

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

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Reflecting on Ofgem's assessment of NESO's performance

Today Ofgem published its assessment of NESO's performance under Business Plan 3 (BP3), covering April 2025 to March 2026. Its overall conclusion was that NESO met expectations, with seven of our eight performance objectives either delivered or had made sufficient progress to meet expectations.

The assessment analysed our first full financial year as NESO as we continue our journey of significant change as a new organisation, operating the electricity system today and planning the energy system of tomorrow.

Ofgem recognised progress across a broad range of areas, which include strengthening energy system resilience, progressing towards the zero-carbon operation of the electricity system, developing strategic whole energy planning capabilities, improving data-sharing infrastructure and supporting electricity market change. We are pleased to see recognition of the progress made in strengthening energy system resilience. During BP3, NESO delivered important work to improve industry preparedness and resilience, including our independent review into the North Hyde outage and broader work to support a more secure and resilient energy system.

Independent assessment is critical to how NESO is held to account and it is right that our performance is assessed transparently. We value openness and feedback, so recognising where we have delivered well while identifying where we need to improve is key to our evolution and our delivery of better outcomes for consumers, as well as improving customer experience. It is assessments like these that ensure we continue learning and can strengthen our performance over time.

The assessment also identifies areas where more progress is needed. Ofgem highlighted connections reform as an area where we did not make the progress we hoped. That feedback made for difficult reading. The transformation of the grid connections process has not been easy and we accept that, though it is a shared endeavour across government, Ofgem the networks and NESO, the journey has been harder than it should have been. We also recognise Ofgem's feedback that we must find a clearer way of demonstrating value for money, particularly at a time where energy costs are high. We have not waited for this feedback to act – we are already taking steps to strengthen performance in both areas.

We see today's assessment as both recognition of the progress made during BP3 and a valuable reference point for where we can improve further. We will continue working closely with Ofgem, Government and industry partners to build on our strengths and address the areas identified for improvement in the assessment.

I and the NESO executive are grateful to all our staff for getting us to this point. We have an exciting journey ahead as we build on these foundations and further improve our performance.

As the energy system continues to evolve, our focus remains clear - operating today's system safely and reliably while helping shape a secure, affordable and clean energy system for the future.

NESO

<http://www.neso.energy/>

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Germany probes second power grid sabotage case, fears of hybrid warfare grow

German police were on Wednesday investigating a second sabotage attempt on the electricity grid within 24 hours, a day after Berlin blamed Russia for an attempted drone attack at an airport.

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The incidents come at a sensitive moment, with the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) - which wants closer German ties with Moscow - topping polls before a state election this weekend, and Berlin facing a growing threat of hybrid warfare. The government said on Tuesday it had concluded that Russia was behind the attempted drone attack on a Ukrainian cargo plane at Leipzig/Halle airport last month - an incident which European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said on Wednesday bore all the hallmarks of state-sponsored terrorism.

Moscow says there is no evidence to support the accusations that it was behind the attack, but German authorities are on high alert for attacks on vital infrastructure.

Local police said they were investigating an act of premeditated vandalism on the technical infrastructure of a power substation near the western city of Bergheim at 1800 GMT on Tuesday. A police spokesperson declined to specify the damage but said the region's power supply was not affected.

Electricity grid operator Amprion, which is majority-owned by Germany's largest power producer RWE, opens new tab, said it was likely that external interference caused the incident and that power supply and grid stability were upheld throughout. RWE said in a separate statement that the incident had prompted five lignite power plant units with 4,200 megawatts (MW) in combined capacity to go off the grid. One of the affected blocks covering 600 MW has been reconnected, the company said.

Also on Tuesday, devices carrying conductive material damaged power lines at one of the most critical high-voltage nodes in the eastern state of Brandenburg. Brandenburg's interior minister, Jan Redmann, said there appeared to be parallels between the attacks but that investigations were at a very early stage. He said there were some differences between the Brandenburg attack and a 2024 arson attack by far-left extremists targeting the power supply of Tesla's (TSLA.O), opens new tab German plant, but he could not rule out any suspects.

Alexander Throm, who heads German parliament's domestic affairs committee, told Reuters the number of disruptive incidents before this weekend's election in the state of Saxony-Anhalt was "extremely suspicious". Opinion polls suggest the AfD, an anti-immigrant party with strong support in the east, could win power for the first time at state level. The party has called for an end to German support for Ukraine and a resumption of energy agreements with Moscow that provided Germany with cheap oil and gas until supplies were halted in 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine.

Leonhard Birnbaum, CEO of Europe's largest network operator E.ON, opens new tab, said last month that full protection of grid infrastructure was illusory, adding operators could make it as hard as possible for perpetrators but not fully avoid attacks.

Calling for better protection, Redmann said: "Just a few weeks ago, we were discussing our airports at length; now, the focus has shifted back to energy supply facilities."

