

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Energy
“Oversight of FERC: Advancing Affordable and Reliable Energy for All Americans”
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Let me welcome all the Commissioners; two of you—Chairman Swett and Commissioner LaCerte—appear before us for the first time. We are happy to have all five of you testifying before Congress together for the first time.

The massive storms and deep freeze across the nation this past week reminded 100 million Americans why energy and power is vital for the nation.

The ability of our utilities to provide reliable, affordable power has been a continuing focus of this Committee—this year and over the past several Congresses.

Since we last heard from the Commission, in June 2024, the affordability and reliability issues surrounding the electric grid have become even more pressing.

The need to preserve and expand generation and electric infrastructure to keep the lights on during peak demand remains as urgent as ever.

Reliability authorities just last week reported again that over half the nation has increased risks of blackouts when power demand spikes. Now we also must confront the unprecedented demand and national security imperative of building AI and a growing economy.

Growing affordability concerns add to the challenges, as years of the energy-transition climate agenda have started appearing in household bills.

The positive news is that some state and federal officials appear to be rising to meet the challenges—finding ways to preserve and bring on more dispatchable generation, connecting the most reliable generation faster, and finding ways to connect data centers and other “loads” faster as well.

The Trump Administration should be commended for using its statutory tools to drive change—whether by keeping power available during energy emergencies, or by the various “speed to power” initiatives, including those requesting FERC to take decisive actions.

Testimony we’ve received in previous hearings and National Laboratory reports and research indicate that data centers—connected responsibly—can mitigate if not lower consumer bills. Today, I’d like to hear how the Commissioners approach affordability while meeting demand growth.

And we must not forget – States are essential for siting and permitting the generation, transmission, and new loads in a way that maximizes economic benefits and protects consumer bills. I also look forward to hearing how FERC works with States and how those relationships are going.

Thank you for being here today and sharing your policy perspectives.

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