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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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MEMORANDUM April 25, 2025

TO: Members of the Subcommittee on Energy
FROM: Committee Majority Staff
RE: Hearing titled "Assuring Abundant, Reliable American Energy to Power Innovation."

I. INTRODUCTION

The Subcommittee on Energy will hold a hearing on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 10:15 a.m. (ET) in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building. The hearing is entitled, "Assuring Abundant, Reliable American Energy to Power Innovation." The hearing will review the following legislation:

- H.R. ____, Reliable Power Act
- H.R. 1047, GRID Power Act (Rep. Balderson)
- H.R. ____, Power Plant Reliability Act of 2025
- H.R. ____, Electric Supply Chain Act
- H.R. ____, Reliability Protection for States Act
- H.R. ____, State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act
- H.R. ____, Hydropower Relicensing Transparency Act
- H.R. ____, National Coal Council Reestablishment Act
- H.R. ____, Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act
- H.R. ____, Researching Efficient Federal Improvements for Necessary Energy Refining (REFINER) Act
- H.R. ____, Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act
- H.R. 1949, Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025 (Rep. Pfluger)
- H.R. ____, Improving Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act
- H.R. ____, Expediting Generator Interconnection Procedures Act of 2025

II. WITNESSES

Panel 1

- **Mike Goff,** Acting Undersecretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy
- **David L. Morenoff,** Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- **Terry Turpin,** Director, Office of Energy Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Panel 2

- **Jim Matheson**, Chief Executive Officer, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- **Amy Andryszak,** President & Chief Executive Officer, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
- **Todd A. Snitchler**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Electric Power Supply Association
- **Kim Smaczniak**, Partner, Roselle LLP

III. BACKGROUND

Energy is essential to the nation's economy, its productive capacity, its security, and the health and welfare of the public.

Blessed with tremendous natural resources and an economic system that fosters the free flow of capital to support innovation and technological capabilities, the United States maintains the most sophisticated and efficient systems of energy production and delivery in the world. Its vast and complex electricity systems deliver uninterrupted power to the public, manufacturers, and industry. These energy systems serve to provide for the affordable, reliable energy and electric power necessary to expand America's security and create the goods and services essential to a modern economy, along with providing for the public welfare.

A. American Energy Production and National Security

America's shale revolution transformed the nation's energy posture in the world and underscores the benefits of American energy expansion. The nation has emerged as the world's number one producer of oil and natural gas, and the number one exporter of liquified natural gas (LNG). This status as a leading world producer and exporter of oil and gas has brought significant benefits to the domestic economy, U.S. energy security, and allies overseas.

Since 2016, U.S. LNG is estimated to have contributed $408 billion to our domestic Gross Domestic Product and supports 273,000 direct, indirect, or induced jobs. Expanded U.S. LNG exports also benefit U.S. energy security and national security by reducing the influence of Russia and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in international markets. Russia's war on Ukraine exposed the world's vulnerability to unstable energy suppliers,

especially in Europe, emphasizing the importance of stable, secure, and more affordable American natural gas supplies. In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, U.S. LNG replaced upwards of 50 percent of Russian natural gas importations into European nations.[1]

Energy exploration and production provide immense economic benefits to states and local municipalities where royalties and associated taxes provide funding for public resources such as schools, firefighters, public safety officials, and other activities to the benefit of local communities. For example, the members of the Texas Oil and Natural Gas Association paid $27.3 billion in state and local taxes and state royalties in 2024.[2]

B. Electric Power Production, Demand, and Economic Growth

Oil and natural gas account for about 74 percent of the primary energy sources consumed in the U.S. every year, with natural gas accounting for some 43 percent of electric power generation, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.[3] Natural gas provides the largest share of baseload and dispatchable electric power generation. Various state and federal policies have led to the shut-down of a significant amount of baseload and dispatchable generation over the past decade, a trend that accelerated in recent years, particularly for coal-fired generation.[4]

Meanwhile, after years of minimal growth, electricity demand in the United States is projected to grow nationally at a significant rate through the end of the decade.[5] Over the past several decades, the electric grid experienced modest demand for electric power, averaging about 0.5 percent growth per year since 2015; however, recent estimates show annual growth rate ranging between 3.7 percent to 15 percent by 2030.[6] Much of this growth is expected to come from industrial facilities and data centers powering the increasing use of AI. By the end of the decade, data centers that are driving increases in electricity demand could consume as much as

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[1] *See*, *e.g.*, Daniel Yergin, Ph.D. et al., *Major New US Industry at a Crossroads: A US LNG Impact Study – Phase 1*, S&P GLOBAL (Dec. 17, 2024), https://www.spglobal.com/en/research-insights/special-reports/major-new-us-industry-at-a-crossroads-us-lng-impact-study-phase-1.

