U. S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
Subcommittee on Energy
"Oversight of FERC: Advancing Affordable and Reliable Energy for All Americans."
February 3, 2026

Additional Questions for the Record for Commissioner Lindsay S. See

The Honorable Brett Guthrie (R-KY)

Question 1: It takes time to build reliable generation and infrastructure upgrades, yet these are what people need for a more reliable system and what the Tech Industry needs in the race for AI dominance. How do you see harnessing the tech industry interest and resources in speed to power with the imperative to ensure affordability?

Answer: The growth associated with AI, advanced manufacturing, and other large loads presents tremendous opportunities, but realizing those benefits will require building out new infrastructure and using existing grid resources in new and flexible ways to serve that demand.

The Commission can help support "speed to power" by continuing to improve how quickly and efficiently resources connect to the grid, including through effectively implementing Order No. 2023 and regionally tailored initiatives that accelerate reliability-related projects. We also have to keep cost-causation principles central. Large new loads should bear the costs of the infrastructure they drive rather than shifting those costs onto households and small businesses. I also encourage utilities, grid operators, technology companies, and other stakeholders to continue bringing forward practical solutions that help resources get built and connected more efficiently.

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA)

Question 1: Wholesale markets and competition deliver billions of dollars in savings annually by promoting competition and integrating more efficient resources. Our wholesale markets were designed for a world of stable baseload generation, predictable load growth, and occasional weather events.

That is no longer the case. We continue to see more Out of Market actions to address short-term issues.

What aspects of wholesale electricity markets are working well today? And where do you see the biggest opportunities for reform to ensure markets send accurate price signals that attract investment in cost-effective, reliable technologies?

Answer: Over the years, electricity markets have delivered substantial value for consumers by promoting competition, efficiently dispatching resources, and enabling power to move across broad geographic regions to where it is needed most. Regional markets help improve reliability, reduce the need for redundant infrastructure, and produce significant economic benefits. For example, MISO has estimated that its market efficiencies and regional coordination deliver billions of dollars in annual consumer value.

At the same time, many market structures were developed during a period of slower load growth, greater reserve margins, and fewer operational challenges. As demand grows and resource mixes evolve, the Commission must continue working with RTOs, ISOs, States, and stakeholders to ensure that market rules produce accurate price signals, appropriately value reliability attributes, and encourage investment where the system needs it most. While some out-of-market actions are necessary tools to address urgent near- and mid-term needs, tailored and stable market reforms are important to allow markets to continue to provide consumer benefits into the future. I am particularly interested in reforms that improve transparency, strengthen resource adequacy, and incorporate state perspectives early in the decision-making process.

Question 2: February's hearing focused on whether FERC is helping us meet our economic and national security goals while ensuring affordable rates to all customers. Additions and upgrades to the electrical transmission system, which you regulate, are necessary to meet those goals, but also represent a significant percentage of the increase in customer bills. What concrete steps are you taking to ensure customer affordability in the face of this challenge?

Answer: Protecting consumers is a core component of the Commission's statutory responsibility to ensure that rates remain just and reasonable. As electricity demand grows, America will need significant investments in generation, transmission, and natural gas infrastructure to support reliability, economic growth, and national security. This is a necessarily expensive endeavor—which means it is even more important to ensure that we build the most cost-effective infrastructure that delivers electrons where and when they are needed.

The Commission can help ensure cost responsibility by applying cost-causation principles so customers pay only for the investments that benefit them. The Commission is actively examining issues related to large-load growth, including through proceedings involving co-located load arrangements and responding to the Secretary of Energy's ANOPR on large load interconnection. These and other open dockets involve important issues about how new infrastructure costs should be assigned and how existing customers must be protected from inappropriate cost shifts. As these discussions move forward, I will continue to focus on solutions that support reliability and economic growth while maintaining affordability and strong consumer protections. I am also focused on measures within the Commission's statutory authority to encourage getting the most out of existing infrastructure and promoting flexible transmission services that may require less costly infrastructure upgrades while still meeting reliability needs.

Question 3: The whole of the federal government and the energy industry are focused on speed to power to allow new large loads, primarily data centers, to interconnect and operate as quickly as possible. While interconnecting these larges load quickly is a national security and economic imperative, they bring with them new and not well understood reliability risks to the bulk electric system. Ignoring these reliability risks could cost customers significantly in the future. Please explain what actions FERC can take to ensure that large load interconnection processes are not jeopardizing reliability.

