

# **WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW**

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## **Ecuador restores power after substation explosion**

Electricity was restored across Ecuador on Tuesday after an explosion at a power substation triggered outages in several provinces, the government said. Environment and Energy Minister Juan Carlos Blum said in a post on X that power had been fully restored nationwide. The Reuters Power Up newsletter provides everything you need to know about the global energy industry. Sign up here. Earlier, Ecuador's national power authority said an early-morning explosion at the Paute Molino substation forced the Paute Integral complex, one of the country's main hydroelectric plants, offline.

State-owned utility Corporacion Electrica del Ecuador said authorities worked with distribution companies to impose scheduled outages in parts of the country while repairs were carried out. Quito's power distributor said at least 15 neighborhoods in the capital were affected. The government did not say what caused the explosion or specify which provinces were hit.

*Reuters*

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

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## **New Jersey lawmakers send data center tariff bill to governor**

New Jersey lawmakers on Tuesday passed a bill requiring the state's Board of Public Utilities to establish standards for tariffs that will apply to all data centers of at least 50 MW with the aim of shielding other ratepayers from costs associated with connecting large loads to the grid.

The bill now heads to the desk of Democratic Gov. Mikie Sherrill, who has made energy affordability a core issue. Her predecessor, Phil Murphy, pocket-vetoed a similar bill earlier this year by not signing it before his term ended. The bill's sponsor, Assemblyman David Bailey Jr., D, said Sherrill's office was involved in forming the latest version and he expressed optimism she would sign it. Bailey said the new bill is more protective than the previous one: It applies to existing facilities as well as new ones, and the threshold for eligibility was lowered from 100 MW. "We really did not get much, if any, pushback from the utilities," Bailey told Utility Dive in an interview. "They've been receptive to the process."

Bailey said he hopes the bill can be a blueprint for other states to follow as parts of the country struggle to respond to skyrocketing demand for power from data centers and the grid investments needed to meet that demand.

The bill applies specifically to data centers, not all large loads, and charges the BPU with determining which costs are attributable to those customers.

"For the purpose of defining 'large data center,' the board shall aggregate the peak monthly energy demand of any data centers that are under common ownership or control, located on the same site or contiguous sites, or share substantial physical, operational, or interconnection infrastructure, and shall treat such aggregated facilities as a single large data center," it says.

It requires the development of demand-response and efficiency programs, as well as mandating flexibility commitments with requirements to report flexibility performance to the board. It also ensures the priority curtailment of large data center customers before residential customers during system emergencies.

The bill requires prospective data centers to demonstrate that their project is unique and not duplicative, and they must provide financial guarantees that they will take or pay for at least 85% of service they request for a period of 10 years. The board would prioritize the interconnection of a data centers that make binding commitments to bring their own clean

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generation or energy storage. It would also give the board authority to implement other provisions it deems necessary to protect ratepayers, including but not limited to transmission security agreements and other stipulations related to generation, distribution or substation facilities.

The bill was praised by advocates. The bill takes a “balanced path forward for data center growth,” said Dawone Robinson, a managing director at the Natural Resources Defense Council. “Establishing this kind of framework will deliver cost savings to households faster and more effectively – and ensures any ‘bring your own capacity’ framework adopted by PJM [Interconnection] will support New Jersey’s climate targets.”

*Utility Dive*

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

**6 July 2026**

## **FERC denies waiver for \$2B gas-fired plant in PJM’s fast-track review**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday rejected a request for a waiver from certain PJM Interconnection rules for a roughly \$2 billion, gas-fired project that is in the grid operator’s fast-track Reliability Resource Initiative interconnection review process.

Granting the waiver for Advanced Power Services’ Chestnut Run project in Carroll County, Ohio, would harm third parties by causing delays in PJM’s review of other generator interconnection requests, including those in its RRI, FERC said. One of FERC’s criteria for approving waivers from commission-approved rules is that the waivers don’t harm third parties.

PJM’s RRI process was designed for shovel-ready projects that could help meet near-term grid reliability needs. It initially included 51 projects totaling about 11.8 GW PJM release says 51 projects totalling 9.3 GW. The process barred changes to a project’s size and its capacity interconnection rights.

Advanced Power hit an equipment supply hurdle when it was unable to acquire the turbines it had planned to use for its project. In its waiver request at FERC, the Boston-based independent power producer said it could use alternate turbines, but that would change the plant’s configuration. The company, owned by ArcLight Capital Partners, asked FERC for a waiver so it could reduce the project’s maximum output by 55 MW to 1.245 GW and reduce its capacity interconnection rights.

