



FROM: Kountoupes Denham Carr & Reid

DATE: Tuesday, February 3, 2026

RE: House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy Hearing on “Oversight of FERC: Advancing Affordable and Reliable Energy for All Americans”

Topline Summary

- The House Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee convened for a hearing on the “Oversight of FERC: Advancing Affordable and Reliable Energy for All Americans.”
- Both parties agreed on the need for more energy generation, faster interconnection timelines, and improved transmission infrastructure to address grid reliability concerns highlighted by Winter Storm Fern. All commissioners committed to prioritizing affordability and ensuring large loads like data centers pay their share. Republicans emphasized dispatchable fuel sources while Democrats stressed diverse generation resources including renewables and advanced nuclear.
- Republicans focused on expediting natural gas pipeline permitting, reducing regulatory barriers, and questioning state vetoes of infrastructure projects, while Democrats focused on consumer protection from rising utility costs, ensuring disadvantaged communities have input in siting decisions, and criticized delays in renewable energy permitting like offshore wind.

Members Attending: Chairman Bob Latta (R-OH), Ranking Member Kathy Castor (D-FL), Full Committee Chairman Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Full Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA), Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL), Rep. Diana Harshbarger (R-TN), Rep. Rob Menendez (D-NJ), Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA), Rep. Jennifer McClellan (D-VA), Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX), Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO), Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA), Rep. Russell Fry (R-SC), Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY), Rep. Kim Schrier (D-WA), Rep. Laurel Lee (R-FL), Rep. Julie Fedorchak (R-ND), Rep. Kevin Mullin (D-CA), Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH), Rep. John Joyce (R-PA), Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX), Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA), Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), & Rep. Craig Goldman (R-TX),

[Live Hearing Link](#)

Meeting called to order by Chairman Latta.



Opening Statements

Chairman Bob Latta (R-OH): The Subcommittee on Energy will now come to order. The Chair recognizes himself for five minutes for an opening statement again. Good morning and welcome today's energy subcommittee hearing with all five commissioners of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Again, welcome. We welcome Chairman Swett and Commissioner LaCerte for their first appearance for our subcommittee, and welcome back commissioners Rosner, See and Chang. FERC was established in 1970 by Congress as an economic regulator to ensure that electricity, natural gas and oil was delivered to the American people safely, securely and reasonably priced. Now, as our nation stands at the precipice of substantial change in the global economy, it is imperative for FERC to remain steadfastly focused on their core mission in order to fuel technological advancements and stabilize the bulk power system to keep the lights on they just came on. It is no secret that our grid is under extreme stress.

The head of the North American Electric Reliability corporation, or NERC, called the reliability crisis a five alarm fire. Average utility bills rose by 11% in 2025 after increasing by 29% in the four years prior, and substantially higher across our nation's bluest states, grid operators are flashing red alarms about the mismatch between growing demands and doing link base load resources. In fact, the Department of Energy found that the current pace of base load retirements and load growth raise the risk of blackouts by 100 times by the year 2030, and across the country, a growing number of Americans are concerned about the potential for data center development to raise their utility bills. How do we get here?

Decades of poor policy decision for federal and state governments steered utilities away from reliability centric investments and toward one intended to meet renewable energy goals, even while fuel generation costs have plummeted since the shale revolution, utility spending has been buoyed by costly investments on transmission and distribution to connect variable remote resources like wind and solar across the country. Retail rate filing cases at state commissions have highlighted several reasons for upward price pressures, transmission development for state energy policies, interest rates, wildfire and disaster mitigation, among others. In our wholesale market, states higher prices should act as a signal for new entrance. Unfortunately, permitting delays, excessive litigation and blue state policy prevent pipeline construction are preventing market forces from responding appropriately.

The current situation is untenable and also unsustainable. It is important to remind everyone about what's at stake in the AI race. Ask yourself, do you want your family's personal banking or health information stored in communist China by winning the AI race, restoring manufacturing jobs, lowering costs are not mutually exclusive when done properly. Research continues to show that the growth of large energy uses like data centers and manufacturing facilities can help stabilize the grid and make electricity more affordable.

To achieve this reality, we need FERC to remain laser focused on its core mission as an economic regulator. Along with the Trump Administration, the commission is riding the ship towards a more secure and prosperous future for all Americans throughout 2025 FERC returned



to a methodical approach to permitting interstate natural gas lines and LNG facilities they are working to streamline the process for licensing hydropower facilities to maintain and grow vital base load resources. The commission has also made substantial progress on addressing jurisdictional lines between federal and state authority over Co-Location and flexible power arrangement. Office, FERC, along with the administration, states are ensuring that costs associated with development data centers are not falling on the backs of rate payers.

And importantly, the commission has continued working through the National Association of regulatory utility commissioners collaborative to establish meaningful, productive and effective dialogue between federal and state partners to tackle challenges facing our nation's energy systems, while substantial progress has been made to reaffirm American energy dominance, more work remains. Today's hearing is a pitiful opportunity for the committee to better understand how FERC can best serve the interests of the American people.

I look forward to today's discussion, and I yield back the balance of my time, and the Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Florida's 14th district. The subcommittee Ranker for an opening statement for five minutes.

Ranking Member Kathy Castor (D-FL): Today's hearing comes as hardworking Americans are being crushed by a higher cost of living, including electric bills, and the U.S. electric grid is facing a new level of crisis driven by data center load growth, extreme weather, and aging infrastructure. As policymakers, it is our responsibility to help ensure that America's energy system can provide reliable and affordable service to our neighbors back home.

Last week, NERC's Long-Term Reliability Assessment highlighted the multiple risks that America's electric grid faces over the next ten years as peak electricity demand is expected to increase more than 20 percent nationwide by 2035.

We're seeing this play out in real time. More than a million people lost power during Winter Storm Fern, particularly in the Southeast. The main challenges: toppled utility poles, iced-over substations, and downed transmission lines.

