

# **WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW**

**15 March 2026**

**2 March 2026**

## **China's Huawei and UK's Aggreko to develop storage system project in Brazil's Amazon**

China's Huawei will sell batteries to British business Aggreko for a renewable energy project in Brazil's Amazon region, in what is expected to become the country's largest-ever energy storage system, the two companies told Reuters.

Huawei's batteries will run alongside solar plants set up in microgrids across Brazil's Amazonas state, in order to diversify Aggreko's power supply in the region away from polluting thermal plants. Aggreko's project will cost about 850 million reais (\$165.55 million) and take up to three years for full implementation, with the first plants coming online between 2027 and 2028, said Cristiano Lopes Saito, Aggreko's director for sales to the utilities sector in Brazil. "It's an extremely disruptive project, the largest microgrid project currently in the Americas," Barbara Pizzolato, off-grid director at Huawei in Brazil told Reuters.

While the thermal plants will remain operational to guarantee supply, the project should allow for lower carbon emissions, the companies said. They forecast that the microgrids will supply energy to communities in 24 locations in Amazonas state, including in large cities such as Tefe, home to about 75,000 people. The project is a boost to Huawei, as the Chinese manufacturer seeks to expand operations in Brazil amid expectations of an upcoming first-ever government auction for batteries.

Brazil is just starting to adopt battery energy storage systems and has only one large-scale project of this type, by the transmission company ISA Energia on the coast of Sao Paulo state.

*Reuters*

<http://www.reuters.com/>

**2 March 2026**

## **Power imports in Greece drop to nearly zero in January**

Greece's balance of electricity trade with neighboring markets changed rapidly during the last couple of years. The country became a net exporter.

According to official data for January, power production rose by 23% from the same period one year before, reaching 5,938 GWh. Demand jumped 5% to 4,674 GWh, or 27% less than domestic output.

This meant that there were large quantities available for export, with wholesale prices in Southeastern Europe supporting them, as Greece was cheaper than Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Italy in the vast majority of days. The result was an 86% rise in power exports, to 1,338 GWh. The main buyers were Bulgaria, with 855 GWh, North Macedonia, 338 GWh and Italy, with 331 GWh. At the same time, imports collapsed to just 74 GWh, or 78% lower than in January 2025.

When it comes to Greece's production mix, thermal units provided 44.9% in the first month of this year, while renewable energy stood at 42.6% and large hydropower contributed 12.4%.

The trend continued in February, according to available preliminary data from the Independent Power Transmission Operator (IPTO or ADMIE) and the Hellenic Energy Exchange (ENEX). In fact, hydroelectric production rose, as the country had a lot of rain and reservoirs were filled. Its daily share surpassed 20% many times. Greece also had relatively high renewables curtailments and negative price hours in the first couple of months of 2026. It is notable that they reached 97 GWh in just one week in February.

For the entire year, they are expected at 3.47 TWh and, down the road, at 3.98 TWh in 2029, according to Professor Pantelis Biskas from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

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(AUI). Demand is not projected to rise significantly either from electrification efforts in the wider economy or through higher quantities for traditional power uses.

*Balkan Green Energy News*  
<http://balkangreenenergynews.com/>

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## **Spain's Moeve teams up with Masdar on \$1.2 billion green hydrogen project**

Spanish energy company Moeve has approved a major green hydrogen project involving more than 1 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) in investments, with Abu Dhabi renewable energy company Masdar as a minority partner.

Moeve said on Monday it had taken the final investment decision on the first part of the Andalusian Green Hydrogen Valley in Spain, which will have a capacity of 300 megawatts and the possibility to add another 100 MW depending on grid availability and board approval. It will be the largest such project in southern Europe, it said. The company last week secured a connection to the Spanish grid for the project. A dedicated solar power plant will supplement energy from the grid. The project is supported by more than 300 million euros in European Union subsidies.

