximately £9.07 billion ($12.7 billion). In addition, three HVDC onshore cable civil works suppliers are being awarded places on Lot 2 of the Framework, worth an estimated £3.7 billion (approximately $5 billion). The successful HVDC converter civils suppliers are Balfour Beatty, BAM Nuttall, Galliford Try, Laing O'Rourke, Skanska and Taylor Woodrow. The HVDC onshore cable civils Framework has been awarded to Balfour Beatty, Murphy, and VolkerFitzpatrick.

Contracts have been secured for a five-year period, with the potential to extend for a further three years. One of the aims of the HVDC frameworks was to strengthen and broaden National Grid's supply chain, encouraging new market entrants to increase manufacturing capacity. One example of this is Sumitomo, who is building new HVDC cable manufacturing facilities in the UK for the first time in over 20 years.

Commenting in a release was Zac Richardson, chief engineer and offshore delivery director of Strategic Infrastructure at National Grid: "This marks a major step forward in delivering the UK's future energy network. "By building strategic, long-term partnerships with leading UK-based contractors, we're ensuring the UK is ready to meet the growing demand for electricity with a resilient and modern network.

Said Gareth Burden, construction director of National Grid's LionLink project: "Awarding these HVDC agreements is essential to strengthen our supply chain for our future projects. "Today's announcement ensures we are well placed to progress LionLink and deliver the vital energy infrastructure the nation needs to be more energy secure, whilst lowering household energy bills."

Both Frameworks cover confirmed and anticipated projects, including Eastern Green Link 4, in partnership with SP Energy Networks and LionLink in partnership with TenneT. The first tender under the new HVDC civils framework will shortly be underway for the shared southern works required for Eastern Green Link 3 and Eastern Green Link 4.

Smart Energy
http://www.smart-energy.com/

22 August 2025

Vattenfall selects preferred suppliers for Swedish nuclear power initiative

Vattenfall has chosen GE Vernova and Rolls-Royce SMR as potential suppliers for a new nuclear power on the Värö Peninsula, Sweden, following an extensive evaluation process involving 75 suppliers.

The evaluation considered technological readiness, site and logistics compatibility, and commercial factors, and assessed four reactor types. The company then narrowed the selection to two companies, considering their ability to deliver small modular reactors (SMRs) within a suitable timeframe and budget.

The process now moves towards finalising a supplier for the project. Both selected suppliers offer reactors based on proven technology, with modular designs that incorporate lessons from global nuclear power projects. Vattenfall's existing experience with the fuel used by these reactors and their established supply chains added to their viability.

The selected suppliers also offer competitive electricity costs, which is a key consideration for the project's success. Vattenfall CEO Anna Borg said: "This is another step towards the first Swedish nuclear power construction in over 40 years.

"Our goal is a successful project on the Värö Peninsula, and by that we mean that there are prerequisites to begin operations within a reasonable timeframe and budget at the site available to us. A successful project also lays the foundation for further nuclear developments. We are already looking at the next step to build additional reactors where Ringhals 1 and 2 are currently located."

The Värö Peninsula, home to the Ringhals nuclear power plant, has been identified as the optimal location for rapid development due to its grid capacity, existing nuclear expertise, and national energy interest designation.

The project envisions a combined output of 1,500MW from either five GE Vernova SMRs or three Rolls-Royce SMR reactors.

Vattenfall is considering expanding capacity by another 1,000MW at the adjacent sites of Ringhals 1 and 2. However, challenges such as the tight location and the need to utilise land from the Biskopshagen nature reserve must be addressed. Vattenfall's assessment indicates that the chosen reactors will have a minimal impact on Ringhals' operations during construction, due to fewer workers and reduced construction space requirements.

This approach promises to minimise the risk of cost overruns and is favourable for both Vattenfall and Sweden's electricity supply. The Swedish Parliament's financing and risk-sharing model offers a supportive framework for Vattenfall's potential investment in the project. Next steps include applying for state risk-sharing and continuing preparations for environmental and nuclear technology applications. Collaboration with the Industrikraft consortium, which includes leading Swedish industrial companies, will also progress.

In a related development, Vattenfall has secured a contract with Return for the operation and optimisation of a new 50MW energy storage site in Waddinxveen, Netherlands, up to 2033.

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

22 August 2025

European Resource Adequacy Assessment 2024 approved

ENTSO-E welcomes the approval of the European Resource Adequacy Assessment (ERAA) 2024 by the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER). ENTSO-E is responsible for developing a pan-European monitoring assessment of power system resource adequacy of up to 10 years ahead, analysing possible events that could adversely affect the balance between electricity supply and demand. With its full pan-European scope, the ERAA provides a complementary view to national and regional resource adequacy assessments.