In its decision, FERC agreed with PJM that allowing Advanced Power to reconfigure its project could lead to interconnection review delays. “Studies resulting from the equipment changes would introduce substantial delays to Transition Cycle #2 and have a ripple effect on the remainder of PJM’s [interconnection study] cycle schedule,” FERC said.

After clearing its backlog of interconnection requests, PJM in April started reviewing the first cycle under its reformed interconnection queue process. The cycle includes 811 generating projects totaling about 220 GW. Advanced Power didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

There are 41 projects totaling 7.9 GW in nameplate capacity remaining in the RRI process, according to Jeffrey Shields, a PJM spokesman. The projects are being reviewed in PJM’s “transition cycle 2,” the final transition phase of the grid operator’s interconnection reform process that is set to wrap up early next year with interconnection agreements, he said. Transition cycle 2 has a “decision point” on Tuesday, when some project developers may opt to withdraw their project from the process, Shields told Utility Dive in an email.

*Utility Dive*

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

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## **Maryland Agencies Cite New Law in Pressing FERC to End RTO Incentives**

Maryland state officials are asking FERC to scrap millions of dollars in financial incentives for utilities and other transmission system operators to join an RTO, saying the sweeteners are now superfluous following recent enactment of a state law that makes membership mandatory.

“It is unjust and unreasonable to include a transmission incentive in rates that does not incentivize the behavior it seeks to promote,” the Maryland Energy Administration, Public Service Commission and Office of People’s Counsel wrote in a joint complaint July 2. “Accordingly, the inclusion of the RTO adder results in unjust and unreasonable rates that provide a windfall to respondents for simply following the law, at the consumer’s expense.”

The complaint targets the “adders” approved for Baltimore Gas and Electric, Potomac Edison and five other companies. It came one day after the effective date of a provision in the Utility RELIEF Act requiring RTO membership for any entity that owns or operates a transmission line in the state designed to carry over 69 kV.

All seven companies are part of PJM. The adder allows them to add 50 basis points to their respective returns on equity. A basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point; exactly how much the incentives’ elimination would save Maryland ratepayers is unclear, but a partial 2024 estimate by the OPC covering only some of the companies named in the complaint estimated the figure to be about \$20 million/year.

The complaint is the latest in a series of recent steps by Maryland officials to contain residential and commercial power costs, which are well above the national average and also ahead of those of other states in the U.S. Energy Information Administration’s South Atlantic region, according to the most recent rankings. “As the cost of living rises nationally, we refuse to allow big corporations to pad their profits on the backs of hardworking families,” Gov. Wes Moore (D) said in a statement announcing the July 2 complaint.

Already pending before FERC is a separate OPC complaint alleging that PJM’s transmission cost allocation rules will penalize Maryland ratepayers with the expense of servicing data centers elsewhere over the next decade. The office, which represents the interests of residential ratepayers, also is protesting the cost of a Talen Energy plan to keep two Baltimore-area power plants running through mid-2031 on a reliability-must-run basis. In June letters, OPC asked BGE and other companies named in the July 2 complaint to agree to the adder’s removal to avoid “unnecessary and potentially protracted contested proceedings before FERC that would consume state resources and ultimately delay any change in the company’s rates — and associated relief for ratepayers.”

Apart from Potomac Edison, which acknowledged receipt of the letter, none of the firms responded, the complaint says. They also include Delmarva Power and Light; NextEra Energy Transmission MidAtlantic; Potomac Electric Power Co.; Transource Maryland; and Valley Link Transmission Maryland. At Ohio-based American Electric Power, the majority owner of Transource and a major stakeholder in Valley Link, “we are reviewing the complaint and determining next steps with our partners,” spokesperson Tammy Ridout told RTO Insider in an email. “One thing we all can agree on is the need for infrastructure investment to support this once-in-a-generation demand growth coupled with ongoing system safety and reliability,” Ridout continued. “We believe it is critical that the right long-term mechanisms are in place to attract the significant amount of capital investment needed across the system.”

A representative of Potomac Edison, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy, declined to comment. Attempts to get comments from BGE, a branch of Exelon, and the remaining companies named in the complaint were unsuccessful.