Moeve, owned by Abu Dhabi fund Mubadala and U.S.-based private equity firm the Carlyle Group, opens new tab will keep 51% of the project, while Masdar and renewable energy firm Enalter will hold the remaining stake. Moeve, formerly Cepsa, rebranded in 2024 to reflect its shift towards low-carbon businesses under an 8-billion-euro plan. It has sold most of its oil production assets since 2022, including operations in Abu Dhabi and South America. It continues its non-binding talks with Portuguese energy firm Galp, opens new tab to combine their refining, chemicals and fuel retail businesses.

The companies are working to complete due diligence with a view to reaching a final agreement by mid-2026, Moeve's Chief Financial Officer, Carmen de Pablo, said in a call to present 2025 results. Moeve's net profit rose to 341 million euros last year from 92 million euros in 2024.

The widening Iran conflict has not had any direct impact on the company's operations so far, while it was too early to assess the potential indirect impact, she said. Moeve does not source Iranian crude and has no assets in the region, she added.

*Reuters*  
<http://www.reuters.com/>

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## **National Grid expands investment plan by £10bn**

Utility giant National Grid has extended and upgraded its investment plan by an additional £10 billion (\$13.4 billion) to at least £70 billion (\$93.9 billion).

Investment drivers for the new 5-year plan to FY31 range from decarbonization and energy security to accelerating demand growth from data centres and the rise of AI, alongside the electrification of industrial demand.

The company's Chief Executive, Zoë Yujnovich, cited on social media platform LinkedIn the demands and criticality of modernized networks:

"Electricity networks are now recognized as the backbone of economic growth. They are the platform on which industries grow and our customers and communities can prosper. For me, it is not just about growth but also efficiency. "I'm focused on efficient execution at scale, operating effectively within our regulatory frameworks, and ensuring this investment translates into resilience and long-term value for investors, customers, and the communities we serve."

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The updated investment plan represents a 70% increase relative to the prior five years, reflecting a doubling of investment into UK electricity networks, and an almost 50% increase in investment into the company's US gas and electricity networks. The expected split of at least £70 billion of capital investment across the Group is:

- UK Electricity Transmission: £31 billion (\$41.5 billion)
- UK Electricity Distribution: £9 billion (\$12.1 billion)
- New York Regulated: £17 billion (\$22.8 billion)
- New England Regulated: £12 billion (\$16.1 billion)
- National Grid Ventures: £1 billion (\$1.3 billion)
- RIIO-T3 price control accepted

With the release of its results, National Grid also confirmed acceptance of the RIIO-T3 price control arrangements proposed by Ofgem in its Final Determination, published in December 2025. Ofgem's determination for spending between 2026/27 and 2030/31 was announced in July 2025 and set the stage for an £80 billion (\$107.5 billion at the time) investment programme to boost electricity network capacity. Although welcoming the commitment for the electricity transmission sector, National Grid said it did not sufficiently recognize the practical realities of expanding the power system, nor the required two-and-a-half times increase in investment in the transmission network.

With the announcement of their updated investment framework, however, the company says the Final Determination delivers a price control that enables networks to invest at the pace and scale needed to meet the ramp-up in power demand.

It also provides plans to nearly double the amount of power that can flow across the country, avoiding constraint costs and ensuring a resilient network. Electric utility SSE too has accepted the Final Determination, stating in a release that it recognizes it as an investable and deliverable settlement overall. SSE says the Framework will help deliver investment that reduces reliance on imported energy from overseas, remove grid bottlenecks and strengthen energy security. This comes on the back of last week's announcement by French utility Engie that they will acquire UK Power Networks, citing the country's stable regulatory framework and clear decarbonization targets.

*Enlit*

<http://www.enlit.world/>

**3 March 2026**

## **600+ GWh of US energy storage expected by 2030: Benchmark/SEIA**

Benchmark expects energy storage installations to reach 35 GW/70 GWh in 2026, with 20.2 GW/62.4 GWh of that in the utility-scale market and 14.8 GW/7.3 GWh in the behind-the-meter market.

At the end of 2025, the U.S. had 137 GWh of utility-scale storage, 19 GWh of commercial and industrial storage and 9 GWh of residential storage, Benchmark said. By 2030, the consultancy expects more than 600 GWh of energy storage on the U.S. grid.