Reuters

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

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Commission approves German capacity mechanism of up to €35 billion to secure electricity supply

The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, a capacity mechanism for Germany available from 2031. This measure, with an estimated cost between €15.6 billion and €35.2 billion, aims to ensure sufficient capacity to produce, store or flexibly consume electricity, so that electricity production can consistently meet expected demand. Capacity mechanisms can play an important role ensuring security of supply as

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part of the transition to a decarbonised electricity system, and the measure includes requirements that will support climate neutrality by 2045 at the latest.

Germany notified to the Commission a measure to ensure security of electricity supply in 2031. Under this market-wide mechanism, the transmission system operator remunerates all the capacity needed to meet the reliability standard, which is a standard to ensure adequate security of supply. The reliability standard has been established based on the recent European Resource Adequacy Assessment 2025 carried out by ENTSO-E ('the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity') and approved by the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators.

This capacity mechanism will be open to all technologies (generation technologies, storage and demand response) and to both existing and new capacity, as well as to cross-border capacity. Contracts will be signed for up to 15 years. The capacities will be selected in competitive auctions, for delivery starting in 2031. All supported capacity benefitting from 15-year contracts will be required to operate in a climate-neutral way by 2045 at the latest. All new gas-fired power plants bidding for a 15-year capacity contract must be hydrogen-ready, so they can switch in due course.

The first auctions will be organised in 2026 and in 2027, if undersubscription occurs. They will be reserved for additional long-term capacity, based in Germany. The subsequent auctions, to be organised in 2027 and 2029, will be open to all technologies and to both existing and additional capacities. Germany will also implement decarbonisation tenders to accelerate the decarbonisation of part of its gas-fired capacity via a switch to hydrogen, helping to offset a possible lock-in of natural gas. Germany will provide support for the switch from gas to hydrogen.

The measure is estimated to cost between €1 billion and €3 billion for 2031, subject to the auction results. From 2032 through 2045, annual costs are estimated to range between €0.9 billion and €2.3 billion. The measure, other than the initial tenders reserved for additional capacity, will be open to foreign capacity located in a Member State that has a direct network connection with Germany.

The Commission assessed the German measure under EU State aid rules, in particular Article 107(3)(c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU ('TFEU'), which enables Member States to support the development of certain economic activities subject to certain conditions, and the Guidelines on State aid for climate, environmental protection and energy 2022 ('CEEAG'). The Commission found that:

The measure is necessary and appropriate to achieve the objective pursued, in line with the EU Electricity Regulation.

The measure is proportionate as the level of the aid corresponds to the effective financing needs. In addition, the aid will be granted to projects selected through a transparent, non-discriminatory bidding process, with safeguards to ensure effective competition. Beneficiaries will compete based on the amount of aid requested to cover their price per unit of de-rated capacity per year for the projects. As a result, the measure has a limited impact on competition and trade between member States. On this basis, the Commission approved the German measure under EU State aid rules.

In addition to the measure approved today by the Commission under EU State aid rules, Germany intends to introduce a structural capacity mechanism in 2027. This new measure is planned to more extensively address Germany's security of supply concerns from 2032 onwards and will be covered by a separate budget. This future capacity mechanism is outside the scope of today's Commission decision but is an important part of the package for delivering the investor certainty needed for security of supply.

Decarbonisation tenders for the switch of 2 GW of capacity from gas to hydrogen by 2040, will be carried out by 31 December 2027. Tenders for the switch of a further 2 GW of

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capacity by 2043 will be carried out between 2032 and 2035. This decarbonisation support is not covered by today's decision and will be notified and assessed separately. The Commission's 2022 CEEAG provide guidance on how the Commission assesses the compatibility of environmental protection, including climate protection, and energy aid measures which are subject to the notification requirement under Article 107(3)(c) TFEU.

The Guidelines create a flexible, fit-for-purpose enabling framework to help Member States provide the necessary support to reach the Clean Industrial Deal objectives in a targeted and cost-effective manner. The rules involve an alignment with the important EU's goals and targets set out in the Clean Industrial Deal and with other recent regulatory changes in the energy and environmental areas and cater for the increased importance of climate protection. They include sections on energy efficiency measures, aid for clean mobility, infrastructure, circular economy, pollution reduction, protection and restoration of biodiversity, as well as measures to ensure security of energy supply, subject to certain conditions. Capacity mechanisms have the important objective of ensuring security of electricity supply. Capacity mechanisms need to be well designed to ensure that they do not (i) lead to higher electricity prices for consumers, (ii) give undue advantages to certain energy operators, or (iii) hinder electricity flows across EU borders.

The EU Electricity Regulation establishes rules to ensure the functioning of the internal market for electricity and defines a framework for regularly assessing the forecast level of security of supply in the EU. Whenever a risk is identified, Member States need to review the functioning of electricity market, and consider removing the distortions, which may cause the risk. In case such approach is insufficient to address the identified risk, Member States may introduce a capacity mechanism, subject to design requirements to ensure cost-efficient, cleaner and proportionate measures to deliver security of electricity supply.