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FERC began approving the adders on a case-by-case basis two decades ago after issuing Order 679 in response to 2005 changes to the Federal Power Act requiring the enticements as a way of coaxing utilities into joining RTOs. Maryland's bid to remove the incentives could presage a lengthy fight, based on the experiences of two other states cited in the complaint.

After California lawmakers in 2022 approved a bill requiring electric corporations to participate in CAISO, FERC denied a continued adder for Pacific Gas and Electric. The utility then sued, leading to a 2025 decision from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that sided with FERC. It similarly took years to resolve litigation brought by the company then known as Dayton Power and Light after FERC denied its adder application in 2021 on the grounds that Ohio law required RTO participation. While the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 2025 upheld FERC on that score, the majority on the three-judge panel also found that the commission had erred in allowing Duke Energy Ohio and FirstEnergy to add the incentive to their rates.

*RTO Insider*

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

**7 July 2026**

## **CPS Energy to pay around \$400M for Winter Storm Uri gas**

A state district judge in Texas issued a final judgement against CPS Energy on Thursday, ordering the utility to pay close to \$400 million to midstream energy company Energy Transfer for natural gas purchased during Winter Storm Uri.

CPS Energy sued two Energy Transfer subsidiaries in March 2021, a month after Winter Storm Uri, alleging that they had used the storm as pretext to price gouge and displayed "predatory behavior." "Texas law abhors attempts to leverage a disaster for profit," CPS Energy argued. "Defendants' price gouging sales are unlawful, against Texas public policy, and unconscionable. While CPS Energy will pay lawful amounts due under its gas sales contracts, it will not pay prices that reflect unlawful and unconscionable price gouging in violation of Texas law and public policy."

Judge Laura Salinas of the Texas 166th District Court ruled against this argument, rendering judgment for the defendant, Energy Transfer, according to reporting from Texas Public Radio. Salinas ordered CPS Energy, a public power utility based in San Antonio, to pay Energy Transfer more than \$263 million plus costs, including interest in the amount of \$119 million and \$9.3 million in attorney's fees.

In her written findings, Salinas ruled that CPS Energy had breached its contracts with Energy Transfer's subsidiaries, that the contracts were "not unconscionable" as CPS Energy had alleged, and that they must be enforced, Texas Public Radio reported. CPS Energy said in its 2021 lawsuit that the gas it required during Winter Storm Uri "was critical to meet essential human needs for residences and businesses, to save lives, and to prevent substantial damage to property. As a result, utilities such as CPS Energy had no choice but to continue to search for and purchase natural gas at any price, no matter how high, that sellers were choosing to charge in this distressed and disrupted market."

"As prices skyrocketed, CPS Energy faced a Hobson's choice: Pay an exorbitant price for gas or run out of the gas supply it needed to power critical infrastructure and serve its gas customers' critical human needs," the utility said. "At the mercy of Defendants and with no other alternative, CPS Energy purchased natural gas from Defendants at unconscionable prices and continued to do so for the duration of the statewide disaster."

Yetter Coleman, the law firm which represented Energy Transfer in this lawsuit, said in a Monday release that in court it showed evidence that CPS Energy "failed to adequately prepare for that winter storm season and relied on risky natural gas buying strategies ... The

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firm proved that CPS had ongoing plant failures in the storm that limited its ability to generate electricity, despite having enough gas to serve customers and even sell excess power into the state's wholesale market."

*Utility Dive*

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

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## **Hollandse Kust West VI Offshore Wind Farm Produces First Power**

The 760 MW Hollandse Kust West VI offshore wind farm in the Dutch North Sea has produced its first power after connecting to TenneT's offshore grid, with full commercial power delivery expected by the end of 2026. Located 53 kilometres off the Dutch coast, the wind farm is being developed by Ecowende, a joint venture between Shell, Chubu and Eneco. The project comprises 52 wind turbines, each with a capacity of 15 MW. Offshore construction began in December 2025 with the installation of the first monopile. Once fully commissioned, the wind farm is expected to generate 3.3 TWh of renewable electricity annually, equivalent to about 3% of the Netherlands' total electricity demand.

"We are delighted to produce the first green electrons from the Ecowende wind farm. We often talk about milestones along a project's journey, and Ecowende has many firsts to date, but to see the turbines spinning and to have reached first power safely and successfully is a great achievement for everyone involved in the project," said Ekansh Aggarwal, Commissioning Manager at Ecowende. "While this is an important moment to remember, our focus remains on safely commissioning the remaining assets and delivering a reliable offshore wind farm that will generate clean electricity for decades to come," Aggarwal added.