SEIA said the surge in storage deployments last year came despite "actions in Washington targeting clean energy." Lawmakers have narrowed federal tax credits benefiting intermittent renewable resources, and the Trump administration has undertaken far-ranging legal and administrative efforts to slow utility-scale solar and wind deployment.

In a statement, Darren Van't Hof, SEIA's interim president and CEO, warned that current federal policy could compromise grid reliability and power affordability

"Deployment is rising fast, but without a course correction from federal actions targeting the industry, Americans will face higher electricity prices and a less resilient energy system," Van't Hof said.

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Though the One Big Beautiful Bill Act largely preserved favorable federal tax treatment for energy storage projects, uncertainty around the law's complex foreign entity of concern provisions and Trump's on-again, off-again import tariffs have caused headaches for battery vendors and energy storage developers. Prices for four-hour battery systems rose as much as 69% during the first half of 2025 as Trump layered on tariffs, according to energy intelligence firm Anza Renewables.

But the record-breaking pace of energy storage installations in 2025 appears to validate broad-based bullishness among industry analysts. Joanna Martin Ziegenfuss, energy storage market development general manager for Wärtsilä, a Finnish multinational that markets flexible energy systems, said in a note last month that energy storage will benefit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's renewed focus on grid reliability and data centers' willingness to accept non-firm utility contracts in exchange for faster interconnection.

"As BESS can step in as an immediate power supply for the duration of the interruptions, it delivers the flexibility customers need, especially when speed to power is imperative," Martin Ziegenfuss said.

In its report last week, Benchmark cautioned that "early signs" point to data centers' preference for gas in prime power generation and batteries "primarily for power quality and ramping." That may change as data center companies learn more about how BESS works behind the meter and as gas turbine capacity tightens. Data centers could account for 83% of behind-the-meter commercial and industrial storage deployments by 2030, Benchmark said.

Meanwhile, the market for residential storage grew 51% in 2025, according to Benchmark. It attributes that growth, in part, to the Section 25D tax credit's expiration at the end of 2025, which pulled demand forward as customers raced to take advantage of the expiring incentives. Residential installation volumes could decline in 2026 and "remain dampened out to 2030," the consultancy added. States with growing virtual power plant programs, such as Massachusetts, California, Texas, Arizona and Colorado, could stay busier.

Though Texas overtook California as the largest utility-scale energy storage market by gigawatts deployed in 2025 — and it will likely do so in gigawatt-hour terms this year — California remains the runaway leader in cumulative storage deployments across all size classes, with 59.8 GWh deployed, Benchmark said.

Texas is second with 26.3 GWh, followed by Arizona (19.3 GWh), Nevada (6.3 GWh) and New Mexico (3.8 GWh).

*Utility Dive*

<http://www.utilitydive.com/>

**3 March 2026**

## **Australia's Cheaper Home Batteries Program surpasses 6.3GWh installations**

Australia's Cheaper Home Batteries Program has officially surpassed 250,000 installations, delivering 6.3GWh of distributed energy storage capacity across households, small businesses and community organisations nationwide.

The achievement, announced by Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen, showcases the substantial growth the support programme has delivered since its launch in July 2025. It has also affected other distributed energy technologies, with Bowen noting that approximately half of the participants are installing new or upgraded solar systems alongside their battery storage.

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The Cheaper Home Batteries Program operates through the Small-scale Technology Certificate (STC) mechanism, providing customers with rebates of around 30% off upfront battery costs when purchasing equipment from approved manufacturer lists.

*Energy-storage.news*

<http://www.energy-storage.news/>

**3 March 2026**

## **Singapore raises 2030 solar target to 3 GW**

The 1 GW increase comes after the country surpassed the 2 GW solar threshold during 2025. According to a media release from Singapore's Energy Market Authority (EMA), the government will ramp up efforts to deploy solar across more surfaces, continuing to deploy on rooftops, land and water while exploring new innovations including solar on canopies at open-air car parks.