The storm knocked out more than two dozen transmission lines owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority – cutting off power from utilities across Mississippi, Tennessee, and Louisiana. In Entergy's service territory across the Southeast, at least 30 transmission lines, 860 poles, and 60 substations went out of service.

PJM reported nearly 21 GW of generation was offline during hours of peak demand – including gas, coal, and oil. In comparison, wind, solar and batteries were helping make up the difference.

NERC's report highlights key opportunities for us to respond to the reliability crisis. First, we need to leverage load flexibility during times of grid stress, particularly for emerging large loads such as data centers. Second, we need to streamline siting and permitting, particularly for transmission. And finally, we need to adapt grid planning processes to ensure that new resources



can support essential reliability services, such as voltage, frequency, ramping, and dispatchability.

That is why Democrats and power providers have been calling out the Trump Administration's actions over the past year that have made our grid less reliable and more expensive. Secretary Burgum has required every wind or solar project on federal lands to get his personal sign-off – so last year, only one got permission to build.

Meanwhile, Secretary Wright has canceled funding for more than three hundred energy projects throughout the United States – including a \$1.8 billion loan to Arizona Public Service to build out new transmission.

These decisions make our grid less reliable and make it harder for regulators and grid operators to do their job. But FERC – at least for the moment – stands as a stark contrast. I want to commend the Commission for its recent bipartisan actions, including the development of co-location pathways in PJM.

The Commission has worked to quickly bring new energy on to our grid, including through automation and artificial intelligence tools to improve interconnection. However, we also need to pair these efforts with effective grid upgrades and transmission planning.

I hope that my Republican colleagues can finally get serious about working with us to upgrade America's transmission infrastructure. And we need to ensure that developers of all energy types have permitting certainty and that the federal government can be a trustworthy partner.

The U.S. grid is underutilized – on average using less than half of existing grid capacity. We can build a smarter, modern grid that adds load and lowers prices, but we need the right policy and regulatory support.

The United States added over 18 GW of energy storage in 2025, more than gas and wind combined. We already have 40 GW of virtual power plant capacity deployed today, and could reach 160 GW by 2030 – that would be enough to meet 20% of peak demand.

I'm glad to see several of our Commissioners highlight grid-enhancing technologies in their written testimonies, which could quickly increase grid capacity by 15-20%. This isn't your grandparents' electric grid. There are incredible modern tools and efficiencies that can lower costs and provide the reliable power we need in the years ahead.

So let's tackle the current reliability and affordability challenges by pursuing a portfolio of solutions, including strengthening our transmission infrastructure, adding solar-plus-battery systems, expanding onshore and offshore wind power, increasing energy efficiency, and incorporating grid enhancing technologies and demand flexibility.

There is a lot that Congress and FERC can achieve if we work together to deliver more energy and lower costs for our neighbors.



I yield back.

Full Committee Chairman Brett Guthrie (R-KY): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for all being here. I'd like to welcome you all, and two of you, Chairman Swett and Commissioner LaCerte, this is your first appearance before us.

We're happy to have all five of you here testifying the massive storms and deep freeze across the nation this week. This past week reminded 100 million Americans why energy and power is vital for the nation, the ability for 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 of 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 risk of blackouts when power demand spikes.

Now, we also must confront the unprecedented demand and national security imperative of building AI in a growing economy, growing affordability concerns add to 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 reconnect data centers and other loads faster as well. The Trump Administration would be should be commended for using its statutory tools to drive change, whether by keeping power available during emergency energy emergencies, or by various speed to take power initiatives, including those requesting FERC to take decisive action, testimony we 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 for growth, and we must not forget, states are essential for siding and permitting the generation transmission and new loads in a way that maximizes economic benefits and protects consumer bills. I am looking forward to this hearing and how FERC works with the states and how those relationships are going.

Full Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ): I would like to welcome all five Commissioners to today's hearing. You have a difficult job ahead of you. Our nation's electric grid is in the middle of an affordability and reliability crisis. New Jerseyans are paying 15 percent more for power and 12 percent more for natural gas than they were a year ago. One of FERC's most important responsibilities is to ensure "just and reasonable" prices. It is not working, and President Trump is making the electricity affordability crisis even worse.

And this not just a problem in New Jersey. Power prices have spiked across the country, and Trump's campaign promise to cut them in half has proven to be just another broken promise.



Last year, utilities requested a record \$31 billion in rate increases – double the pace of 2024. Prices nationwide are up 13 percent since Trump’s inauguration.

The reasons are clear. Our nation’s grid operators have proved themselves simply incapable of hooking up power to the grid fast enough – in no small part because their plans to expand the power grid are completely unfit for this day and age. I have made clear over the past year my displeasure at PJM, New Jersey’s grid operator, but while they are one of the worst offenders, they are not the only ones who have been caught asleep at the wheel.

When new sources of cleaner and cheaper power are ready to hook up to the grid, President Trump has blocked them for bogus reasons. Trump’s war against clean energy defies logic – particularly at a time when data centers powering artificial intelligence tools are adding power demand at a pace we have not seen in over a generation.

I want to be clear – AI tools cannot be built upon the backs of American families’ power bills. Data centers should be able to hook up to the grid, but they have to pay their fair share – and ensure that they are not going to cause the grid to collapse.

FERC’s role must be to establish rules of the road that make that happen. FERC must be the cop on the beat to ensure that Big Tech isn’t fleecing the average American to fund their ambitions.

FERC has the authority and the expertise to make this happen, but it is going to require the Commission to stand up to a White House that is bending over backwards for companies that are interested in building data centers to the detriment of American families’ monthly power bills. It is going to mean NOT discriminating against clean energy, no matter how much the White House may be pressuring you to do just that. And it is going to mean acting transparently, quickly, and decisively.

In the long-term, the only way to deal with increased demand – no matter if it’s from data centers, electric vehicles, or electrified home heating – is to build out the grid. And that is simply impossible while the White House wages a war on clean energy.