The wind farm is connected to the Dutch onshore grid through TenneT's offshore high-voltage infrastructure.

Ecowende is also implementing a series of measures aimed at reducing the project's impact on wildlife. At Ecowende's initiative, Vestas is fitting seven turbines with a single red-painted blade to test whether increased colour contrast can reduce the risk of bird collisions. Other measures include a dedicated bird corridor, wider turbine spacing, elevated nacelles, adaptive curtailment and AI-assisted radar monitoring for birds and bats.

Below the waterline, specially designed scour protection includes rock crevices and bays intended to provide shelter for fish and other marine species. Fish holes in monopile foundations are also being trialled as additional habitat. Day-to-day operations and maintenance will be carried out by Eneco Wind Offshore Operations and Vestas Services. Electricity trading is handled by Next Kraftwerke together with SEEL and EET. Next Kraftwerke began marketing the wind farm's electricity on July 4 and acts as Balancing Service Provider and Congestion Service Provider, managing system integration and congestion across day-ahead, intraday and balancing energy markets on behalf of Ecowende. The wind farm also provides balancing energy, including automatic negative frequency reserve, by adjusting power fed into the grid to help compensate for frequency fluctuations.

*World Energy News*

<http://www.world-energy.org/>

**8 July 2026**

## **Catastrophic storms to test China's resilience in 2026, scientists warn**

The floodwaters that ravaged southern China this week look set to expand to other provinces with the imminent arrival of Super Typhoon Bavi, with scientists warning extreme weather would only grow more frequent this year. The expected weather systems will be sure to test the resilience of the country's densely populated cities and rural communities.

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Stay up to date on the key companies, data, and decisions in the ESG world with the Reuters Sustainable Finance newsletter. Sign up here. China's National Climate Center expects up to six typhoons to form in the Northwest Pacific and South China Sea in July, more than the average of 3.8. Of these storms, up to three could make landfall, above the norm of 1.8. The intensity of the cyclones will also be stronger, it said.

Scientists say climate change is increasingly exposing the world's second-largest economy to destructive weather events, with this year of particular concern due to the expected emergence of the El Nino weather pattern, which could drive up temperatures and fuel more intense typhoons, as hurricanes are known in the Asia-Pacific region. China is bracing for Super Typhoon Bavi on Saturday, the second tropical cyclone to arrive in a week. Measuring more than 1,000 km (621 miles) in diameter, Bavi briefly made landfall on Monday over the U.S. island of Rota in the Western Pacific with winds in excess of 290 kph (180 mph).

Last week, Typhoon Maysak made landfall on China's southernmost island province of Hainan and quickly swept into the Chinese region of Guangxi, where the storm wreaked the most havoc. The remnants of Maysak also spawned at least two inland tornadoes in central China. The magnitude of the events is increasing and there is no time to recover and become resilient, warned Horton, who expects more frequent and more intense cyclones later this year to drop unprecedented amounts of rainfall, triggering floods, landslides, crop damage and a loss of lives.

Towns and villages in Hengzhou, the epicentre of the Guangxi floods, were hit by heavy floodwaters on Monday after dams at local reservoirs failed. At least six people have died in Guangxi, officials said, with 375,000 others affected. The death toll is expected to rise. After the failure of a medium-sized reservoir on Monday, floodwaters carrying large amounts of mud and silt have inundated downstream farmland and villages, national broadcaster CCTV said. In some houses, floodwaters reached the second floor, trapping villagers on rooftops as violent torrents rushed around them, CCTV reported.

The largely rural city of Hengzhou, home to more than 1 million residents, has six medium-sized reservoirs and nearly 200 smaller ones. It is also the starting point of a 70-billion-yuan (\$10.3 billion) canal project that is scheduled to open in September. "The severe impacts of Maysak and the looming threat of Super Typhoon Bavi indicate that the 2026 season is more intense and damaging than a typical year," said Hui Su, chair professor of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

"El Nino is shifting typhoon tracks westward toward China's coast and heightening risks, while climate change makes storms wetter and more destructive." Last week, the United Nations weather agency raised its forecast for the rapid emergence of a strong El Nino occurrence in the coming months. El Nino is a periodic warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, potentially ratcheting up global temperatures and raising the risk of extreme weather, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

*Reuters*

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

**9 July 2026**

### **Active fault line threatens world's biggest hydropower project, Chinese geologists warn**

Chinese geologists have determined that an active fault line directly beneath the world's largest hydropower project poses a threat to the mega-dam now being built on Tibet's Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) River.