More than 80% of Singapore's current solar capacity comes from rooftop solar. Installations have been supported by several government-led incentives, such as the SolarNova program aimed at deploying solar on public buildings including public housing and the SolarRoof and SolarLand programs that target industrial rooftops and vacant land.

EMA says that the payback period for home solar has reduced to as little as five years, due to declining solar panel costs. Owners of solar systems in Singapore can also sell the energy generated via renewable energy certificates. Chief Executive of the energy authority, Puah Kok Keong, says Singapore is already one of the world's most solar-dense cities.

"We are committed to maximizing opportunities for solar deployment while pursuing other low-carbon energy pathways. Our new solar target reflects Singapore's commitment to building a cleaner, more resilient energy system," he said. "This important initiative requires strong collaboration across government, industry and the community." Analysis by UK-based consultancy GlobalData published at the start of the year found Singapore is currently on track to reach 3.2 GW of solar by the end of this decade, ahead of surpassing the 5 GW threshold by 2034. Singapore's electricity system relies heavily on natural gas, currently accounting for approximately 95% of power generation. EMA's own analysis says solar can realistically contribute only up to around 10% of Singapore's projected energy needs by 2050, despite being the main source of renewables that can be harnessed domestically.

Last week, Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Gan Kim Yong, said during a round of questioning that the government is looking to maximize the deployment of domestic solar but also stressed that Singapore remains alternative-energy disadvantaged. The minister said the government will explore other potential energy pathways to decarbonize the power system, including the introduction of next generation gas-fired power plants that have a lower carbon footprint than today's power plants and importing low-carbon electricity from its neighbours.

"The pace of our decarbonization will ultimately depend on technological advancements and the extent to which other countries are prepared to cooperate with us," Yong said. In June, Singapore and Indonesia unveiled plans to develop a solar panel industry in the Riau Islands of Indonesia as part of broader cross-border clean energy trading initiatives. Since then, Singapore's Equator Renewables Asia and China's CRE International Co. Ltd have agreed to jointly develop a 900 MW solar and 1.2 GWh battery project in Indonesia, with 400 MW (AC) slated for export to Singapore. In October, Singapore conditionally approved a 1 GW hydropower import project from Malaysia.

*Pv-magazine*

<https://www.pv-magazine.com/>

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## **Coal plant DOE ordered to stay online unlikely to run given ‘flush’ power supplies: CEO**

The owner of Washington’s last coal plant, which Energy Secretary Chris Wright ordered to remain online past its planned retirement date of Dec. 31, said it is complying with the order but it is unlikely the generating unit will be asked to run given “how flush” the state is with hydropower.

The comments by TransAlta’s president and CEO, John Kousinioris, came during an earnings call Friday hosted by the Calgary-based independent power producer. He said despite the order, the company’s plan to convert the plant to run on natural gas appears to be on track. “Our primary focus is more on getting clarity on the existing order,” including how TransAlta will recoup its expenses from keeping the unit online, Kousinioris said.

Meanwhile, DOE faces mounting lawsuits over the order. In separate appeals, Washington state and a coalition of advocacy organizations on Tuesday sued the department in federal court, claiming no emergency exists and the order disrupts long-term state planning. The state also sued the DOE in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington for allegedly failing to respond to Freedom of Information Act requests seeking information related to the department’s Centralia decision.

In its 90-day order for the Centralia plant issued Dec. 16, Wright said the Northwest faces emergency conditions that could last years and lead to power outages due to increasing demand and accelerated power plant retirements.

The plan to retire the Centralia power plant is enshrined in a state law based on SB 5769. TransAlta retired its 670-MW Centralia Unit 1 in 2020. Power from the 730-MW Centralia Unit 2 was under contract to Puget Sound Energy.

TransAlta said in December that it had partnered with Puget Sound to convert the Centralia unit to natural gas under a 15-year deal starting in late 2028. The \$600-million conversion would reduce carbon emissions from the power plant by 50%, according to TransAlta.

Wright ordered the Centralia unit to remain running until March 16. It should operate at the direction of either the Bonneville Power Administration — in its role as a balancing authority — or the California Independent System Operator as reliability coordinator for the region, Wright said.