Offshore wind projects that were on the verge of delivering power to the grid have seen their permits illegally canceled. Hundreds of projects receiving funding from the Department of Energy had their funding illegally revoked, many simply because they were being built in a Democratic-run state. And potential clean energy projects on federal lands may never get off the ground because the White House has created an impossible bureaucratic nightmare for any company trying to build.

These actions are an embarrassment to our nation, but they’re also a threat to the pocketbooks and the safety of American families across the country.

Just last week, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation warned that a huge swath of the nation’s grid would be at high risk for blackouts by the end of this decade. The winter storm that blasted New Jersey and much of the East Coast just over a week ago pushed us right up to



the brink. If Republicans have their way, the next winter storm might push us over the edge instead.

We have to stop this madness. I look forward to hearing about how FERC is working to ensure that Americans have affordable electricity and a reliable electric grid in the face of skyrocketing demand.

Thank you and I yield back the balance of my time.

Witnesses

Laura Swett, Chairman, FERC

[*Testimony*](#)

Lindsay See, Commissioner, FERC

[*Testimony*](#)

David LaCerte, Commissioner, FERC

[*Testimony*](#)

David Rosner, Commissioner, FERC

[*Testimony*](#)

Judy Chang, Commissioner, FERC

[*Testimony*](#)

Q&A

Chairman Bob Latta (R-OH) asked if we need more or less energy. The panel all said we need more. Chairman Latta asked Chairman Swett how we obtain regulatory certainty. Chairman Swett said achieving certainty is core to everything that they are doing, and that she was thinking about that before she assumed the role of commissioner. She continued that they are taking a hard, holistic look at the open items at FERC. She added that if we end the flip-flopping of FERC regulatory paradigm and the uncertainty that is created by increasing regulation that far exceeds what FERC's mission is under the law. She said FERC is not looking at how they can clean up their regulations to provide clarity to those looking to invest millions into our grid and our pipelines. She said the best example is looking to expand their successful blanket program over natural gas pipelines, to see if there actions that can be taken to make it easier for the LNG facilities, and Hydropower projects. Chairman Swett said they are currently taking a hard look at comments from the industry to see where else they can provide certainty. Chairman Swett asked Cmsr Rosner what's happened to remove roadblocks that we have heard about in the past. Cmsr Rosner said all of their permit decisions since he has joined has been bipartisan and unanimous. He continued that they have been doing the NEPA reviews in line with the timeline written in statute, noting they have been ahead of schedule numerous times. Chairman Latta asked how they have been able to beat the timelines. Cmsr Rosner said the staff is looking for clear consensus from the commission and the commission is looking at the statues and providing clear directions to staff. He added that they have had a lot of legal battles over the past decade but



more recently the courts have given them ways to go about NEPA reviews. Lastly, they are having staff begin to write the order as they are writing the environmental review.

Ranking Member Kathy Castor (R-FL) discussed the approval of the MISO's short term, one time, era proposal to allow expedited generation interconnection. She noted that Cmsr Chang talked about the bottlenecks and Ranking Member Castor stated that one of the ways we can lower prices, and ensure reliability is to speed all the resources in these bottlenecks on to the grid. Ranking Member Castor asked Cmsr Chang if she can elaborate on the importance of the interconnection reforms required by FERC order 2023. Cmsr Chang said it is critical and have been working with stakeholders to make the interconnection reforms. She added that making sure we can advance resources that they call 'ready, first, serve' and have articulated in order 2023, which accelerates and tries to streamline the process of interconnection. She continued that they have asked to use the cluster studies and all the resources that are well prepared and ready to go are able to join the grid. Ranking Member Castor asked if they have seen progress. Cmsr Chang said they have seen progress, but no matter how fast they can study the projects and interconnection process, one of the bottlenecks is the transmission system. She added that if the system is not ready, or it is inadequate or the load is too great that becomes a bottleneck. She called on industry to make sure that we have a system that is ready for connection both the large loads and the generators. Ranking Member Castor said it makes no sense for the administration to be sabotaging grid modernization by withholding grants, loans, and others of the sorts. She noted that Cmsr Rosner has encouraged grid operators to deploy automation and AI tools and asked him to elaborate on this and how Congress can help. Cmsr Rosner said to do interconnection safely, a study is done on the neutrons, and the old way of doing that was essentially by hand and running a model. He added that about a year ago a MISO plant adopted a software, that helped cut down what would take 686 days down to 10 days. He continued that anything Congress can do, that can help industry move faster to do.

Full Committee Chairman Brett Guthrie (R-KY) asked Chairman Swett if FERC and its stakeholders could provide timely solutions to help meet the energy demands of the tech industry. Chairman Swett said that was her number one priority to provide what data centers need to connect and protect American data. Full Committee Chairman Guthrie asked Chairman Swett what she thought would be the biggest impact. Chairman Swett said that FERC could do everything in their jurisdiction to ensure clear rules for large loads to connect to the grid as quickly as possible. Full Committee Chairman Guthrie discussed the administration's request that FERC address affordability and connect large loads. He asked Cmsr. LaCerte if there were innovative solutions or approaches that he was thinking of to ensure both. Cmsr. LaCerte said they needed to provide as much as they could in flexibility to states, RTOS, generators and loads themselves, highlighting the PJM order as a step in the right direction. Cmsr. LaCerte also acknowledged regional differences and the need to approach each region individually. Cmsr Rosner added that they had been working to put all options on the table and pairing new generations with new load to reduce transmission and impact on regular homeowners. Full Committee Chairman Guthrie asked Cmsrs. See and Chang to talk about the experience and expertise states bring to the table to ensure that power systems meet demand and provide affordable, reliable power. Cmsr. See spoke about state expertise for their region, state dynamics, front line responsibility for resource adequacy and they were working cooperatively with states.



Cmsr. Chang emphasized the important role of working with state counterparts and the work that states were already doing to solve problems.