Answer: Reliable service and speed to power are not competing objectives; we must and can achieve both. Large-load interconnection processes must account for reliability impacts before new demand comes online. As data center growth accelerates, one of the most important steps the Commission can take is to

improve visibility into the size, timing, and operating characteristics of large loads so transmission providers, regional grid operators, and utilities can make informed decisions that center reliability.

More specifically, the Commission can help ensure that large-load interconnections do not jeopardize reliability by supporting better load forecasting, incorporating reliability considerations into planning and interconnection processes, and working closely with NERC to identify emerging risks. NERC's Large Loads Task Force is examining issues such as load forecasting, planning assumptions, and operational risks. NERC has also announced plans to develop reliability standards addressing large-load issues and submit them to the Commission by the end of this year. I am in regular discussions with NERC on these issues and am committed to continuing that partnership and to reviewing expeditiously any proposed reliability standards that emerge from NERC's process.

Question 4: At the January Commission meeting, Chairman Swett praised MISO's Expedited Resource Addition Study or ERAS process as providing a framework for expedited generator interconnection to address urgent resource adequacy needs. As you work towards final action on the Department of Energy's Large Load Interconnection ANOPR, how do you plan to support flexibility in compliance with any rule such as leveraging effective, regionally developed solutions like MISO's ERAS process and Expedited Project Review transmission planning process?

Answer: On April 16, 2026, in Docket No. RM26-4-000, the Commission issued an order regarding our intent to act by the end of June 2026 with respect to issues raised in the Secretary of Energy's ANOPR on large load interconnection. Generally, I believe understanding and respecting regional differences drives the best outcomes, and I am encouraged when RTOs and ISOs develop practical solutions tailored to their unique reliability needs and operating conditions. In line with that philosophy, the Commission has approved initiatives such as MISO's and SPP's Expedited Resource Addition Study, MISO's Expedited Project Review process, and PJM's Reliability Resource Initiative. All of these efforts aim at accelerating needed infrastructure and resource development while maintaining appropriate reliability protections.

As the Commission continues tackling issues associated with large-load growth, I believe it is important to preserve appropriate flexibility for regional solutions that are consistent with the Federal Power Act and supported by the record. The challenges MISO, PJM, and other regions face are not identical, and one-size-fits-all approaches do not always produce the best outcomes. My focus will remain on decisions that support reliability, affordability, and timely infrastructure development—showcasing what is working well in different parts of the country while also allowing regions the opportunity to bring forward innovative solutions that address their particular circumstances and needs.

Question 5: 3 coal plants in the MISO region have now received Section 202(c) orders from the Secretary of Energy to continue operating past their retirement dates. Their owners have proposed cost allocations to FERC to recover the net costs of keeping those plants open across broad swaths of the MISO footprint. Please explain what the Commission is doing to ensure that those costs are prudently incurred and that consistent with cost causation only those who benefit from the plants are allocated costs.

Answer: Several cases that directly involve cost allocation and recovery associated with the Secretary of Energy's designations under section 202(c) of the FPA are pending before the Commission; accordingly, I am unable to address the merits of those proceedings. As a general matter and without prejudging the

facts of any pending case, I take seriously the Commission's responsibility under the FPA to ensure that cost recovery proposals satisfy the just and reasonable standard and protect consumers through cost allocations that reasonably reflect the benefits they receive.

The Honorable Troy Balderson (R-OH)

Question 1: In December, the House of Representatives passed my bill, the Reliable Power Act, with bipartisan support.

This bill would task FERC with reviewing agency regulations and rulemakings that directly affect the bulk-power system, if the electric reliability organization has determined the system is at risk of not having sufficient electric generation to maintain reliability. The bill directs FERC to consult with the electric reliability organization and transmission organizations such as RTOs when reviewing these agency actions.

Do you believe FERC has the expertise to coordinate with agencies and review regulations impacting the bulk-power system? And would partnering or consulting with NERC and transmission organizations in these reviews help ensure federal rulemakings are not negatively impacting the reliability of the bulk-power system?