This ACER decision affirms the importance of ERAA for supporting governments and policy makers on matters of security of supply, such as the introduction of capacity mechanisms (CMs). ACER has also confirmed in its decision the steps taken by ENTSO-E and its member TSOs - in coordination with stakeholders and authorities - to ensure high-quality and transparent adequacy assessments.

ENTSO-E acknowledges the valuable input provided by ACER and other stakeholders throughout this process and remains committed to enhancing the ERAA's robustness and accuracy. Nevertheless, ENTSO-E regrets that the ACER decision includes a number of unilateral amendments to the ENTSO-E analysis which impacts the security assessments of several Member States.

ENTSO-E is currently working on the next ERAA 2025, which will be published by the end of this year. In parallel, the ERAA methodology is under review and was published for public consultation.

ENTSO-E
http://www.entsoe.eu/

22 August 2025

New York State invests over $11m in five clean hydrogen initiatives

New York Governor Kathy Hochul has announced an investment of more than $11m in five clean hydrogen research and development projects in the US.

These projects aim to demonstrate new technology designs, reduce costs associated with clean hydrogen storage and distribution, and deploy zero-emission hydrogen-powered transportation. The funding, awarded through the Advanced Fuels and Thermal Energy Research Program administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), addresses the main barriers to the adoption of clean hydrogen.

This includes decarbonising industrial processes, supporting hard-to-electrify sectors like transportation, and enhancing grid reliability. Hochul said: "New York's investments in clean hydrogen are helping to unlock this emerging resource as a potential contributor to the state's affordable, abundant, and reliable energy system. "Advancing alternative fuels like clean hydrogen will grow our clean energy economy while reducing emissions statewide."

The selected projects showcase a variety of applications for clean hydrogen. GTI Energy received over $220,000 to assess New York's potential for geological hydrogen storage, which could support large-scale, long-duration energy storage. National Grid Ventures was granted $2m to test a 100% hydrogen-fuelled linear generator at National Grid's Northport Power Plant in Fort Salonga, aiming to improve air quality and grid stability.

Plug Power was allocated $2m to collaborate with Verne for the joint development of hydrogen distribution trailers with cryo-compressed storage solutions, which work towards cost reductions and increased efficiency for hydrogen deployment. Stony Brook University received more than $4.9m to create a "low-pressure, ambient-temperature" hydrogen

storage system at Staten Island University Hospital – North Campus to bolster healthcare system resilience.

Additionally, SWITCH Maritime secured $2m to develop New York's first hydrogen fuel cell-electric ferry, contributing to zero-emission transportation on New York City waterways.

These projects not only support the grid but also aim to reduce emissions such as carbon, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter, particularly benefiting public health in congested areas and disadvantaged communities.

NYSERDA president and CEO Doreen M Harris said: "We are proud to partner with these companies that have been awarded for their bold vision in advancing clean hydrogen as part of New York's energy transition. These innovative projects are catalysts for development that will lower costs, grow the economy, and make this resource a viable solution as part of a diversified clean energy mix for all New Yorkers."

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

24 August 2025

China's Huawei unveils world's first 100MW charging hub to power 700 electric trucks daily

China's Huawei has officially launched the world's first 100 MW-class supercharging facility for electric trucks, demonstrating a new era of high-power, ultra-fast charging technology.

Built as a demonstration hub for medium- and short-distance bulk material transport within Beichuan's sand and gravel mines, the project represents a major investment in electrified logistics. Developed by Sichuan Yuanqi Xingguang Digital Energy Technology with an outlay of about $20.9 million, the site covers roughly 11.5 acres.

The station features a total designed capacity of 100MW, including 18 supercharging bays rated at 1.44MW each and 108 bays at 600kW. Capable of serving up to 700 electric heavy trucks per day, it is expected to deliver more than 300,000 kWh of charging daily. The facility also incorporates nearly 1MW of solar capacity through a photovoltaic carport and two 215kWh wind-liquid energy storage units for intelligent cooling and power balancing.

Megawatt tech powers 62-mile charge in just five minutes

The new Sichuan supercharging hub, powered by Huawei's Megawatt Supercharging technology, is designed to support the next generation of ultra-fast-charging heavy-duty trucks. The facility is compatible with "3.5C" supercharging models, allowing drivers to add about 62 miles of range in just five minutes of charging. For truck owners, the financial benefits are substantial – energy savings are projected at $0.21 per mile, which translates into roughly $21,000 in annual savings per vehicle. Over a three-year span, this could offset the cost of an entire truck. Station operators also stand to gain, with charging efficiency improvements expected to boost operational performance by more than 15 percent.