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The scientists said a fracture in the Earth's crust in the eastern Himalayan region would significantly affect the integrity of the massive hydropower project's infrastructure. In a paper published last month in the Chinese-language journal *Sedimentary Geology and Tethyan Geology*, supervised by the state-owned China Geological Survey, the team urged engineers to strengthen slope stability and implement retaining protections to mitigate the risk of landslides and collapses.

The study was conducted by geologists from the Chengdu University of Technology, the Civil-Military Integration Centre of the China Geological Survey, and the Middle Yarlung Zangbo River Natural Resources Observation and Research Station. "The Paizhen Fault, which has been highly active since the Pleistocene [also known as the Ice Age], will have a major impact on the structural stability and construction of nearby structures, including dams, roads, bridges and tunnels, as well as the reservoir area," the researchers wrote. The active fault fractured the surrounding rocks and altered their mechanical properties, they wrote, adding: "This makes the foundation bearing capacity and structural stability of nearby engineering projects more susceptible to damage. "The Paizhen area is located within the reservoir area of the Yarlung Tsangpo downstream hydropower station."

The terrain has a "loose structure and weak cohesion", they said, warning that "after long-term immersion and under the influence of fault activity and earthquakes, instability of the slopes on both sides of the reservoir area can be extremely easily triggered".

Construction started last year on the mega-dam project on the Tibetan Plateau, which is said to be the largest of its kind in the world, with an estimated annual capacity of 300 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity – three times that of the Three Gorges Dam.

The Yarlung Tsangpo becomes the Brahmaputra River as it leaves the Tibet autonomous region and flows south into India's Arunachal Pradesh and Assam states, and finally into Bangladesh as the Jamuna River. China's construction has raised concerns about water supply and environmental impact downstream in India and Bangladesh.

In the recent study, the team said Pai village was located in the Himalayan seismic belt, which has the strongest and most frequent earthquakes in China and neighbouring regions. A strong seismic activity zone has formed along the Yarlung Tsangpo. "Since the Pai village area is located within the construction zone of the Yarlung Tsangpo downstream hydropower project, its records of Quaternary tectonic activity provide an important basis for exploring the structural stability of nearby projects."

The Quaternary period is divided into two epochs: the Pleistocene (2.58 million to 11,700 years ago) and the current Holocene. The Paizhen Fault is part of a network of tectonic breaks in the eastern Himalayan region, an area defined by collisions between the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates.

The team said the fault had been active since the Early Pleistocene and was continuing to show strong activity in the Holocene. Dating of ancient lake sediments indicates the fault was active as recently as 9,500 years ago. The researchers also pointed to the magnitude 6.9 earthquake in Milin, Tibet, in 2017, which occurred at the northern end of the fault line, as evidence of its modern seismic potential.

**SCMP**

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

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### **China's power load hits record high**

China's peak electricity load climbed to a record high of 1.518 billion kilowatts on Friday, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

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The figure was 10 million kilowatts higher than the previous record, the NDRC said, adding that multiple provincial-level regions, including Guangdong, Guangxi, Ningxia and Gansu, have also reported record-high power loads since the start of summer.

As China's top economic planner, the NDRC attributed the nationwide surge in power consumption to multiple factors, including robust industrial demand driven by the rapid growth of high-tech manufacturing, new energy vehicles, and computing equipment.

The service sector, including battery charging and internet data services, also contributed to the surge in power consumption, while increased air-conditioner use played a part as well, the economic planner said.

In recent years, China has made major strides in power infrastructure, helping ensure a stable electricity supply during peak periods and effectively supporting economic and social development as well as meeting people's basic needs, the NDRC said.

China's total installed power generation capacity reached 4.01 billion kilowatts by the end of May 2026, according to data from the National Energy Administration. The figure puts China at the top of the world by this measure.

*Xinhua*

<http://news.cn/>

**11 July 2026**

## **The Escalating Energy War Between California and the White House**

In recent years, California has grown increasingly progressive in its energy policy, shifting away from fossil fuels toward renewable alternatives. The state has invested heavily in developing its renewable energy capacity over the last decade, in a bid to decrease reliance on oil, coal, and gas. This has helped it reduce emissions as many other U.S. states struggle to decarbonise. While the move is seen as positive by millions of Californians, President Trump is not so sure.