EC

<http://ec.europa.eu/>

3 September 2026

ORLEN forges new Baltic energy alliance

ORLEN has joined forces with 13 energy companies and organisations from Northern and Central Europe to establish the Baltic Energy Initiative. The partners will work together on projects designed to strengthen energy security and competitiveness across the region, covering offshore wind, LNG and bioLNG, hydrogen, carbon capture and storage (CCS), nuclear power and small modular reactors (SMRs).

"The challenges facing the energy sector today are too great to be addressed by individual countries or companies acting alone. The Baltic Energy Initiative will allow us not only to take part in major energy transition projects, but also to influence their direction. By bringing together the expertise, infrastructure and investment capabilities of European companies, we can strengthen energy security, make better use of available funding, and enhance the competitiveness of the Baltic Sea region," said Ireneusz Fąfara, CEO and President of the Management Board of ORLEN.

The agreement has been signed by 14 organisations from: Poland, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Norway. Alongside ORLEN, the signatories are Eesti Energia, Enefit, Fortum, KN Energies, DNV Energy Systems, Topsoe, Siemens Energy, Adven, Steady Energy, P2X Solutions, Latvenergo, Gasgrid Finland and Orsted.

The Baltic Energy Initiative will serve as a platform for pooling expertise, sharing experience and working together to develop projects with an international reach. The priorities include offshore wind, closer integration of the LNG and bioLNG markets, the

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creation of a regional hydrogen market, carbon transport and storage, and the development of small modular reactors. The partners will also cooperate in seeking funding from European Union programmes and other international sources.

For ORLEN, the initiative offers an opportunity to establish partnerships around projects that are important to the Group's transformation and to help shape solutions that will benefit the wider market. Working together can facilitate cross-border projects, knowledge sharing and the development of recommendations on regulations and support mechanisms. This is particularly relevant to areas in which ORLEN is expanding its own capabilities and assets: offshore wind, LNG, hydrogen, CCS and nuclear power.

Protecting energy infrastructure will be another key focus for the newly established partnership. The participants will share experience in critical infrastructure protection, cyber security, emergency preparedness, and responses to physical and hybrid threats. They will jointly assess projects that could make energy infrastructure more resilient and explore potential sources of financing.

The Baltic Energy Initiative is also intended to give the region's energy sector a stronger say in discussions with European institutions by providing a forum for developing common positions and recommendations on regulatory matters, investment and support mechanisms for strategic projects. Speaking with a common voice will help the partners communicate their shared needs more effectively and ultimately unlock more of the Baltic Sea region's energy potential.

Euro Petrol

<http://www.euro-petrole.com/>

7 September 2026

Pakistan's regulator approves mandatory energy storage component for renewables auction

Pakistan's National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has approved plans to require bidders in a renewable energy auction to include energy storage. In a decision dated 4 September, NEPRA issued its determination regarding a Wheeling Auction Process submitted by the Independent System and Market Operator of Pakistan (ISMO), a proposed framework for procuring 800MW of aggregated renewable energy capacity.

ISMO submitted three proposed amendments to the Auction Process, including a mandatory requirement for co-location of a battery energy storage system (BESS) with wind and/or solar PV generation participating in the auction; a month-long extension to the submission deadline; and formation of a committee to address grievances of auction participants.

A stakeholder engagement process drew comments from the public and invited stakeholders, including heads of regional electricity companies.

Energy Storage News

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

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EU deploys 33.8 GW of solar in H1

The European Union's solar market continued to grow in the first half of 2026, with at least 33.8 GW of new capacity installed between January and June. The figure represents a 1.9% increase from the 33.2 GW deployed during the same period in 2025, according to SolarPower Europe's EU Solar Market Update 2026: Mid-Year Analysis.

The result exceeded forecasts published in late 2025 that had pointed to a market contraction, but does not yet indicate a clear acceleration in growth. Demand remained resilient despite worsening market conditions, supported in part by renewed concerns over

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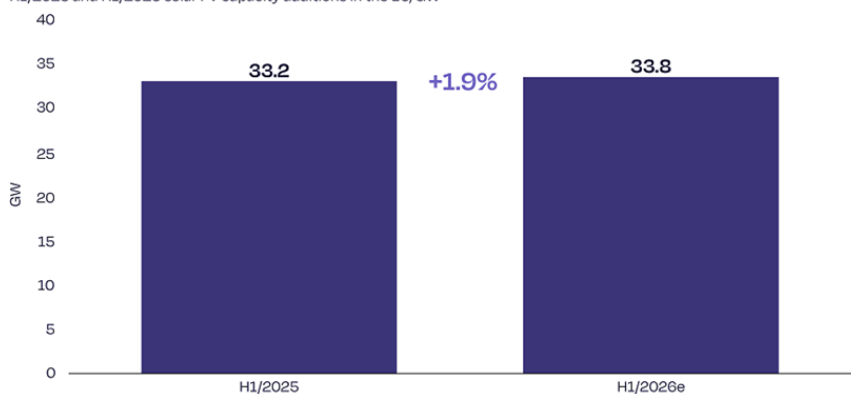
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fossil fuel supplies stemming from the conflict in the Middle East. Higher energy prices and energy security concerns have strengthened the economic case for solar across several EU member states.