One of the most forward-looking features of the Sichuan supercharging station is its ability to work seamlessly with the power grid. Instead of simply drawing massive amounts of electricity, the facility uses Huawei's integrated solution that combines smart photovoltaics with grid-forming energy storage to create a "source-grid-load-storage" microgrid.

This design allows the station to operate in both grid-connected and independent modes, ensuring reliable service even during peak demand or local outages. By balancing energy input from solar power, storage systems, and real-time demand, the microgrid reduces the strain of high-power charging on the wider grid while improving overall stability and resilience.

VPP microgrid at truck hub boosts clean energy use

In addition to its grid-friendly design, the Sichuan supercharging station also incorporates Virtual Power Plant (VPP) technology, giving it the ability to interact intelligently with the broader grid. By aggregating and coordinating distributed energy resources, the VPP enables the facility to maximize renewable energy consumption and optimize charging schedules.

This not only lowers operating costs through peak-valley arbitrage, drawing power when rates are low and supplying it when demand is high, but also generates new revenue streams for operators. Ultimately, the system fosters true synergy between vehicles, charging piles, and the grid, pointing the way toward a more sustainable and economically viable energy ecosystem. By pairing renewable generation with advanced charging infrastructure, the Sichuan station demonstrates how clean energy can directly power heavy transport. Its "PV-storage-charging" integrated system produces roughly 5,000 kWh of green electricity every day, offsetting a portion of the station's demand.

Combined with the shift to electrified heavy-duty trucks, the facility is expected to cut carbon emissions by about 45,000 tons annually, showcasing the Chinese giant's ambitions for large-scale charging projects that can accelerate both energy efficiency and decarbonization in logistics.

Interesting Engineering
http://interestingengineering.com/

25 August 2025

Inside Asia's first osmotic power plant: How Japan turns saltwater into electricity

Japan has brought its first osmotic power plant online in Fukuoka, marking the world's second such facility and the first in Asia.

The Fukuoka District Waterworks Agency said the plant began operations on August 5 and is expected to produce 880,000 kilowatt-hours a year, power that will be fed to a desalination facility serving the city and neighboring areas. Describing osmotic power as "a next-generation renewable energy source that is not affected by weather or time of day and emits no carbon dioxide," the agency framed the start-up as a step toward round-the-clock clean electricity.

"I feel overwhelmed that we have been able to put this into practical use. I hope it spreads not just in Japan, but across the world," said Akihiko Tanioka, professor emeritus at the Institute of Science Tokyo, via Kyodo News. The Fukuoka site is only the second power plant of its type in the world, and is expected to power roughly 220 Japanese households, Dr Ali Altaee of the University of Technology Sydney told the Guardian. The technology's recent momentum follows the world's first commercial-scale installation in Mariager, Denmark, which came online in 2023.

Osmotic power plants harness the same principle as osmosis: water moving from a less concentrated solution to a more concentrated one across a semipermeable membrane. At Fukuoka, electricity is produced from the salinity gradient between two streams placed on either side of a semipermeable membrane. On one side, there is concentrated seawater created by extracting fresh water; on the other, treated water from a sewage treatment facility. The membrane allows water to pass but blocks impurities. As water naturally moves toward the saltier side, pressure builds and is used to spin a turbine, which then drives a generator. The Agency emphasizes that this approach avoids the intermittency of wind and solar and, at the point of generation, does not emit carbon dioxide, per Kyodo News.

The Fukuoka facility follows the first plant in Denmark (2023). It comes after pilot-scale demonstrations in Norway and South Korea, with research groups also building prototypes in Sydney (UTS), Spain, and Qatar, according to the Guardian. While the idea is simple, scaling has been difficult. As Prof Sandra Kentish told the Guardian, "While energy

is released when the salt water is mixed with fresh water, a lot of energy is lost in pumping the two streams into the power plant and from the frictional loss across the membranes. This means that the net energy that can be gained is small."

She added, "It is also noteworthy that the Japanese plant uses concentrated seawater, the brine left after removal of fresh water in a desalination plant, as the feed, which increases the difference in salt concentrations and thus the energy available."