[2] *See*, *e.g.*, 2024 Annual Energy & Economic Impact Report, TEXAS OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION (Jan. 7, 2025), https://www.txoga.org/2024eeir/#:~:text=TXOGA%20Annual%20Energy%20%26%20Economic%20Impact,High%20by%20Almost%20%241%20Billion.

[3] *See U.S. Energy Facts Explained*, U.S. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (last updated July 15, 2024), https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/us-energy-facts/.

[4] *See Electric Power Sector Has Driven Rising Pennsylvania Natural Gas Consumption Since 2013*, U.S. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (Jan. 29, 2025), https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=64424&utm_medium=email.

[5] Electricity 2024, INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (May 2024), https://www.iea.org/reports/electricity-2024/executive-summary; John D. Wilson and Zach Zimmerman, *The Era of Flat Power Demand is Over*, GRID STRATEGIES (Dec. 2023), https://gridstrategiesllc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/National-Load-Growth-Report-2023.pdf; Robert Walton, *US Electricity Load Growth Forecast jumps 81% Led by Data Centers, Industry: Grid Strategies*, UTILITY DIVE (Dec. 13, 2023), https://www.utilitydive.com/news/electricity-load-growing-twice-as-fast-as-expected-Grid-Strategies-report/702366/; *US Power Use to Reach Record Highs in 2024 and 2025 – EIA*, REUTERS (Feb. 6, 2024), https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-power-use-reach-record-highs-2024-2025-eia-2024-02-06/.

[6] Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)., *Powering Intelligence: Analyzing Artificial Intelligence and Data Center Energy Consumption* (May 2024), https://www.epri.com/research/products/3002028905.

9.1 percent of all electricity in the United States.[7]

While much of the new generation seeking interconnection to the bulk power system consists of wind and solar, these intermittent resources cannot meet the reliability needs of high-tech manufacturing and data centers on their own as they are not a one-to-one replacement of existing non-intermittent, dispatchable resources like coal, natural gas, hydropower or nuclear.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment found that much of the nation's bulk power system faces mounting resource adequacy and reliability challenges. Over the next 10 years, 115 gigawatts of dispatchable generation has been announced to be retired across the United States, while demand is estimated to increase by upwards of 151 gigawatts.[8] Absent sufficient new generating resources to meet this demand, reliability risks will grow.

Meeting the challenges of new energy and power demand will require consideration of policies that enable adequate supply and distribution of the energy resources that provide baseload and dispatchable power—nuclear, natural gas, coal, and hydroelectric energy, among others. Against this backdrop, the Subcommittee has held hearings on February 5, March 5, and March 25, 2025, to examine what may be necessary to expand energy production and economic security broadly, and the reliable delivery of power necessary to meet the needs of the nation, its productive capacity, and the public health and welfare.[9]

IV. LEGISLATION

A. H.R. ____, Reliable Power Act

This legislation would amend the Federal Power Act to provide for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) review of certain federal regulations that may affect the reliable operation of the bulk power system. The legislation would require the electric reliability organization (ERO) to conduct annual long-term assessments of the reliability and adequacy of the bulk-power system. In the event the ERO determines during such assessments that the bulk-power system is in a state of generation inadequacy, FERC would review, comment, and as necessary recommend changes to modify federal regulations proposed or under development that affect generating facilities in the bulk-power system. No regulation affecting such facilities would be allowed to be finalized if FERC finds it would have a significant negative impact on the reliability or adequacy of the bulk-power system. (Rep. Balderson is expected to introduce this legislation.)

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[7] *Id.*

[8] N. AM. ELEC. RELIABILITY CORP., *2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment* (Dec. 2024), https://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/NERC_Long%20Term%20Reliability%20Assessment_2024.pdf.

[9] *See* Subcommittee on Energy hearings: "Powering America's Future: Unleashing American Energy," February 5, 2025: "Scaling for Growth: Meeting the Demand for Reliable, Affordable, Electricity," March 5, 2025; and "Keeping the Lights On: Examining the State of Regional Grid Reliability," March 25, 2025.

B. H.R. 1047, GRID Power Act

This legislation would direct FERC to issue a rulemaking to require transmission providers to prioritize and expedite interconnection queue requests for dispatchable generation projects and projects that enhance grid resilience and reliability. The legislation would require periodic review and updates of regulations promulgated under this rulemaking to ensure interconnection regulations remain effective and relevant to grid reliability and resilience challenges. (Rep. Balderson introduced this legislation on February 6, 2025.)

C. H.R. ____, Power Plant Reliability Act of 2025

This legislation would enhance authority under Section 207 of the Federal Power Act to allow affected parties to contest the retirement of generation resources, for a 5-year period, in the event that a retirement causes harm to reliability of the bulk power system. The bill would also require power plants to provide a 5-year advance notice of plans to retire. (Rep. Griffith is expected to introduce this legislation.)