The Trump administration has doubled down on its support for fossil fuels over the past year, following the president's declaration of an "energy emergency" upon taking office in January 2025. The introduction of a wide range of executive orders and federal policies that encourage oil and gas expansion and restrict renewable energy production has led to the stagnation of the green transition in several states. However, California's Democratic government, led by Governor Gavin Newsom, has not taken this lying down.

California has established a wide range of renewable energy and decarbonisation targets in recent years, including developing an emission-free grid by 2045 and investing heavily in solar, wind, and battery storage. Between 2019 and 2026, California added 30.8 GW of clean energy and battery storage. Despite still relying heavily on natural gas, which remains the state's top energy source, gas use has fallen in recent years.

California's Governor Newsom explained, "We're running the fourth-largest economy in the world [on] 67 per cent, two-thirds, clean energy on nine out of 10 days in 2025... Outside of China, there's only one other jurisdiction in the world – California – that has as much battery storage implemented." The sharp rise in renewable energy output and decrease in gas production and use demonstrate California's commitment to a green transition, even as the federal government pushes for fossil fuel development.

However, President Trump has regularly criticised California for its commitment to renewable energy and suggested that it should instead continue pumping oil and gas. In May, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Howard Lutnick, published a letter calling for an evaluation of the commission, accusing California of "environmental terrorism," and alleging that the state had obstructed spaceport development. Then, in June, the Trump administration announced plans to assess the California Coastal Commission's performance.

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This followed the California Coastal Commission's August refusal of a U.S. Space Force request to increase the number of rockets that could launch from a base on California's central coast, operated by Elon Musk's aerospace company, SpaceX. The commission was later sued by SpaceX, which accused it of political bias; the lawsuit was settled in April.

The Trump administration has also criticised California's refusal to approve new oil and gas production. In the wake of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and subsequent increase in global oil and gas prices, the Trump administration invoked emergency powers to reactivate a California oil operation. The aim is to bring a pipeline that has been shuttered for more than a decade back online, despite concerns stemming from previous leaks in the line.

There is also an ongoing legal dispute between California and the Trump administration over a cancelled offshore wind project. The wind project was expected to support the state's goal to develop 25 GW of offshore wind by 2025.

California's attorney general, Rob Bonta, aims to block the Trump administration's plan to restrict wind development and fast-track oil projects. In May, Bonta stated, "Let's be clear: this illegal attempt from the Trump administration lets Sable profit at the expense of our environment and public health." He also accused the federal government of interfering with the state's "sovereign authority". In June, Bonta sent the Trump administration a notice of intent to sue.

The California Energy Commission said that the "unlawful agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior and Golden State Wind LLC... puts at risk California's clean energy gains, thousands of high-quality jobs, and more than \$100 million in public investments in the offshore wind industry, including voter-approved climate funds." The deal outlines the reallocation of \$120 million in taxpayer money: abandoning offshore wind plans in federal waters to invest an equal amount in out-of-state fossil-fuel projects.

California Energy Commission Chair David Hochschild stated, "California strongly condemns yet another reckless Trump Administration misuse of taxpayer dollars that undermines clean energy growth and U.S. energy security... California will continue to lead the way toward a cleaner, more reliable grid powered by domestic resources."

Every time California tries to move forward with plans to expand its renewable energy capacity and shift away from fossil fuels in favour of a green transition, the Trump administration seems to push back. So far, the California government has been successful in pursuing an agenda focused on clean energy and decarbonisation. Still, each federal push to quash these moves makes it harder to achieve the agenda.

**Crude Oil Prices Today**  
<http://oilprice.com/>

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### **Slow restoration of Cuba power grid after latest blackout**

Cuba worked to revive its electrical grid Saturday after a second nationwide blackout in less than a week, with repairs hampered by a fuel shortage caused by a US blockade, authorities said.

The Caribbean island is reeling from its worst economic crisis in decades -- one made worse by the fuel blockade imposed by US President Donald Trump in January as part of a pressure campaign aimed at ending six decades of communist rule. About 12 percent of households in Havana, a city of 1.7 million, had power as of Saturday night, up from seven percent at midday, according to the state UNE electricity utility. "Restoration is proceeding gradually, as conditions allow," it said on X. It was the fourth nationwide blackout in less

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than six months and the ninth since late 2024 for the island nation which has a population of 9.6 million.