Using its authority under the Federal Power Act’s section 202(c), DOE has prevented six power plants totaling about 4,300 MW from retiring as scheduled. So far, DOE hasn’t let any of its 90-day orders for those power plants lapse.

Those orders have been challenged at DOE and in court by states, utilities and advocacy groups. Generally, they argue that DOE has failed to show that there is an energy emergency that requires the plants to continue running.

“DOE’s order presents no legitimate factual basis — let alone substantial evidence — to support its claim that maintaining Centralia as a coal-fired facility is necessary to ‘meet’ any emergency,” Washington state said in its rehearing request to DOE, which was included in the lawsuit filed with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. “[...] DOE both misreads and misrepresents the sources it cites as support for an emergency — to the point that DOE’s Order can only be explained as aimed to benefit the coal industry rather than at any true ‘emergency’ in the Northwest.”

A separate suit filed by conservation and advocacy groups, including NW Energy Coalition, Earthjustice, the Sierra Club and the Environmental Defense Fund, made similar arguments.

“The Northwest has plenty of resources to maintain reliability without Centralia, and our utilities and planners in the Northwest are exercising lawful authorities and prudent

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planning to ensure this continues,” Lauren McCloy, NW Energy Coalition utility and regulatory director, said in a statement. “This order disrupts planning and causes costs that will be borne by Washington families, who deserve cleaner, more affordable resources — not a lifeline for an unnecessary coal plant.

In its latest Short-Term Energy Outlook, the U.S. Energy Information Administration expects the Northwest’s hydroelectric output will increase to 124.2 million MWh this year, up from 116.3 million MWh in 2025.

However, the Northwest River Forecast Center, a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said in its last water supply report that the Northwest faces an uncertain water outlook this year. The current “water year,” which began Oct. 1, started with dry conditions persisting from the last water year, the forecast center said Feb. 5. Runoff volume forecasts for April to September call for a mix of above- and below-normal runoff across the Northwest, according to the report.

Meanwhile, plans for the coal-to-gas conversion at Centralia are moving ahead, Kousinioris said. The shift to gas at the power plant is supported by Washington and the DOE, he said. “Regardless of the trajectory of 202(c) on the facility, it is our expectation that it won’t impede the work that we’re trying to do from a coal-to-gas conversion,” Kousinioris said. “It’s full steam ahead from a regulatory and planning perspective for us and for Puget, candidly, as they look to get the rate base.”

TransAlta expects to declare a final investment decision for the project in early 2027, after receiving required regulatory approvals.

*Utility Dive*

<http://www.utilitydive.com/>

**4 March 2026**

## **MISO reinforces Reliability Imperative amid historic electric demand surge**

*Collaborative approach aims to anticipate challenges and maintain reliability as system complexity grows*

The MISO region is undergoing rapid change, with electric demand forecast to levels not seen in decades, MISO says in an updated version of its [Reliability Imperative](#) report released today. MISO is working collaboratively with its members and states to advance timely resource development, coordinate large-load planning and align decision-making.

“Since launching the Reliability Imperative over five years ago, MISO has prepared for a grid operating under new realities,” said MISO Chief Executive Officer John Bear. “We knew reliability would be tested and those actions are paying off.”

Energy-intensive users such as data centers, manufacturing expansion and electrification are increasing electricity demand to levels not seen in decades. While electricity demand growth was relatively flat across the MISO footprint at an annual average of 0.5% between 2009 and 2024, MISO is projecting a substantial increase of up to 2.1% per year through 2044.

“The stakes have never been higher, but neither has our sense of purpose,” adds John Bear. “The Reliability Imperative continues to guide decisions we make, to anticipate challenges, move with urgency, and uphold reliability and efficiency as the foundation of our region’s progress.”

To date, MISO, its member utilities and its state partners have made significant strides to meet the moment. However, emerging operational risks continue to guide MISO’s planning, operations and market design. MISO has updated its long-term planning scenarios, implemented queue reforms and launched its Expedited Resource Addition Study (ERAS) process to accelerate “speed to power” by reducing study times and moving critical projects to service faster. Transmission planning also continues in the Midwest and

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South, and operational improvements, from dynamic operating reserve requirements to updated accreditation, are aligning reliability tools with evolving risk patterns.