D. H.R. ____, Electric Supply Chain Act

This legislation would direct DOE to conduct periodic assessments of trends, risks, and vulnerabilities in the supply chain for electric generation and transmission infrastructure and grid components. As part of the ongoing assessment of electric grid supply chains, the department would consult stakeholders across the electric grid ecosystem and provide recommendations to address emerging issues identified and to secure domestic supply chains. Periodic reports would be submitted to the Committee. (Rep. Latta is expected to introduce this legislation.)

E. H.R. ____, Reliability Protection for States Act

This legislation would amend section 111 (d) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 1978 (PURPA) to require each State regulatory authority to consider implementing requirements to evaluate the reliability and resource adequacy impacts of complying with Renewable Portfolio Standards, Clean Energy Standards, or other state policies that require utilities to designate a share of their electricity sold to be generated from intermittent resources. (Rep. Langworthy is expected to introduce this legislation.)

F. H.R. ____, State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act

This legislation would amend section 111 (d) of PURPA to require each State regulatory authority to consider implementing requirements for utilities to analyze their reliable generation portfolio as part of their integrated resource plans over a 10-year planning period. (Rep. Evans is expected to introduce this legislation.)

G. H.R. ____, Hydropower Relicensing Transparency Act

This legislation would require FERC to report periodically to Congress on the status of relicensing applications for hydropower dams, in order to assess the availability of baseload generation and prevent premature retirements of baseload hydropower generation.

H. H.R. ____, National Coal Council Reestablishment Act

This legislation would re-establish and codify the National Coal Council, which was a federal advisory committee established in 1984 to provide industry expertise to the Department of Energy. The council provides guidance, reports, and recommendations on matters affecting the coal industry and the future of coal technologies. Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Department of Energy was required to renew the council's charter every two years—however, under the Biden Administration, the Department let the charter lapse on November 19, 2021. (Rep. Rulli introduced this legislation on April 24, 2025.)

I. H.R. ____, Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act

This legislation would amend the Department of Energy (DOE) Organization Act to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct an ongoing assessment of the nation's supply of critical energy resources, the vulnerability of the critical energy resource supply chains, and the energy security considerations of critical energy resources in the development of energy technologies. It would also direct the Secretary to strengthen critical energy resource supply chains by diversifying sourcing and increasing domestic production, refining, and processing of resources. Under this legislation, the term "critical energy resource" means any energy resource that is essential to the energy sector and energy systems of the United States and the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption. (Rep. James is expected to introduce this legislation.)

J. H.R. ____, Researching Efficient Federal Improvement Acts for Necessary Energy Refining (REFINER) Act

This legislation would require the Secretary of Energy to direct the National Petroleum Council to issue a report examining the importance of petrochemical refineries to energy security. The report must also contain an analysis of the capacity of such refineries and opportunities to expand capacity, as well as an analysis of risks to refineries. (Rep. Latta is expected to introduce this legislation.)

K. H.R. ____, Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act

This legislation would establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity. The legislation would replace the existing Presidential Permit process that has been established through Executive Order with a statutorily directed process. Under the legislation, FERC would be authorized to review applications for cross-border oil and natural gas pipelines, and DOE would be authorized to review applications for cross-border electric transmission facilities. Substantially similar legislation passed the House in the 115th Congress with a bipartisan vote. (Rep. Fedorchak is expected to introduce this legislation.)

L. H.R. 1949, Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025

This legislation would amend the Natural Gas Act (NGA) to repeal all restrictions on the import and export of natural gas. Under current law, the NGA prohibits the import

or export of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), without completing a lengthy approval process conducted by DOE. The legislation would align the NGA with the existing national policy on the import and export of other fossil fuels, including crude oil and petroleum products. (Rep. Pfluger introduced this legislation on March 6, 2025.)

M. H.R. ____, Improving Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act

This legislation would improve coordination among Federal and State agencies reviewing applications for the construction of interstate natural gas pipelines. The legislation would strengthen FERC's lead agency role under the NGA by requiring schedules, concurrent reviews, and provisions to resolve disputes among permitting agencies. Substantially similar legislation passed the House in the 115th Congress with a bipartisan vote. (Rep. Hudson is expected to introduce this legislation.)

N. H.R. _____, Expediting Generator Interconnection Procedures Act of 2025

This legislation would direct FERC to promulgate regulations that accelerate interconnection requests for electric generation and storage resources to the transmission system. The bill would require transmission providers improve modeling accuracy of each resource and implement transparency measures to ensure timely and cost-conscious network upgrades. The bill would also require transmission providers employ best practices for management of the interconnection queue, including the use of advanced computing technologies, automation, and standardized criteria. (Rep. Castor introduced this legislation on April 24, 2025.)

V. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Mary Martin, Peter Spencer, Andrew Furman, or Clara Cargile of the Committee Staff at (202) 225-3641.