Germany and Spain, the EU's two largest markets, maintained high installation levels, while France, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Greece recorded slight year-on-year growth. Some smaller markets, such as Finland and Latvia, experienced rapid expansion driven by the commissioning of large-scale photovoltaic projects. Conversely, the Netherlands, Czechia, Belgium, and Hungary fell short of the levels recorded in 2025. The structure of the European market is not expected to change significantly during 2026: utility-scale projects will account for approximately 56% of new capacity, compared to 44% for rooftop installations. Within the latter segment, residential demand weakened in several markets, whereas the commercial and industrial segment demonstrated greater resilience.

EU solar installations grew by around 1.9% in H1 2026, supported by renewed energy security concerns

H1/2025 and H1/2026 solar PV capacity additions in the EU, GW



SolarPower Europe

© SolarPower Europe

Beyond the growth in installed capacity, solar generation is playing an increasingly strategic role in European energy security. In the six months following the escalation of the conflict in the Middle East — starting March 1 — EU solar generation is estimated to have avoided around €30 billion in gas import costs for electricity generation, equivalent to more than €1 billion per week. Photovoltaics met over 20% of the EU's electricity demand in May, June, and July, reaching a record 25% in June, when it became the Union's primary source of electricity generation.

High solar output also helped meet the increased demand for cooling during summer heatwaves. During these months, high river temperatures and low water levels limited the availability of nuclear and hydroelectric power generation. The association notes that these factors are reshaping the role of photovoltaics within the European electricity system. "In addition to being a key technology for decarbonization, solar power is establishing itself as an energy security asset capable of reducing Europe's exposure to fossil fuel imports," explains SolarPower Europe.

However, the growth of photovoltaics is highlighting the limitations of Europe's electricity infrastructure. Rising renewable energy curtailment, falling solar capture prices, episodes of negative pricing, and increased price spikes during evening hours indicate that grids, storage, and other flexibility mechanisms are not keeping pace with the expansion of solar generation. "Without a faster rollout of these technologies, Europe risks wasting an increasing share of low-cost solar electricity during the middle of the day and subsequently remaining dependent on expensive fossil-fuel generation when solar output drops," the report states. The outlook for 2026 has improved substantially. SolarPower Europe's central

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scenario now projects 68.1 GW of new solar capacity in the EU this year, 6.6 GW above its December 2025 forecast and just 2.1% below the revised 2025 record of 69.6 GW.

Uncertainty remains high, however. The association's low scenario puts new installations at 62 GW, while its high scenario projects 74.1 GW. The final figure will depend on market developments in the second half of the year and potential revisions to preliminary installation data. Meanwhile, reduced policy support in several member states, growing regulatory uncertainty and grid constraints continue to pose structural risks to market growth.

Pv-magazine

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

8 September 2026

Elia to develop Princess Elisabeth Energy project with \$1.1bn EIB financing

Elia Transmission Belgium has obtained a \$1.16bn (€1bn) green credit facility from the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the 3.5GW Princess Elisabeth Energy Island project in the North Sea.

The loan will help finance the next phase of the artificial island's development, supporting efforts to expand Belgium's offshore wind capacity and improve European electricity market integration. The energy island is located approximately 45km off the Belgian coast and is designed to serve as a hub, connecting both existing and future offshore wind generation to the national power grid. It is also expected to facilitate a planned electricity interconnector with the UK, enhancing cross-border electricity exchange and contributing to energy security in Belgium and neighbouring countries. EIB vice-president Robert de Groot said: "Energy prices are a major concern for citizens, and a key reason for the EIB to invest in a better integrated and more resilient European energy system."

"Connecting more offshore wind power and expanding the capacity of the grid will help to create a more stable market. This needs large investments, and we are happy to support Elia in taking a leading role in making this happen." According to Elia, the credit facility provides favourable financing conditions that are expected to limit overall project costs and reduce the impact on consumers. The agreement follows a €650m green loan from the EIB in 2024, which supported the project's initial phase.

Elia Transmission Belgium CEO Frédéric Dunon said: "The transition to a low-carbon economy requires bold investments in infrastructure that can connect tomorrow's clean electricity to homes, businesses and industry. "The Princess Elisabeth Island is a strategic project that will help unlock the next generation of offshore wind capacity, strengthen energy security and support Europe's competitiveness." Work on Princess Elisabeth Island is ongoing, with the recent installation of its 23rd foundation element.

The new financing will cover construction of high-voltage substations, transformers and alternating current connections linking the island to the mainland. Six three-phase alternating current 220kV cables will transport electricity from the island to the onshore 220kV substation. The project is set to facilitate the connection of new offshore wind farms in the Princess Elisabeth Zone from 2031 onwards. Continued construction will focus on finalising the island's structure, cable systems and electrical installations in preparation for expanded offshore wind integration.