Answer: It is imperative for agencies to share information and expertise when it comes to federal rulemakings that have consequences for our nation's reliable power delivery. FERC has substantial expertise in what the bulk power system needs to operate, as well as in transmission planning, resource adequacy, and wholesale electricity markets issues. NERC and transmission organizations, as well, bring valuable operational experience and real-time insight into emerging reliability risks, making them important partners in evaluating how federal actions may affect the grid. Their expertise can help ensure that decisions with potential reliability consequences are informed by a thorough understanding of conditions on the bulk power system.

Question 2: Ohio and other states across the PJM region are facing rapidly accelerating electricity demand - particularly from data center growth. The White House and regional PJM governors recently endorsed a "Statement of Principles" urging PJM to conduct a Reliability Backstop Auction to bring new generation online quickly. I believe President Trump and this administration deserve credit for bringing these parties together so we can win the AI race while also protecting ratepayers and ensuring our constituents have access to reliable, affordable energy.

As PJM and FERC work together on this backstop auction, what changes to existing PJM policies or FERC practices may be needed to ensure residential ratepayers are protected? And will FERC evaluate whether this approach appropriately allocates costs so that data centers pay their fair share and costs are not shifted to households?

Answer: Because PJM's proposed Reliability Backstop Auction has not yet been filed with the Commission, I cannot comment on the merits of any specific proposal or prejudge how the Commission may act. Generally, I believe competitive markets have delivered substantial value to consumers over time, but the unprecedented pace of large-load growth in the PJM region presents novel challenges that may require creative, tailored solutions to maintain reliability while new generation and infrastructure

come online. When PJM files a proposal, I commit to working expeditiously with my colleagues to evaluate whether it is just and reasonable, supports reliability, and protects consumers. The merits of any proposed cost allocation among wholesale customers will be an important part of that analysis.

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)

Question 1: A 2024 report indicated that transmission spending is sharply increasing largely due to low-voltage, local transmission projects, which may be less efficient and cost-effective than higher-voltage regional or interregional projects, and are subject to less scrutiny by FERC.[1] This issue has also come up repeatedly in technical conferences convened by the FERC.

Question 1a: How should FERC ensure a buildout of more efficient and cost-effective transmission lines over more costly and less-effective transmission lines?

Answer: As transmission investment increases across the country, the Commission should remain focused on ensuring that consumers receive measurable value from every transmission dollar spent. That means carefully evaluating alternatives, avoiding unnecessary or duplicative investments, and making better use of the infrastructure already in place through technologies that increase the capacity, flexibility, and performance of the existing grid.

Question 1b: What opportunities exist for FERC to add more transparency to the local transmission planning process?

Answer: Several cases that directly involve the transparency of the local transmission planning process are pending before the Commission. Accordingly, I cannot comment on the merits of these matters. Without prejudging the facts of any pending case, however, I recognize that confidence in the local transmission planning process depends in part on ensuring that stakeholders have meaningful visibility into local transmission needs, the alternatives considered to meet those needs, and the reasoning behind ultimate planning decisions.

Question 1c: Does FERC need support from Congress to ensure that transmission projects paid for by ratepayers are efficient and cost-effective?

Answer: As transmission investment grows to meet our country's needs, we need continued focus on efficient planning, how best to evaluate alternatives, and how to meaningfully incorporate technologies that maximize the use of existing infrastructure into the planning process. Should Congress provide additional direction in this area, I would be committed to implementing those responsibilities in a manner that promotes reliability, affordability, and efficient use of ratepayer resources.

The Honorable Kevin Mullin (D-CA)

Question 1: One challenge with load forecasts is false demand – where utilities or grid operators plan for loads that ultimately do not materialize. How should ratepayers be protected from these costs if these large projects don't get built or disconnect early.

[1] https://rmi.org/insight/mind-the-regulatory-gap/

Answer: Accurate load forecasting is critical as utilities and grid operators plan for significant new demand from data centers and other large loads. Forecasting errors create risks on both sides of the equation—underestimating demand can leave regions without the resources and infrastructure needed to support reliability and economic growth, while overestimating demand can lead to unnecessary investments and stranded costs. The Commission is examining many of these issues through its ongoing large-load ANOPR action. While I cannot prejudge that proceeding, I believe greater transparency around projected demand and adherence to cost-causation principles can help support more informed planning decisions and reduce the risk that existing customers bear the costs of infrastructure built to serve speculative or unrealized demand.