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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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May 28, 2025

Mr. Manu Asthana
President and Chief Executive Officer
PJM Interconnection LLC
2750 Monroe Boulevard
Audubon, PA 19403

Dear Mr. Asthana:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, to testify at the hearing entitled "Keeping the Lights on: Examining the State of Regional Grid Reliability."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. Your responses should be mailed to Calvin Huggins Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to Calvin.Huggins1@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Latta
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy

cc: Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Robert E. Latta (R-OH)

1. As stated in President Trump's Executive Order "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence" (AI EO) on January 23, 2025 "It is the policy of the United States to sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security." President Trump has made it clear that he wants the US to be the global leader in AI and unleash American energy. How does PJM plan to ensure sufficient supply of energy to meet the needs of data centers in a timely manner?

2. As you mentioned in your testimony, the PJM region is seeing tremendous growth in demand for energy from data centers and use of artificial intelligence that are of critical importance to our national security. What is PJM doing to ensure that existing customers are not shouldering the costs of data centers and that new customers pay for their fair share of using the transmission system?

3. PJM recently announced a partnership with Google to utilize artificial intelligence models to optimize interconnection applications. This new innovative approach could greatly streamline the interconnection process to expand access to reliable and affordable electricity.

    a. Can you discuss how PJM intends to utilize Google's AI models?

    b. How will this cut down on extensive delays in interconnecting new resources to the grid?

4. Accurate and transparent electricity load forecasting is a linchpin of modern economic development. States rely on these forecasts to plan new industrial parks, data centers, and manufacturing hubs, while utilities use them to schedule grid expansions and major infrastructure investments. Despite the vital role of load forecasts in spurring economic growth, practices vary widely among states, utilities and RTO/ISOs, often leading to inconsistent data, misaligned investment signals, and unnecessary risk for both utilities, and both large and residential customers. Recent inconsistencies underscore how a patchwork of forecasting methodologies can exacerbate speculation in large load interconnection requests, inflate demand projections, and drive-up costs. These issues cross both state and federal jurisdictions and regional differences.

    a. What steps is PJM taking to ensure its load forecasting is transparent, predictable and correctly anticipating future capacity and infrastructure needs to power AI infrastructure?

    b. What, if any, barriers exist to increased transparency on potential load growth from AI?

5. How can RTOs accelerate transmission expansion to support load growth without creating excessive costs for ratepayers?

6. From a siting and permitting perspective, what do you see as the challenges and barriers to constructing sufficient transmission infrastructure needed for reliable, safe, affordable, and timely delivery of power?

    a. What role, if any, should Congress and FERC play in siting and permitting for regional or interregional transmission?

7. With current policies, do you think we can build all the generation and transmission needed in time for this AI race?

8. What would be your top priority or need from states, FERC or Congress to assist you in meeting new demand —especially if we need even more power than projected? Are you equipped today to meet increased future demand at the pace needed and to maintain affordability and competitive rates?

9. When describing the coordination needed to export power to neighboring ISO's, you mentioned that your systems all impact each other. With that in mind, can premature retirement of baseload generation in one ISO also impact the reliability of the power system in neighboring ISOs?

10. The balance of your resource mix is an important component of reliably operating the grid. No matter how much wind and solar you build, you need baseload, dispatchable energy to support the system when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow. In your testimony, you highlighted that only 5% of queued generation capacity is natural gas; meanwhile, over 95% of the queue is made up of wind, solar, and storage. Can you describe the impact that losing the balance of resource mix would have on the system? Should the federal government create incentives for the development of reliable, dispatchable power?

11. The rate of investment in natural gas infrastructure is lagging behind the rate of investment in natural gas. In order to unleash the potential of our abundance of natural gas, we need to invest in infrastructure like natural gas pipelines to get the gas where it needs to go. What are the roadblocks we currently face in developing natural gas pipelines and how may they be addressed.

The Honorable Kathy Castor (D-FL)

1. One of our greatest challenges today is getting new sources of electricity on the grid as quickly as possible in this new era of increasing electricity demand. Interconnection processes – while critical to maintaining the reliability of the grid – can also take far too long under the current framework.

On March 17, FERC Commissioner David Rosner wrote a letter to each of you detailing new opportunities to streamline the interconnection process. In a recent study by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), an automated process was able to nearly replicate in ten days the results of an interconnection study that took nearly two years to conduct.

a. Please describe your experience with interconnection automation technologies to date and the prospects for further deploying them going forward.

b. Please describe how FERC and Congress can each support such innovation.

The Honorable Scott Peters (D-CA)

1. Have you experienced permitting delays that this committee should better understand? What are some key/important examples?

2. What laws (on permitting specifically, but also planning, siting, interconnection, cost allocation, etc.) should be changed/amended/improved with regard to permitting?

3. What are your specific challenges when it comes to planning and cost allocating high voltage transmission lines?