Power Technology

<http://www.power-technology.com/>

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Energy Department Closes \$1.9 Billion Loan to Restart Duane Arnold Nuclear Plant

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) today announced the financial close of a loan of up to \$1.9 billion to NextEra Energy

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to help finance the restart of the Duane Arnold Energy Center in Linn County, Iowa. The investment will bring Iowa's only nuclear power plant back online, advancing President Trump's energy dominance agenda and Executive Order, Reinventing the Nuclear Industrial Base.

"President Trump has set an ambitious course to restore American nuclear leadership, and the restart of Duane Arnold Nuclear Plant in Iowa marks another step in advancing America's nuclear renaissance," said U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy James P. Danly. "Returning 615 megawatts of reliable baseload generation will drive down electricity costs, while supporting thousands of American jobs. This Administration is pursuing a comprehensive nuclear strategy, restarting existing reactors, increasing the output of our nuclear fleet, and accelerating new construction, to build the abundant, affordable, and reliable power system required for American prosperity and reindustrialization."

Duane Arnold's restart will add 615 megawatts (MW) of reliable baseload power back on the grid—enough to power nearly 500,000 homes—and help meet growing electricity demand in Iowa and across the region. The project will create nearly 1,500 American jobs during construction and support more than 450 jobs during operations.

"President Trump called for a nuclear renaissance, and the Department of Energy is delivering," said EDF Director Gregory A. Beard. "Duane Arnold is exactly the kind of investment that will help restore American nuclear leadership, strengthen our energy security, and deliver the affordable, reliable power Americans need to fuel our nation's future."

Duane Arnold ceased operations in 2020. Pending required U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing approvals, the plant's restart will return reliable nuclear power to the grid and help meet growing electricity demand across Iowa and the Midwest. DOE is accelerating the expansion of American nuclear energy, restoring U.S. nuclear leadership, and delivering affordable, reliable, and secure energy to the American people. With today's closing, EDF has now financed three nuclear plant restarts and completed four concurrent conditional commitments and financial closings under the Trump Administration, moving capital quickly to bring more American energy online.

DOE

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

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Bonneville eyes switch to CAISO's EDAM from Southwest Power Pool's Markets+

The Bonneville Power Administration is rethinking its plan to join the Southwest Power Pool's Markets+ and may instead participate in the Extended Day-Ahead Market run by the California Independent System Operator, according to a letter written by BPA Administrator Travis Kavulla.

For BPA to join EDAM, the Regional Organization for Western Energy must meet governance-related criteria Kavulla outlined in the Sept. 3 letter to the newly formed organization, which is preparing to oversee EDAM and the Western Energy Imbalance Market. Kavulla, a former energy executive and regulator who joined BPA on June 29, said he was looking at the federal power marketer's decision to join Markets+ with "fresh eyes," and that his evaluation will be based on three principles: the ability to trust the durability of market rules; the depth and liquidity of the market; and how seams between markets affect reliability and economic efficiency. BPA plans to make a draft decision by the end of the year, he said.

BPA's decision is crucial to market development in the West. The agency provides about one-third of the electric power produced in the Northwest, mainly from 22.5 GW of federal hydroelectric resources. BPA also operates about 15,000 circuit miles of high-

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voltage transmission in its service territory, which includes Idaho, Oregon, Washington, western Montana and parts of Montana, California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. BPA participates in the CAISO-run Western EIM, which offers real-time balancing between electric supply and demand.

In May 2025, Bonneville opted to join Markets+, despite the greater financial benefits offered by EDAM. BPA said at the time that Markets+ was a better fit for the agency based on market design elements covering governance, resource adequacy, greenhouse gas accounting and congestion revenue. However, joining Markets+ has drawbacks, such as the creation of seams between markets, according to Kavulla. “Bonneville may have to withdraw certain transmission capacity from optimization within the market — an outcome antithetical to the ostensible goal of efficiently utilizing system infrastructure, which is the bedrock of attempts at well-functioning electricity markets,” he said in his letter to the ROWE. Also, EDAM would provide more market depth and liquidity than Markets+, Kavulla said.

Not including BPA’s generation and demand, the average net generation in EDAM totaled 39 GW versus Markets+’s 19 GW and EDAM’s average demand totaled 48 GW compared to 19 GW for Markets+, according to the letter, which cited recent U.S. Energy Information Administration data. “Depth and liquidity of a more unified market allow for greater trade and investment opportunities,” Kavulla said. Further, there have been key governance changes since Bonneville decided to join Markets+, including the creation of the ROWE, Kavulla said. Also, California revised its laws a year ago so that the imbalance market and EDAM could be governed by a regional entity with a board appointed through an independent process.

If BPA sees “concrete actions” on certain governance-related issues, Kavulla said he intends to propose changing Bonneville’s market direction. Those areas include: independent board leadership; quickly hiring a workforce to oversee CAISO as the “market services vendor”; stakeholder-driven governance; protection against unilateral state action; and the development of a platform for reliable investment, according to the letter. The ROWE, for example, should issue a resolution by the end of November establishing a stakeholder governance framework that “empowers market participants to initiate and evaluate major market proposals,” Kavulla said. “When California’s state regulators and CAISO interact with the ROWE as advocates for policy, they should do so on the same footing as all other stakeholders.”