The Reliability Imperative is MISO's long-term framework for sustaining reliability as the energy system becomes more complex. This framework integrates reforms across markets, operations and transmission to address emerging risks before they materialize. Introduced in 2020, it reflects the shared responsibility of MISO, its members and states to anticipate system risks, align investments and modernize operations for the decades ahead.

**MISO**

<http://www.misoenergy.org/>

**5 March 2026**

## **U.S. electricity generation in 2025 hit a record, again**

U.S. electricity net generation reached a record in 2025 based on data from our Electricity Data Browser. In 2025, the United States generated 4.43 terawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity, up 2.8% from 2024 generation, which previously had been the highest annual total in our Monthly Energy Review Data Browser dataset dating back to 1949.

This growth contrasts with the trend of relatively flat electricity generation between the mid-2000s and early 2020s. Net generation is related to electricity demand. Much of the recent growth in electricity demand comes from the commercial sector, which includes data centers, and the industrial sector, which includes manufacturing establishments. In 2025, U.S. retail sales of electricity to ultimate customers, which is a key indicator of demand, increased compared with 2024 in all three sectors: residential (by 10%), commercial (by 4%), and industrial (by 1%).

**EIA**

<http://www.eia.gov/>

**6 March 2026**

## **State Grid Corp. of China commissions world's largest pumped storage hydropower plant**

After testing the last units in its Fengning pumped storage hydropower station, State Grid now operates the largest such facility on the planet. It has 3.6 GW in generation capacity and consists of 12 units.

China crowned a string of record and breakthrough achievements in green energy technology in 2024 with the commissioning of the world's biggest pumped storage hydroelectric plant. The Fengning facility is located in Fengning county in Hebei province, north of Beijing. It is operated by State Grid Corp. of China (SGCC).

The Fengning pumped storage hydropower plant consists of twelve 300 MW reversible units. Two are China's first large-scale variable speed generators, which enable fast primary frequency control and peak shaving. Annual output is estimated at 6.61 TWh while the system will pump 8.72 TWh, according to the company. Since the first two units came online in late 2021, the facility generated more than 8.6 TWh.

Four 500 kV lines connect it to a flexible direct current (DC) grid, which is also the world's first, the utility pointed out. The converter station receives electricity from wind and solar power plants. The upper reservoir can store almost 40 GWh, State Grid added. It explained that the 12 units can run for up to 10.8 hours on maximum capacity of 3.6 GW. So far the world's largest pumped storage hydropower plant was the Bath County station in Virginia in the United States, at 3 GW.

Total length of the world's largest underground powerhouse, in Fengning, is 414 meters, with 54.5 meters in height. The tunnels and as many as 190 caverns are 50.1 kilometers long overall, according to State Grid. China's dominant network operator and

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power producer now operates a combined 40.6 GW in pumped storage. It has 75 facilities online or under construction, amounting to a total of 94 GW.

Reversible turbines pump water to the upper reservoir or generate electricity, depending on the need. The pump mode is usually on at night, when power is cheaper, and when there is excess production from renewable sources. When demand in the system surpasses supply, pumped storage plants release the water from above and produce electricity. They are still the only conventional storage technology, accounting to over 90% of storage capacity on the grids.

China dwarfed the rest of the world in solar panel manufacturing and exports last year, especially to the European Union. The administration in Brussels is reluctant to impose any curbs because it has green energy goals to achieve. Even though China is still steadily increasing the use of coal in electricity production, it is also installing more than half of the world's solar and wind power capacity. Moreover, it is at the top of the chart in most zero emission technologies, especially electric cars, batteries and wind turbines. The country also hosts the world's largest hydropower plant.