Full Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ) highlighted the proposal before FERC to create federal rules for data centers or any other large, concentrated sources of energy demand wanting to connect to the power grid and advocated ensuring that they did not impose unfair costs on consumers. He asked the witnesses to commit to prioritizing energy affordability in all their decisions this year. All the commissioners said yes. Full Committee Ranking Member Pallone asked Cmsr. Rosner to explain how the priorities he laid out at the beginning of year including accelerating generator interconnection via new technologies, implementing regional transmission planning reforms and improving load forecasting would help keep electricity affordable and reliable. Cmsr. Rosner said there was a scarcity of supply resulting in high prices for many parts of the country, so what they needed to do is build fast, utilizing AI, ensuring planning for the right transmission systems and let tech companies pay for it. Full Committee Ranking Member Pallone asked Cmsr. Chang about the importance of creating long-term solutions for problems such as interconnection timelines. Cmsr. Chang said indiscriminatory access to the transmission systems was the fundamental principle of FERCs work so that meant open access for all resources to participate in the wholesale market.

Vice Chair Randy Weber (R-TX) complemented Cmsr. See on her statement calling for modernization of the review process of LNG facilities. He continued that he believes that case specific authorizations for routine adjustments are unnecessary and could be improved. He asked Cmsr. See when the commission anticipates issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking for a blanket Natural Gas Act Section 3 authorization program. He also asked how something similar to a blanket certification process for LNG facilities could benefit the United States' ability to permit energy infrastructure in a timely manner going forward. Cmsr. See said the Commission is in the first stage of issuing the proposed rulemaking, which is obtaining and analyzing public input. She said that the Commission is working towards the possible implementation of this rulemaking in both a timely but also legal way. She continued that improving the permitting process for LNG facilities is very important for speeding up necessary infrastructure, since the problem in the United States isn't a lack of natural gas, but a lack of infrastructure. Vice Chair Weber noted that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is the rightful regulator for LNG safety standards and asked Cmsr. Rosner how FERC can work with other agencies to remove duplicative efforts that slow down infrastructure development. Cmsr. Rosner answered that he is aware that PHMSA is currently working on an updated set of safety regulations, and it hopes to publish it in 2026. He continued that he hopes PHMSA can lead FERC in establishing safety regulations. He noted that FERC working with other agencies would not allow efficiency in infrastructure development.

Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA) asked Cmsr. Rosner how to get to the point where routine cost allocation within regions can happen in the same way and with the same confidence as interregional high voltage transmission. Cmsr. Rosner answered that state regulators having more input at the beginning of the process helps with cost allocation in a region and continued that doing something similar with interregional transmission could have the same benefits. Rep. Peters asked if Congress should get involved in helping with cost allocation for interregional



transmission by laying out criteria. He then asked if instead of Congress, FERC should be the one to identify the criteria. Cmsr. Rosner noted that FERC has spent a lot of time on regional transmission and not enough time on inter-regional transmission. He said that FERC would welcome help from Congress. Rep. Peters mentioned how DOE was supposed to create a map of where inter-regional transmissions were supposed to go and highlighted how that was not completed. He asked Cmsr. Rosner if FERC should be the one responsible for creating that inter-regional transmission map. Cmsr. Rosner answered that current statutes would cause the map producing process to take around eight years, and emphasized FERC would be welcome to gaining more tools from Congress to speed up that process. Rep. Peters asked Cmsr. See if the private sector should be the one responsible for defining inter-regional transmission lines instead of the government, with FERC being the one to permit those lines. Cmsr. See said that she is open to cooperation between the private sector and FERC.

Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA) discussed the success Georgia is having as they are moving with speed to power data centers, hyperscale's, and advanced manufacturing all while balancing affordability for all customers. Rep. Allen asked Cmsr LaCerte if he thinks its possible for other parts of the country to benefit from the success being seen in the southeast. Cmsr LaCerte said Georgia is an outlier in excellence and that it begins with the public utility commission. Rep. Allen asked Chairman Swett and Cmsr Rosner to explain the nuances between pipelines and electric transmission systems and how might a states visibility into their own electric infrastructure better inform state permitting authority compared to federal takeover. Chairman Swett said the bulk electric system is one of the most complex machines humans have ever built. She said when it comes to permitting large interstate transmission projects, there are considerations of states who have choices over their resource mix, and those types of choices will change the cost of electricity in those states. She added the interest are shared among the pipelines and the shippers to execute FERCs mission to ensure plentiful supply of natural gas at reasonable prices. Cmsr Rosner said we need to work on both quickly, and that we are in need power grid and national gas grid that is ready to go.

Rep. Rob Menendez (D-NJ) noted that his state has seen electricity prices increase by 15%. He then discussed the rule about co-location in the PJM region finding their tariff which governors' co-location to be unjust and unreasonable for lacking clarity on rates. Rep. Menendez asked Cmsr Rosner why the commission decided to pursue a rule on co-location power generation. Cmsr Rosner said we have this challenge where people want to connect new generation and new loads quickly. He added that the approach they took was to put all the options are on the table and are all legal, so that they can take advantage of flexibility and those bringing their own generation. Rep. Menendez asked Chairman Swett if co-locating energy generation for large loads an effective way to bring down energy costs for residential ratepayers. Chairman Swett said when making decisions she returns to the statue where rates must be just and reasonable. She said considering the rates American consumers paid was top of mind, and said the solution they came up with they believed best safeguarded Americans. Rep. Menendez asked Chairman Swett how does FERC plan to ensure these large companies are responsible for the full cost of their demand. Chairman Swett said since her time at FERC they have received numerous filings that facilitate connection of large loads at datacenters from billion-dollar corporations. She added that in every order they have approved the data center builders are willing and volunteering to



pay for all the costs associated with connecting them to the grid. She continued that many of them are looking for solutions and opportunities to bring their own generation to reduce the strain upon the grid. She added that everyone is unified on the issue. Rep. Menendez asked if the commission is committed to strict oversight of grid managers and putting residential consumers first. Chairman Swett said the commission rates that come out of their jurisdiction is about 1/3 of what consumers pay, the other portions is the cost to produce power locally and state programs. She added that for the 1/3 of the bill FERC is responsible for they are absolutely committed to consumers.

Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL) spoke about the increase in utility spending on transmission distribution over the spending on fuel and generation, citing state regulations on transmission for distant resources like wind and solar. He noted that the shell gas boom had lowered fuel and generation costs and asked Cmsr LaCerte to what extent were the transmission distribution costs, particularly in states with aggressive clean energy mandates, contributing to higher electricity prices and affordability challenges. Cmsr. LaCerte said FERC was focused on affordability and reliability of projects for approval and there was a need for transmission, but it had to be economically feasible. He highlighted the potential in natural gas pipelines for transmission purposes. Rep. Palmer spoke about the increase in investments in the last two decades and the need to secure critical mineral and rare earth element supply chains. He asked Cmsr. LaCerte how much of the cost increase for electricity was because of price increases of materials like copper and aluminum and transformer components. Cmsr. LaCerte said the cost of materials went up over the last administration, but generally prices would go up so they had to tackle the issues now. Rep. Palmer spoke about hydrocarbon facility closures, decreasing capacity and opportunities for refining processes. He asked Cmsr. LaCerte if the transmission lines from shuttered coal plants were still intact and Cmsr. LaCerte said by and large they were. Rep. Palmer suggested use of small modular reactors at those facilities and asked Cmsr. LaCerte his thoughts. Cmsr. LaCerte said retrofitting older power plants with new technologies was the right approach and all options needed to be on the table. Rep. Palmer discussed NEPA permitting reforms to improve environmental reviews to better enable infrastructure build out and asked Cmsr. LaCerte if any of these had been addressed in permitting legislation that was satisfactory. Cmsr. LaCerte said no and they had a long way to go.

Rep. Jennifer McClellan (D-VA) noted FERCs role to ensure just and reasonable electricity rates during the rising cost of energy outpacing inflation. She said projects approved by the commission needed to benefit all rate payers and did not place undue harm on historically disadvantaged communities. She emphasized the importance of public health, the impact of the environment on public health and expediting new energy sources to the grid without placing further burden on communities that historically faced poor health outcomes due to reliance on fossil fuel. Rep. McClellan asked Chairman Swett how the Office of Public Participation (OPP) ensured that disadvantaged communities and tribes had the opportunity to ensure the commission takes their needs and legacy of pollution into account. Chairman Swett said FERC had a statutory mandate to meaningfully consider any comments they receive which included the comments of the tribes and any disadvantaged communities who participated, and they engaged whenever possible including preemptively reaching out to communities for participation. Rep. McClellan noted that energy companies knew when to comment, but average citizens often did



not find out until too late to influence the citing of a project, negatively impacting health outcomes and cultural and historical sites, but earlier community engagement was better for everyone.

Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH) asked Cmsr. See if she agrees that LNG exports provide flexibility and act as a balancing tool for the U.S. natural gas market. Cmsr. See answered that she agrees. Rep. Balderson asked Chairman Swett to discuss what actions FERC is considering taking to expedite the construction of needed energy infrastructure projects and asked how these actions will help deliver affordable and reliable energy to constituents. Chairman Swett said that in the northeast during winter storm Fern, 40% of power generation came from fuel oil since there is not enough gas infrastructure to deliver gas. She continued that FERC is looking to critically evaluate its permitting actions. She highlighted that when it comes to the permitting for pipelines, FERC is trying to streamline the NEPA process amidst the new tools that the Supreme Court and Congress have given the Commission. Rep. Balderson concluded by highlighting that generation and load interconnection timelines do not match the speed that is needed to serve new large loads.

Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) asked the panel if they believe in an all of the above policy and a diversity of generation resources. Cmsr. Chang, Cmsr. See, Chairman Swett, Cmsr. Rosner, and Cmsr. LaCerte all answered yes. Rep. DeGette spoke to the importance of a diversity in energy generation resources and mentioned the important roles of advanced nuclear, wind, solar, geothermal, and energy storage. Rep. DeGette asked the panel if FERC and Congress should support the building of generation and transmission. Cmsr. Chang, Cmsr. See, and Cmsr. LaCerte said they support the building. Chairman Swett did not answer yes and instead emphasized the importance of states' role in construction activities. Rep. DeGette criticized FERC's approval of an interconnection plan to let projects, including several gas fire plants, have an expedited process to interconnect certain types of generators to the grid. She added that several projects were not completed due to transmission constraints on the power grid, decreasing the expected power being brought online. Rep. DeGette said that this illustrates that one-off ad hoc solutions to expedite interconnection are not immediate solutions, and asked Cmsr. Chang to talk about the role that adding more transmission plays in adding more generators and sources of power demand to the grid. Cmsr. Chang answered that there needs to be reforms on interconnection of generation but noted that speeding up certain generators does not mean that the grid will be more efficient. She emphasized that the grid needs to be enhanced as well for sped up generation to work.

Rep. Diana Harshbarger (R-TN) highlighted one of FERC responsibilities to ensure rates charged for interstate pipeline services be just and reasonable. She continued that in her district in East Tennessee, a natural gas subsidiary filed with FERC for a 123% rate increase, even though FERC has stated that there is only justification for a 36% rate increase and are being forced to pay the higher rate increase until the dispute is resolved. Rep. Harshbarger asked Cmsr. See in general does FERC's approach to a case change in a pipeline has captive industrial ratepayers. Cmsr. See said their core mission is to ensure just and reasonable rates. She continued that they are committed to looking at the records and any increase is justified, and they are very concerned about all those factors. Cmsr. LaCerte said he is also concerned about captive



pipelines, and stated we need to build more capacity in our country. Rep. Harshbarger asked Chairman Swett how they ensure the cases are handled in a timely manner and if there is a rate increase that they are just and reasonable. Chairman Swett said due to her prior experience litigating rate increase cases she understands how long they have taken in the past and the burden on both sides. She said with that in mind they are taking a hard look at what they can do and noted that Congress can also help by limiting litigation exposure on FERC decisions. Rep. Harshbarger asked Cmsr. LaCerte to what extent did rising load forecast, extreme weather risks to modernize its blanket certificate program. Cmsr. LaCerte said large loads and growth are at the top of their minds and tackle these issues as priorities for them. He said he would like to see more consensus on the load forecasting and its hard to plan when there is so much disagreement, but regardless we need more generation, more pipelines.

Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA) asked Cmsr. Chang how utilities recoup capital cost from their customers. Cmsr. Chang said utilities make capital investments and the return on that capital is passed directly onto customers, with slight variations for municipal or public power. She added the amount of investments made are passed onto the ratepayers. Rep. Matsui discussed the Trump administration canceling billions of dollars in grid resiliency projects, and the capital costs of those projects will now be born by those utilities in which the cost will be passed through to the ratepayers. She asked if that was correct. Cmsr. Chang said in general the capital investment dollars need to come from somewhere including ratepayers. Rep. Matsui noted that panel's agreement that we need more power and while needing to get a handle on rising cost. She also discussed the back order for gas turbine is stretched out to 2030 while the cost has increased 2-3x what it used to be. She continued that a distributive powerplant can be deployed in six months for less than a million dollars. Rep. Matsui asked what can FERC and Congress do to encourage the use of these advanced transmission technologies. Cmsr. Chang said she is a big supporter of advanced transmission technology, and broadly speaking the US is at the forefront of all technologies and that should include transmission. She continued that using advanced technologies to squeeze more out of our existing generation is a no brainer. Rep. Matsui asked Chairman Swett how she views FERC's role in supporting and improving the interconnection process for large energy loads. Chairman Swett said FERC has jurisdiction over the bulk electric system, and large loads can have many options in terms of flexibility from both the state and federal level. She continued that they are committed to allowing and facilitating large load connection within their jurisdiction in away that ensures just and reasonable rates. Cmsr. Rosner says the commission has jurisdiction over connecting large loads, and this past winter they tried to make that more efficient.

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) said the electricity industry was in a state of sustained change, and FERC must work harder than ever to meet the challenges with innovative and proactive solutions. She noted that while there were dangerous impacts of Winter Storm Fern on Iowa, their utilities were able to keep lights on due to a resilient grid and diverse resource mix. She said they needed to solve evolving challenges in the near and long term while keeping energy affordable for families and businesses. Rep. Miller Meeks asked Cmsr. Rosner if they were continuing to add capacity from 2021-2024. Cmsr. Rosner said he did not have the backward-looking numbers, but last year they fast tracked projects that would add about 50 gigawatts of new generation to the grid. Rep. Miller Meeks asked Cmsr. Rosner if that added



capacity would keep energy prices affordable, which he confirmed and added that it would be reliable as well. She discussed taxpayers bearing the risk of erroneous load forecasting and PJM projections of a 4-gigawatt swing. She asked Cmsr. Rosner and See if there was a mechanism at FERC or the RTO level to true up costs when forecasts prove too high. Cmsr. See said accurate load forecasting was a part of the concerns of underbuilding or overbuilding the system and noted they had a conference last summer with experts to discuss best practices moving forward. Cmsr. Rosner said load forecasting was about decision confidence for agreement on the build and they had adjustment auctions to help with overbuilding.

Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX) spoke about the high electric costs due to delays in connecting new generations and storage to the grid. He spoke about the approach in Texas of an energy only interconnection model allowing them to connect to new generation faster increasing supply and putting downward pressure on prices. He asked Cmsr. Rosner from an affordability perspective if he agreed that getting lower cost supply online sooner even with some curtailment was better for consumers than waiting years for full deliverability. Cmsr. Rosner said it was amazing what Texas had done and he had thought about the connect and manage policy, and it was clear they needed more options on the table, so the connect and manage system had opportunities. Rep. Veasey asked Cmsr. Rosner if there was anything more FERC could do to ensure that order 2023 was implemented in a way that enabled that outcome in other regions. Cmsr. Rosner said it would be good to get those models fully implemented around the country and they were at the tail end of compliance with the rule. Rep. Veasey asked Cmsr. Chang if faster interconnection was preferable to scarcity bottlenecks from a consumer protection perspective. Cmsr. Chang said that was correct, and if one of the barriers was inadequate transmission capability, they needed to make sure the transmission grid was ready and manageable.

Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-OR) asked Chairman Swett if the national security risk posed by Chinese developed transformers is still present. Chairman Swett answered that the risk is still present. Rep. Bentz asked Chairman Swett what FERC is doing to address that risk. Chairman Swett said that she is prioritizing allowing Americans the opportunity to build, connect, and operate data centers in the United States. Rep. Bentz asked Cmsr. LaCerte what reforms should be made to the relicensing process. Cmsr. LaCerte said that NEPA reforms and review should be a priority, focusing on the mandates given by Congress instead of on things that are not statutorily required. Rep. Bentz asked Cmsr. LaCerte what FERC can do when it comes to conditions imposed on a license by a federal agency. Cmsr. LaCerte answered that FERC can do better to work with its federal counterparts to determine priorities and obstacles for licensing. Rep. Bentz expressed his concern about the possibility of any state dragging its feet and imposing difficult conditions for power generation licenses, and asked Cmsr. LaCerte if there is anything FERC can do to prevent that. Cmsr. LaCerte said that balancing FERC's authority and the authority of the states when it comes to licensing has been a problem. Rep. Bentz noted that the United States is facing a challenge with regard to the AI race and the affordability crisis. He asked Cmsr. LaCerte if the United States will have to give up affordability for winning the AI race, or vice versa. Cmsr. LaCerte answered that giving up either is unacceptable, and emphasized the need for a balanced approach.



Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) asked Chairman Swett if FERC’s mission includes assisting consumers and obtaining economically efficient energy at an affordable cost. Chairman Swett answered yes. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez asked if FERC sets the rates that utility companies must pay for transmission of wholesale energy to achieve that mission. Chairman Swett said FERC litigates right filing to determine what outcome is just and reasonable. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez asked if because of FERC’s litigation and rate settings, utility companies charge people through monthly utility bills. Chairman Swett said that it is her understanding that public utility commissions and state policies make up at least 1/3 of utility bills that consumers pay. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez highlighted that consumers are struggling to pay their utility bills, and 1/3 of households skipped out on purchasing necessities to pay their utility bills. She noted that energy utilities charging Americans are among some of the most powerful and profitable industries. She mentioned the energy utility in New York, Con Edison (ConEd), which made \$2 billion in profits in 2025 despite numerous issues like explosions. She expressed her concern at the fact that ConEd is profiting from the energy market while giving unreliable and increasingly unaffordable energy. She highlighted how FERC sets the rates of profit from transmission system investments, which allows energy utilities to make a profit from upgrading their system, even if it does not allow for more reliable energy distribution for consumers. She asked Chairman Swett about the average return on equity that FERC has set for utilities like ConEd. Chairman Swett said that she is happy to work with Rep. Ocasio-Cortez' staff to answer that specific question about ConEd. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez added that the current rate average is around 10% for transmission utilities and asked Chairman Swett if that sounds accurate. Chairman Swett said that she is unsure. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez asked Chairman Swett if she believes that the model of a set return on equity is the most economically efficient model for everyday Americans. Chairman Swett answered that the Commission is actively addressing solutions to lower costs and added that she would be happy to work with Rep. Ocasio-Cortez.

Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX) argued that areas with more access to pipeline and natural gases during the winter storm paid lower prices for their electricity compared to states with less pipeline access. He asked Chair Swett how FERC is approaching permitting for interstate gas pipelines to serve the increasing demand of electricity at a lower cost. Chair Swett asserted that FERC was unified in attempting to develop more infrastructure to lower costs for Americans. She discussed how FERC reviews natural gas pipeline applications and stated that they examine how these applications will bring economic benefits to Americans, including cost. Rep. Pfluger asked Chair Swett how FERC is collaborating with states who attempt to block natural gas pipelines. Chair Swett noted that states have the ability to veto applications due to the Clean Water Act and said if Congress changed this regime, FERC would be happy to implement any directives. Rep. Pfluger inquired if having natural gas pipelines would lower prices. Chair Swett said that areas that do not have enough access to gas are paying far more than other areas and that this is not acceptable for Americans. Rep. Pfluger asked Chair Swett if regions will face reliability challenges if they do not have access to dispatchable fuels. Chair Swett stated that over 75% of the power provided during the winter storm that kept the grid reliable was from dispatchable generators. Rep. Pfluger asked Chair Swett what FERC stood for. Chair Swett said that FERC accepted and was willing to work with the generation and market design provided by the states.



Rep. Jake Auchincloss (D-MA) discussed his experience with the winter storm in New England. He argued that wind turbines would have provided a tremendous amount of energy for his constituents if the Trump administration had not stalled permitting for wind energy. Rep. Auchincloss asked Cmsr. See if she had mentioned the importance of “legally durable signals that get steel in the ground” in her testimony. Cmsr. See said yes. Rep. Auchincloss also agreed that there should be legally durable signals that get steel in the water. Cmsr. See stated that her role as an economic regulator was to ensure that there were the best options available. Rep. Auchincloss inquired if she was just referring to the ground. Cmsr. See argued that she was not responsible for the generation makeup of states. Rep. Auchincloss asserted that she had written this in her testimony and asked Cmsr. See the question again. Cmsr. See responded that her focus was on the areas in FERC’s jurisdiction, and she believed in the importance of legally durable signals. Rep. Auchincloss inquired if this applied to both ground and water. Cmsr. See explained that this applied to infrastructure to deliver reliable and affordable power. Rep. Auchincloss argued that FERC was a resource-agnostic organization and that they should support any type of signals. Cmsr. See said it was important to act in a legally durable way. Rep. Auchincloss asked Cmsr. Rosner if Massachusetts should overturn moratoriums on new nuclear power to unlock clean, affordable, and reliable baseload power and address growing energy demand. Cmsr. Rosner said that diverse energy sources were important and that states should have more electrons. Rep. Auchincloss asked if this meant offshore and nuclear sources. Cmsr. Rosner said it could be from any source.

Rep. Russell Fry (R-SC) discussed what he has heard today focusing on permitting, permitting reform, and oversight processes that disciplined, predictable and focused on outcomes. He continued that it also relies on a strong federal-state partnership working in lock step with local utilities. He added that the supreme court decision should loosen the environmental impact statement. Rep. Fry asked Chairman Swett how FERC has changed its NEPA practice in response to the 7 county decisions and what is left to do to come in line with that decision. Chairman Swett said the 7 county decision allowed FERC to realign their emission analysis with the statue responsibility. She added that they no longer analyze the indirect emission from upstream production or downstream combustion, that in itself has cut down the time for staff to evaluate environmental reviews. Rep. Fry asked if there were any quantifiers. Chairman Swett said she will get back to him. She continued that they no longer require GHG emissions as a basis to require a lot more environmental resource heavy impact statement and no longer use the flawed social cost of carbon which was using in NEPA reports for several years. Rep. Fry asked how expanding these cost thresholds so projects can qualify for expediting improve project efficiency and help meet rising energy demands. Cmsr Rosner said the commission’s existing blanket certification was temporarily adjusted up and considering a final rule, they are also considering the same for hydropower projects and LNG projects. Rep. Fry asked how he views the role of accurate load forecasting to assist in future planning. Cmsr. Rosner said better data, better decisions.