The ROWE should also quickly issue a policy roadmap for developing rules around key issues such as resource adequacy, how transmission owners and rights holders will be paid in the EDAM market, and the prerogatives the BPA may assume for marketing its hydro resources, Kavulla said. Advanced Energy United, a clean energy trade group, supports the BPA’s reconsideration of what market it may join. “We’re pleased BPA recognizes the important strides that have been made around governance and the importance of choosing an expansive market that can support the growth of important industry while strengthening reliability and keeping customers’ costs low,” Brian Turner, AEU senior director, said in an email Tuesday.

Utility Dive

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

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REPowerEU falling short on investment and infrastructure, auditors warn

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) has warned that the EU’s REPowerEU plan is failing to deliver the scale of investment and infrastructure development needed to reduce dependence on Russian energy.

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In a report published today, the auditors found that EU member states have committed only €54.3 billion of the roughly €300 billion in additional investment that the European Commission estimated would be required by 2030 to meet the plan's objectives. REPowerEU was launched in May 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Its objectives include diversifying energy supplies, reducing fossil-fuel consumption, expanding renewable generation and strengthening electricity interconnections between member states.

The ECA said the plan has had limited influence on national energy policies. Most national energy and climate plans contain few specific measures or targets linked to REPowerEU, while the governance arrangements provide limited mechanisms for coordinating implementation and tracking results. The auditors also found that the plan has made little contribution to increasing renewable generation capacity. Measures included in member states' Recovery and Resilience Facility plans are expected to deliver only a small amount of additional renewable capacity compared with the 103 GW objective identified under REPowerEU.

Progress on cross-border electricity infrastructure has been similarly limited. The ECA identified only three REPowerEU measures relating to interconnectivity across two member states, with one subsequently abandoned. Russian energy imports have fallen substantially since the plan was introduced, particularly oil imports. However, the ECA cautioned that sanctions are not the only factor behind the decline. Lower energy consumption, high prices and relatively mild winters have also reduced demand, making it difficult to isolate REPowerEU's direct impact. The auditors said REPowerEU has nevertheless helped accelerate some individual projects but has not generated the broader transformation originally envisaged.

ECA member Mihails Kozlovs called for coordinated efforts to strengthen implementation, arguing that renewed geopolitical pressures reinforce the need to diversify energy supplies and avoid dependence on individual suppliers. The report concludes that without a significant increase in implementation, REPowerEU is unlikely to achieve its stated objectives by 2030.

MPS

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

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Widespread power cuts hit Malta and Gozo after LNG plant interruption

Large parts of Malta and Gozo were hit by power cuts on Wednesday evening, with outages reported across a wide swathe of the islands. The affected areas included Qormi, Żebbuġ, Birkirkara, Marsaskala, Żejtun, St Paul's Bay, Mosta, San Ġwann and Mellieħa, while large parts of Gozo were also without electricity.

A number of localities saw power restored shortly after. An Enemalta spokesperson is expected to provide an explanation for the power cuts soon.

The latest widespread disruption comes just days after Gozo suffered a major power crisis in which thousands of residents and tourists were left without electricity after two of the three 33kV high-voltage feeders supplying the island from Malta developed faults. The August outage left large parts of Gozo without power for hours, with Enemalta deploying mobile generators while technical teams worked to locate and repair the faults. One of Gozo's two distribution centres was also affected.

The island's electricity supply was eventually restored progressively after one of the cable faults in Xewkija was repaired, while works continued on a second fault along the cable route in Comino. The latest outage also follows a summer of repeated electricity failures across Malta.

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In July, thousands of households were affected by a series of outages during a severe heatwave, with disruptions reported in numerous localities. Electricity demand reached a record 741MW on 21 July, up from the previous peak of 663MW recorded in 2023. The government subsequently announced compensation for households and businesses that had experienced outages lasting more than six hours. Enemalta said the failures demonstrated the need to continue strengthening vulnerable sections of the electricity distribution network.

Enemalta has repeatedly pointed to investment in the distribution network, saying €141 million was invested between 2023 and 2026. The company said this included new substations, transformer upgrades, new low-voltage feeders and more than 270 kilometres of medium-voltage cables. Yet the latest widespread outage comes as the government faces renewed questions over whether Malta's electricity infrastructure is keeping pace with demand. Prime Minister Robert Abela on Wednesday rejected the argument that Malta's soaring energy demand was primarily linked to population growth, instead attributing the increase to climate change.

Abela noted that peak energy demand had risen from 417MW a decade ago to 741MW during this summer's heatwave — an increase of almost 80%. He argued that the increase could not simply be attributed to population growth, pointing to National Statistics Office figures showing that net migration had fallen by a third over the past three years.