The grid failed Friday afternoon, two days after authorities reconnected the system following a nationwide outage on Monday. Cuban residents vented their frustration at the power situation.

Washington authorized in January the arrival of only one Russian tanker -- carrying 100,000 tons of crude -- which came in March. Those reserves have since been exhausted. Cuba's electrical grid suffers from frequent total or partial blackouts due to ageing infrastructure and fuel shortages. The utility company said the fuel shortage also complicates restoration work, as it prevents the use of backup generators powered by imported diesel.

*Times of Malta*

<http://timesofmalta.com/>

**13 July 2026**

### **Kyrgyzstan Says Around 50 Hydropower Plants Are Under Construction**

Around 50 hydropower plants are currently under construction in Kyrgyzstan, according to a report released by the press service of the President of Kyrgyzstan. The announcement followed President Sadyr Zhaparov's participation in the official capsule-laying ceremony for the construction of the Kazarman hydropower plant cascade in the Toguz-Toro district during his working visit to the Jalal-Abad region.

"Over the past five years, around 50 small and medium-sized hydropower plants have been built in the country. Currently, the construction of approximately 50 HPPs is underway. In addition, projects for the construction of solar and wind power plants are being implemented," Zhaparov said.

The president noted that construction is also ongoing at the Sary-Tash and Kapchygai small hydropower plants, as well as the Chatkal HPP cascade, which has a total installed capacity of 145 MW. "After the completion of these projects, the existing electricity deficit may not be fully eliminated; however, we will significantly move forward in the direction of reducing it," Zhaparov said. He emphasized that the development of the electric power sector is essential for the country's sustainable growth. "Without the development of the electric power sector, it is impossible to ensure the sustainable development of the country. Neither industrial enterprises nor social facilities can operate without a reliable electricity supply," the Kyrgyz president said.

Kyrgyzstan's accelerated hydropower development reflects efforts to address a growing electricity shortage and strengthen long-term energy security. As industrial activity expands and new enterprises require stable power supplies, increasing domestic generation capacity has become a strategic priority. The construction of new hydropower facilities, along with solar and wind energy projects, is expected to support diversification of the country's energy sector. While hydropower remains the backbone of Kyrgyzstan's electricity system, renewable energy projects may help improve supply stability and reduce pressure on existing generation facilities.

*World Energy*

<http://www.world-energy.org/>

**13 July 2026**

### **Baltic Power delivers first electricity to Polish grid**

Baltic Power, a 1.1GW offshore wind development co-owned by Northland Power and ORLEN, has started supplying electricity to Poland's national grid. The project marks the first time that offshore wind energy has entered the country's power system. The wind

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farm is located roughly 23km off the coast near Choczewo and Łeba in the Baltic Sea. The installation forms part of efforts to provide greater energy security and diversify Poland's sources of electricity.

Northland Power president and CEO Christine Healy said: "Today, the first electricity from offshore wind flows to Polish homes and businesses – a historic moment for the country. "Northland is proud to stand with our partner ORLEN to launch the offshore wind industry in Poland. Together we are providing a more secure, resilient energy system for generations to come, and marking the start of a new chapter in Poland's energy future."

Erected across an area of approximately 130km<sup>2</sup>, the Baltic Power project comprises 76 Vestas turbines, each with a capacity of 15MW. The installation currently has 54 turbines set in place, with commissioning and installation activities ongoing. The campaign is considered more than 80% complete, with all inter-array and export cables laid and both offshore substations operational.

Full commissioning is targeted for the second half of 2026 (H2 2026). Once all the turbines are operational, the site is expected to generate around 4TW-hours of electricity annually, enough to meet the needs of more than 1.5 million households. The project aims to supply around 3% of Poland's current electricity demand and could reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to 2.8 million tonnes a year, based on project estimates. Baltic Power's output is delivered to two offshore substations and then transmitted via 350km of cable to an onshore substation. Testing, inspection and required administrative procedures will continue alongside further turbine commissioning, with a commercial operations date scheduled for H2 2026.

Baltic Power is underpinned by a 25-year contract for difference (CfD) awarded by Poland's Energy Regulatory Office in 2021. The maintenance base for the project in Łeba has been in operation since last year, supporting both current construction and future long-term operations.

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