China is a major investor in Southeastern Europe as well. For instance, projects worth a total of EUR 2 billion are under preparation for wind farms, solar power plants and green hydrogen in Serbia. State Grid agreed in November to buy 20% of the Ariadne Interconnection project in Greece. The subsea high-voltage direct current (HDVC) power line, which is undergoing testing, is 335 kilometers long. It connects the Attica peninsula, where Athens is located, with the island of Crete.

*Balkan Green Energy News*  
<http://balkangreenenergynews.com/>

**9 March 2026**

## **MISO accelerates resource additions with third ERAS cycle**

MISO today announced the third cycle of projects to be evaluated under its Expedited Resource Addition Study (ERAS) process, marking another step toward accelerating the deployment of critical generation resources across the region.

This cycle includes 15 projects totaling approximately 8 gigawatts (GW) of proposed new capacity. The portfolio features a mix of natural gas resources and battery storage spread across MISO's North, Central and South regions. All projects are expected to be in-service by 2031 or earlier.

"Each ERAS cycle helps advance the resources our system needs to reliably serve a growing region," said Aubrey Johnson, Vice President of System Planning. "The interest we continue to see reflects both the urgency and the opportunity to develop a clear, timely path to interconnection, and ERAS is helping us provide that in the near term."

Since the program launched, 53 projects representing nearly 27 GW of proposed capacity have been accepted or are pending validation into ERAS. Ten have already advanced to completed generator interconnection agreements, with an additional 15 projects nearing completion. There is a program cap of 68 projects before ERAS sunsets on August 31, 2027.

"ERAS is one piece of a broader strategy to improve the speed and certainty of our generator interconnection queue," Johnson added. "We're making steady progress toward a more efficient process for our members and the communities that rely on them."

To date, MISO has studied more than 11 GW of proposed capacity through its ERAS process.

*MISO*  
<http://www.misoenergy.org/>

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## **PJM Becomes First RTO To Implement Ambient-Air Ratings for Transmission Under FERC Order 881**

PJM is the first grid operator to implement the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's requirement to maximize the usable capacity of existing grid infrastructure by employing more granular and precise thermal ratings, going live with hourly "ambient air" adjusted transmission line ratings March 4.

PJM dispatches electricity across its transmission system to flow within safe transfer limits, or ratings, designated for all energized equipment, such as power lines, circuit breakers and transformers. PJM has long been at the forefront of more sophisticated ratings systems, having used temperature-adjusted ratings, day/night switches and seasonal study ratings for years before FERC Order 881.

Now additionally, conforming with Order 881, PJM strictly uses hourly ratings from real-time to 10 days out and monthly seasonal ratings for longer-term studies 12 months out.

*Metal + Electricity = Heat*

The flow of current across high-voltage transmission lines generates heat. Accordingly, weather conditions at any given time affect transmission lines' physical ability to safely convey that electricity without overheating. Overheated lines can expand in length and droop down until close enough to ground objects to catastrophically short out, or the lines can "anneal," permanently losing tensile strength to stay taut while suspended. Before these potentially catastrophic events occur, PJM manages the transmission congestion or overloads by re-dispatching generation to reduce flow on the lines.

Cold weather or wind cools transmission lines so they may carry more power without overheating. In contrast, transmission line capacity contracts during hot days with little wind. In this way, wind and cold weather directly contribute to a line's power-carrying capacity. Sometimes, cold or windy weather can dramatically increase a line's capacity.

Cold and windy weather can increase a line's usable transmission capacity by 10% to 40%, researchers for the U.S. Department of Energy found.

In 2021, FERC Order 881 ordered all transmission owners within grid operator regions like PJM, or standalone entities, to change how they rate transmission line capacity to incorporate weather impacts to make the grid more efficient. FERC said more power could be safely conveyed over power lines using more granular and precise thermal limits, also known as Ambient-Adjusted Ratings (AARs). The results, FERC reasoned, would save on costs to ratepayers by conveying more power safely where it is needed, easing transmission constraints and expanding the efficient use of the existing transmission system.

*PJM First to Go Live*

A few minutes past midnight on March 4, PJM's systems switched over to monitoring and dispatching the grid based on the new AARs. Now, rating sets are adjusted hourly according to ambient temperatures forecast 10 days ahead for 47 separate regions with a shared weather forecast within the PJM footprint.