Abela also defended Malta's continued economic and tourism growth, while saying the government was working to ensure that tourism did not place excessive pressure on residential communities. His comments come against the backdrop of repeated failures across the electricity network this summer, including the major Gozo outage and widespread interruptions in Malta during July.

The recurring disruptions have raised questions over whether the country's infrastructure is capable of handling the increasingly high electricity demand during periods of extreme heat, particularly as Malta continues to experience rapid economic and tourism growth. For now, residents across several Maltese and Gozitan localities are once again facing interruptions to their electricity supply, with the extent and duration of Wednesday's outages still developing.

In a statement on Wednesday evening, Enemalta said electricity supply is being restored following generation interruption. "Enemalta is in the process of restoring electricity supply to affected areas following an interruption on one of the LNG plant earlier this evening which resulted in the loss of around 200MW of generation," it said. The sudden drop in generation required temporary supply interruptions in a number of areas to protect the stability of the wider electricity system while emergency generation was brought online.

Emergency plants are now operating and power is being restored progressively. Enemalta is working to restore normal supply as quickly and safely as possible. The exact cause of the generation interruption is still being established

Malta Today

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

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A super-powerful reactor is being stopped in Finland: prices have soared among neighbors

On September 10, the operator of the Olkiluoto NPP will stop the third power unit for preventive maintenance. Its capacity of 1.6 GW is almost half of the total capacity of the country's nuclear power industry, according to ENTSO-E.

"According to the schedule, power generation at the block will resume on October 30 after a break of about 50 days," the TVO operator reports. According to him, during the

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planned work, about 2 thousand service operations will be performed, including a total of about 6,000 separate stages. In addition to TVO's own staff, about 1,000 specialists from contractors are involved in the work.

TVO clarified that there will be fuel overload and related inspections, as well as repair work and inspections of the reactor's main circulation pumps. "Towards the end of the operational cycle, certain technical malfunctions were detected in the operation of the main circulation pumps, but power generation was continued at a reduced capacity (about 1300 MW). Other important tasks include cleaning and inspection of steam generators, as well as pressure testing of turbine installation systems. In addition, a set of regular preventive maintenance, inspections, repair and testing of equipment will be carried out," the Finnish operator said. The shutdown of the third Olkiluoto power unit, which has not yet occurred, has already led to a jump in wholesale electricity prices in Finland. According to the NordPool exchange, if on September 8 the average daily price was 18 euros per MWh, then on September 9 it increased more than fivefold to 100 euros. During peak hours, the cost will rise to 230 euros.

It is significant that today's price will be more than twice as high as the average monthly prices of September and August. They amount to just over 40 euros per MWh. This turnaround in prices is explained by the fact that the third power unit accounts for up to 17% of the current demand capacity in Finland. And its loss from generation for 50 days may require more imports and gas generation at fuel prices above \$ 900 per thousand cubic meters. The upcoming shutdown of the reactor was immediately affected in neighboring countries. So, in the Baltic States, the average daily price increased on September 9 from 52 euros to 100-129 euros per MWh, and in Sweden - to 79-119 euros. The latter is the main exporter of electricity to Finland and is sensitive to demand. The current price increase is obviously not the limit. Unstable weather returns in autumn, while Finland's wind farms account for half of the current electricity production. And any windlessness will lead to an additional jump in prices.

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PJM Proposes Reliability Standards to Manage Large Load Disconnection Events

PJM has proposed changes to interconnection reliability requirements for Large Loads, specifically, computational loads that include data centers and crypto-mining facilities.

The PJM action announced Sept. 8 followed a July 22 event during which nearly 4,000 MW of data center load unexpectedly disconnected from the grid in northern Virginia. As data centers disconnected from the PJM grid, they switched to run on their own backup generation facilities. PJM and Dominion operators had to respond quickly to manage resulting imbalances between load and generation and spikes in transmission voltage and system frequency. While the grid did not experience unresolvable reliability impacts that day, this is the third separate measurable event in the last two years, said David Souder, Executive Director – PJM System Operations.

"This type of operation is unsustainable and needs to be addressed," Souder told the PJM Planning Committee Tuesday. The PJM proposal (PDF), introduced at the Sept. 8 Planning Committee meeting, would establish new standards that require Large Load facilities to stay connected to the system during normally cleared transmission system disturbances, "riding through" resulting voltage and frequency excursions beyond acceptable operating limits without creating additional reliability risks for the grid.

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While new proposed standards address minimum voltage and frequency ride-through requirements for existing and future Large Loads, PJM staff also intends to collaborate with existing facilities on a transition plan to adjust their existing operational parameters to comply, said Byoungkon Choi, Principal Engineer – PJM Generator Modeling & Dynamic Studies. “PJM plans to establish these requirements as soon as possible,” Choi said.

PJM’s actions are also in response to a June 18 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order (PDF) requiring PJM to identify gaps in processes for evaluating the reliability impacts of Large Loads. “We are concerned that the Tariff does not specify ramp rate or ride-through requirements with which the transmission customer taking transmission service on behalf of the large load must comply,” the FERC order states.