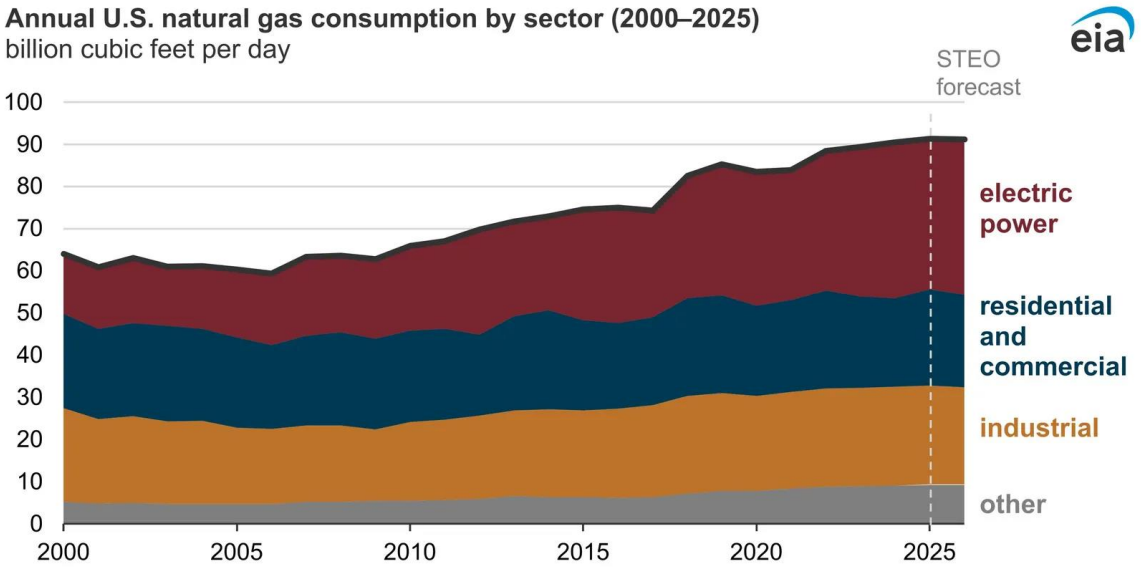
The concept behind osmotic or "blue" energy has been in development for decades. In 1954, R.E. Pattle first theorized the potential to harvest energy from the mixing of fresh and saltwater. In the 1970s, Professor Sidney Loeb, co-inventor of reverse osmosis desalination, developed the framework for pressure-retarded osmosis (PRO) after observing the natural mixing of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. One of the major barriers has been membrane cost and efficiency, because large surface areas and high pressures are required, and pressure-related and frictional losses erode net gains.

Interesting Engineering
http://interestingengineering.com/

26 August 2025

EIA projects record natural gas consumption in 2025

A Monday analysis from the Energy Information Administration forecasts U.S. natural gas consumption increasing 1% in 2025, setting a record — then decreasing slightly in 2026. "Natural gas consumption was high in the beginning of the year, driving our forecast," EIA said. "In January, U.S. natural gas consumption was a record 126.8 [billion cubic feet per day], 5% more than the previous record set in January 2024." EIA expects natural gas consumption to average a record 91.4 billion cubic feet per day this year. "Natural gas remains the most prevalent source of electricity generation in the United States, but so far in 2025 natural gas has lost market share in the electric power sector to coal, solar, and wind," the agency said. "We expect increases in natural gas consumed in the residential and commercial sectors to offset decreases in natural gas consumed in the electric power sector."



The anticipated 2026 decrease is due "in part to expected milder weather in the winter months and therefore less consumption in the residential and commercial sectors," EIA said. Utilities and hyperscalers are turning to natural gas deployment as electricity demand increases, and the Trump administration is incentivizing the deployment of gas as a solution

to that demand. At the same time, the increasing demand for gas is driving up the wait time for gas turbine orders to as much as seven years. “There are underappreciated risks to the current round of robust gas development for data center customers,” investment bank Jefferies said in a Monday note.

During a March earnings call, NextEra CEO John Ketchum noted to investors that the cost to build a new natural gas plant had tripled in the last few years, and the time it takes has grown from four and a half years to six or more.

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

27 August 2025

FERC: Renewables make up 91% of the 15 GW of generation the US added in first 5 months of 2025

The United States added more than 15 GW of new electricity generation resources between January and May this year, led by 11.5 GW of solar, followed by 2.3 GW of wind and 1.3 GW of gas, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s monthly infrastructure report. The report shows that despite actions the Trump administration has taken to slow or halt renewable energy projects, solar and wind continue to make up the vast majority of new electrons on the grid. Gas still constitutes 43% of the country’s total generating capacity, according to the report. Coal is just shy of 15%; solar is a little over 11%; wind is 11.8%; and nuclear is 7.7%.