The switchover was the result of a multiyear effort to adapt multiple PJM systems to AARs required by FERC Order 881. Affected systems included many PJM Operations functions governing real-time monitoring and reliability studies.

PJM systems now leverage new, complex and dynamic data sets of line ratings that update every hour according to a stream of weather data of ambient air temperatures with forecasts up to 10 days ahead. PJM system changes also synchronized markets functions to adapt to the new advanced data structures and dispatch methods.

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“This was an enterprise-wide effort, involving a comprehensive stakeholder process and Operations, Markets and IT working with three vendors on the design, deployment and go-live event on March 4,” said Darlene Phillips, Executive Director – Operations Engineering Support. “PJM pushed the boundaries of technology and support that other RTOs will be able to follow, and our real-time monitoring and studies of the grid are now enhanced by ratings adjusted for ambient temperatures and the best available forecasts.”

**PJM**

<http://insidelines.pjm.org/>

**9 March 2026**

## **MISO, SPP eye 500-kV cross-border projects to bolster reliability, save money**

The proposed interregional projects would increase transfer capacity across the southern seam between the Midcontinent Independent System Operator and the Southwest Power Pool.

- The Midcontinent Independent System Operator and the Southwest Power Pool are considering two sets of 500-kV transmission projects that would provide reliability, economic and transfer benefits across their southern seam, according to [a draft report discussed Friday](#).
- The potential projects grew out of the SPP-MISO 2024-25 Coordinated System Plan study, which aimed to find transmission projects that would benefit both systems along their border in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.
- SPP and MISO are taking comments on the draft report and could seek approval of a final set of transmission projects late this year or in early 2027.

The CSP study identified two potential sets of transmission projects: one called Core that would cost about \$1.3 billion and one dubbed Core+ that would cost about \$3.6 billion.

The Core+ projects fix more MISO and tie-line reliability issues and deliver the greatest 2034 congestion relief, especially in SPP, while providing “moderate” import capability gains, the grid operators said in the draft report. The projects would increase MISO’s average import capability by 3.4 GW and SPP’s by 1.1 GW, they estimated.

The projects also address issues at larger scale immediately and appear to have a higher reliability and economic impact than the Core projects, according to [a Friday presentation](#) to the SPP-MISO Interregional Planning Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

The Core combination emphasizes import capability, especially into MISO, resolves fewer MISO/tie-line issues but more in SPP, and delivers lower congestion relief than Core+, the grid operators said. It would boost MISO’s average import capacity by 2.6 GW and SPP’s by 1.5 GW.

Compared to Core+, the projects can more easily be expanded as the grid system evolves, and they preserve optionality amid rapid load growth, the grid operators said.

“The recommended CSP study solutions provide meaningful reliability improvements, expanded bi-directional transfer capability, and material congestion relief that collectively support RTO and stakeholder objectives,” SPP and MISO said.

MISO and SPP asked stakeholders for their opinions on the proposals. The grid operators said they would review those comments as they consider their next steps. Depending on that review, they may seek tariff “enhancements” for interregional cost allocation, with a potential filing at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the second half of this year.

Also, SPP and MISO said they would seek a signoff from their Interregional Planning Stakeholder Advisory Committee, as well as approvals late this year or early next year at SPP’s Markets and Operations Policy Committee and MISO’s Planning Advisory Committee, and both RTO boards.

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The Clean Grid Alliance is “cautiously optimistic” about the direction of the study, “but there’s a long way to go,” Beth Soholt, CGA executive director, said in an email. “The effort will be successful when we have the right set of projects identified with a good business case, cost allocation, and utilities wanting to build. Steel in the ground is the ultimate success!”

In July, [FERC on a 2-1 vote rejected a request](#) by SPP and MISO that they be allowed to expand the analysis they conduct during the CSP study.

The CSP study process has never identified an interregional project that would benefit both MISO and SPP because of the limited benefit valuations that are delineated in their joint operating agreement, according to their [Jan. 15 waiver request](#).

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