PJM plans to file proposed solutions to FERC in November. Next up, PJM will discuss plans in greater detail at a PC Special Session – Large Load Ride Through Education on Sept. 15.

PJM’s proposal comes amid industrywide efforts to manage the reliability impacts of Large Load disconnections during and after normally cleared transmission system disturbances. The PJM proposal follows standards advanced by other grid operators, including MISO and ERCOT, and PJM transmission owners, including Dominion and American Electric Power. On a broader scale, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is developing Large Load reliability guidance and ride-through recommendations and standards.

Insidelines PJM
<http://insidelines.pjm.com/>

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FERC, NERC Review Shows Bulk-Power System Improvements in Preparation and Coordination During Winter 2026 Arctic Cold Period

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), and its Regional Entities said today that the country’s Bulk-Power System demonstrated strong performance during extreme cold weather events earlier this year, with no significant disruptions in either the natural gas or electric systems. The report credits the improved performance to the implementation of recommendations from previous winter storm reports, as well as 202(c) emergency orders issued by the Secretary of Energy.

"These findings demonstrate the criticality of FERC’s weather reviews – not only do they guide ongoing improvements, but they tangibly strengthen our bulk electric system’s resilience and reliability," FERC Chairman Laura V. Swett said. "The progress we’ve made demonstrates that careful analysis and action can protect critical infrastructure during the most challenging conditions."

"This winter showed that the steps industry has taken are making a difference. Improved preparation and better coordination along with the implementation of cold weather standards helped the Bulk-Power System perform well under very challenging conditions," said NERC President and CEO Jim Robb. "But the work is not finished. Both the electric and gas systems were stretched over multiple days, and multiple reliability challenges brought the system close to the edge. We cannot let this be the new norm of operating the grid. We need to continue addressing the vulnerabilities that prolonged periods of severe weather can reveal."

The joint report, launched in March following Winter Storms Fern and Gianna, found that generator outages during those storms were comparable in magnitude to the outages experienced during the January 2025 arctic events, but with improvements compared to prior winter storms. Contributing factors include:

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- Applying insights from past cold weather events and previous winter storm reports;
- Advanced commitments by generators ahead of the cold weather events;
- Strengthened preparedness and improved situational awareness;
- Implementation of NERC cold weather reliability standards; and
- Additional resource availability stemming from emergency orders issued by the Secretary of Energy.

The natural gas system also performed well throughout the extreme weather, with only moderate production declines and some limited, short-duration force majeure events reported.

Although electric and natural gas entities are implementing recommendations from previous cold weather events, additional opportunities remain to further strengthen reliability during future cold weather events, including:

- Additional build out of natural gas infrastructure;
- Improved communication and coordination between the natural gas and electric industries; and
- Improved load forecasting.

FERC

<http://ferc.gov/>

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Chubu says its president to resign, nuclear restart application withdrawn over data scandal

Japan's Chubu Electric Power (9502.T), opens new tab said its president and chairman will resign after it falsified data to facilitate the restart of its Hamaoka nuclear power plant, and that it will withdraw its application to bring two reactors back online.

A report by a third-party committee found Chubu had cherry-picked seismic wave data to ensure the data fell within the company's internal parameters, and that it had failed to take appropriate action despite two internal reports of irregularities. The report also said senior management had pressured staff to restart the reactors as soon as possible, and that the utility had dismissed criticism that hindered its mission based on its "own sense of justice".

"We take the severe criticism from the third-party committee seriously and with the utmost sincerity," President Kingo Hayashi told a press conference, apologising for repeated irregularities in submitting seismic wave data since 2012. Hayashi and Chairman Satoru Katsuno will resign on September 30. Minoru Yasui, currently a director, will become president on October 1.

Many of Japan's nuclear power plants have long been idled since a massive earthquake triggered the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster and are undergoing re-licensing to meet stricter safety standards.

After news of the data scandal emerged in January, Japan's nuclear watchdog suspended its safety review for the Hamaoka plant in central Japan, Chubu's sole nuclear power plant. The scandal has been a setback for the industry at a time when nuclear power has regained prominence with the Russia-Ukraine war and the Iran crisis highlighting Japan's need to strengthen energy security.

Tokyo Electric Power (9501.T), opens new tab restarted a reactor at its Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant earlier this year. While Chubu is withdrawing its current application for a restart, it plans to reapply after restructuring its organisation and operational processes, Hayashi said. As of August, Japan had only 11 nuclear reactors in operation, with a combined capacity of about 10 gigawatts. Before the Fukushima disaster, Japan operated 54 reactors.

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Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said on Monday that Chubu needs to thoroughly verify the facts, investigate the causes and take measures to prevent a recurrence of such a scandal. "The government's position is to pursue a balanced power mix that does not rely excessively on any particular power source or fuel, while ensuring a stable energy supply and decarbonisation. There is no change in our policy of maximising the use of decarbonised power sources, including nuclear energy," he said.

Reuters

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