The latest infrastructure report, which covers January through May, predates the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the Republican domestic policy megabill that stripped away tax credits for renewable energy. It also predates several stop-work orders the administration issued to wind projects and new guidance from the Treasury Department that could further restrict the growth of renewables. Still, the report highlights the scale of the solar and wind project pipeline at a time when the country’s hunger for energy is growing. It also suggests the trend will continue.

Out of 133 GW of “high probability” additions expected to come online by 2028, FERC projects that 84% will be from solar (90 GW) and wind (23 GW). Gas is projected to make up about 20 GW — just 15%. “This reaffirms what we’re seeing in the market, which is solar continues to deliver new power to the grid faster and cheaper than any other source of electricity,” said Stephanie Bosh, senior vice president of communications for the Solar Energy Industries Association. “Despite the Trump administration putting its thumb on the scale to slow solar down, the American people are demanding low-cost, reliable power, and solar is stepping up to meet that demand every day.” According to the nonprofit Sun Day campaign, solar has been the largest source of new generating capacity added each month for 21 consecutive months, since September 2023. The organization also said in a statement that at least 25%-30% of U.S. solar capacity comes from small-scale systems, such as rooftop arrays, that are not included in FERC’s data. “Including that additional solar capacity would bring the share provided by solar + wind to more than a quarter of the nation’s total,” it said. Including hydropower (7.7%), biomass (1%) and geothermal (0.3%), “renewables currently claim a 32% share of total U.S. utility-scale generating capacity.”

The FERC report does not track battery storage or small-scale solar. In addition to new generation, the grid saw 244 miles of new transmission lines reach completion, including 160 miles of 345 kV transmission built in Colorado by the Public Service Co. of Colorado.

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

28 August 2025

Palisades becomes first decommissioned US nuclear plant to reach 'operations' status

The Palisades power plant in Covert Township, Michigan, on Aug. 25 became the first decommissioned U.S. nuclear plant to officially transition to "operations" status, owner Holtec International said in a statement.

The plant is not yet generating electricity; the company said the plant still requires extensive work, including reassembling the main generator and turbine. Nevertheless, Holtec celebrated the "milestone" in its efforts to restart the plant, which it said will produce more than 800 MW. The plant's new status follows its receipt of key approvals by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission last month. "With this transition, Palisades is now authorized to receive nuclear fuel and restart the plant once allowable conditions are met," the company said. "Beyond strengthening Michigan's energy security, this achievement signals a historic first for the nuclear industry and reinforces the essential role of nuclear power in America's energy future."

Palisades began operations in 1971 and was decommissioned by Entergy in 2022. Soon after, Holtec acquired it and announced in 2023 its intention to pursue restarting it. Holtec did not give a timeline for completion. It added that the plant's emergency plan is in place, positioning Palisades "squarely in the final phase of restart preparations, as inspections, testing, and maintenance continue under rigorous independent federal oversight." The company is also planning to build a new small modular reactor on the same site "by the beginning of the next decade." Beyond Nuclear, a nonprofit that opposes the plant's revival, issued a statement condemning its progress toward restarting. "Holtec's Palisades zombie reactor restart scheme is not only unprecedented, but also unneeded, insanely expensive for taxpayers and ratepayers, and very risky for health, safety, security, and the environment," Kevin Kamps, the group's radioactive waste specialist, said in a statement. "Because so much is at stake, we will continue to resist Holtec's Palisades restart."

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

30 August 2025

Indian state awards Adani, Torrent Power contracts for 2,400 MW coal plants

Two major Indian companies, Adani Power and Torrent Power, have secured contracts to establish coal-based power plants with a combined capacity of 2,400 megawatts (MW) in Madhya Pradesh, according to their respective announcements.

Torrent Power has been awarded a contract by MP Power Management Company to deliver 1,600 MW of electricity from a newly constructed coal-based facility. The project involves an investment of 220 billion rupees ($2.51 billion). A company statement noted: "This initiative marks a significant step in enhancing the state's energy infrastructure.

Adani Power will contribute 800 MW through a new thermal power plant in Madhya Pradesh, with an investment of 105 billion rupees ($1.20 billion). This project is the company's fourth major power supply contract within the past year. A spokesperson for Adani Power stated: "We are committed to supporting reliable energy supply in the region."

These developments align with India's goal to expand its coal-based power capacity by 80 gigawatts (GW), reaching over 290 GW by 2032. This expansion, representing an increase of more than one-third, aims to ensure a consistent and dependable electricity supply across the country.

The projects are expected to bolster Madhya Pradesh's energy infrastructure, contributing to the region's economic growth and energy security. Both companies emphasized their dedication to meeting the state's power demands efficiently.

Reuters
http://www.reuters.com/