Rep. Kim Schrier (D-WA) discussed as utilities and energy markets choose to join or not join, it will create boundaries between the two markets, called market seams, which will pose a real challenge. Rep. Schrier asked Chairman Swett is addressing the challenge of making this fragmented system work on her agenda. Chairman Swett said it is her agenda because of how



important it is to people under their jurisdiction. She continued that she is aware of how fragmented the west is and how it poses different challenges engineering wise from the rest of the country. She stated that FERC stands ready to evaluate any proposals entities in the west want to make. Rep. Schrier asked what her next steps are. Chairman Swett said as with other proceedings they stand in a receptive posture regulated entities would like to bring to them. Rep. Schrier asked if it is correct to send the utilities to get in touch with them. Chairman Swett said they are willing to work with her and her staff to provide the help they need. Rep. Schrier asked if she could talk about what actions FERC can take to ensure affordability and reasonable rates as they navigate this new landscape. Chairman Swett said in the context of seams their office of electric reliability has a vast number of staff that are constantly monitoring the grid, and seams present a unique issue as it comes to reliability.

Rep. Laurel Lee (R-FL) spoke about the rise in energy demand and the need for energy infrastructure to meet the moment, underscored by Winter Storm Fern. She discussed the need to strengthen cybersecurity of critical infrastructure and asked Chairman Swett how FERC's Office of Energy Infrastructure Security (OEIS) was supporting the mission of energy reliability and affordability. Chairman Swett said OEIS was looking at everything both from an eagle eye view and on the ground to coordinate FERC with three letter agencies to remain informed of threats and educated on how to address them with the Office of Electric Reliability to make permanent national standards for cybersecurity. Rep. Lee asked Chairman Swett about FERC's partnerships with other federal agencies and why that collaboration was helping to strengthen critical infrastructure. Chairman Swett spoke about attacks from foreign adversaries on infrastructure, so they worked with the intelligence agencies and DOE to information share. Rep. Lee asked Chairman Swett if they were also working with private stakeholders to help them elevate their security posture for cyber and physical threats. Chairman Swett said OEIS reached out to private offices, and utilities approached them for help as well.

Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) asked Chairman Swett what she saw as the role for enhanced long term planning processes that accurately account for growing demand, increasing risks, and maintaining an affordable and reliable electricity system. Chairman Swett said they were meeting the prospect of historically escalating demand so long term planning was incredibly important. Rep. Tonko emphasized the need for accurate load forecasting methods so they do not over or under build. He asked Cmsr. Rosner why he felt it was important to ask regional grid operators about their methods to forecast large load and what the big takeaways from that inquiry were. Cmsr. Rosner said that better data made for better decisions, as did communication between grid operators. Rep. Tonko highlighted NERC's 2025 long-term reliability assessment recognizing that large loads inherently add volatility to load forecasts and there was a lack of historical gigawatt scale interconnection requests. He spoke about the expertise in energy system modeling, analysis and data collection from the national labs and the Energy Information Administration. He asked Cmsr. Rosner if he thought there was more they could do at the federal level to support states in their efforts to improve their forecasting tools Cmsr. Rosner said there was and added that there was a lot of uncertainty around modeling, so getting their arms around that was important. Rep. Tonko asked Cmsr. Rosner to speak about the importance of order 1920 and how long-term transmission planning was foundational to an affordable, reliable electric system. Cmsr. Rosner said improving the transmission system based on future demand was



critical. Rep. Tonko criticized the administration's position on keeping coal fired power plants to continue operating.

Rep. Nick Langworthy (R-NY) mentioned his legislation, the Energy Choice Act. He emphasized the need to match growing energy demand with generation, adding that without that match, transmission and fuel reliability will suffer, and the costs for consumers will increase. He asked Chairman Swett how FERC assesses reliability risks when states mandate electrification but restrict the infrastructure needed to support it. Chairman Swett said that FERC can only take the markets as they come and noted that through the Federal Power Act, states are the only ones who can determine where generation is sited, what type of generation is built, and what pipelines they give Clean Water Act permits to. Rep. Langworthy asked Chairman Swett what FERC is doing to maintain reliability in fuel diversity when states have restricted generation and infrastructure, especially in extreme weather conditions. Chairman Swett answered that FERC is maintaining the reliability of the bulk electric system and does whatever it can to reach out to utilities during a crisis but noted that FERC's jurisdiction does not extend to distribution and retail system in states. Rep. Langworthy asked Cmsr. See how the pipeline bottleneck in the northeast impacts energy reliability and affordability in the region. Cmsr. See spoke to the importance of increased and interconnected infrastructure to allow for more reliability and affordability.

Rep. Michael Rulli (R-OH) criticized the violation of the Natural Gas Act in the past, which has put U.S. national security at risk while increasing costs. He asked the panel how state actions have impacted natural gas development and grid reliability in the United States. Chairman Swett said that an act of Congress can allow for a natural gas pipeline to be built since states have the power to veto a pipeline project, and FERC does not have the power to overrule that veto. Rep. Rulli asked Chairman Swett what suggestions FERC would give to Congress to help it write a bipartisan bill to expand natural gas pipelines in the United States. Chairman Swett answered that the Clean Water Act needs to be revised to put a limit on the ability to veto a federal project. Rep. Rulli asked Chairman Swett if Sec. Lee Zeldin should help with revising the Clean Water Act. Chairman Swett said she cannot answer on behalf of Sec. Zeldin.

Rep. Julie Fedorchak (R-ND) noted that North Dakota had the lowest electricity costs in the country and argued that this was because of policy decisions that prioritized prices and demand. She stated that she came to Congress to fight for commonsense energy policy and urged her colleagues to do the same. She asked Chair Swett to outline what Congress can do to help FERC do their work faster. Chair Swett recommended placing timelines on states' abilities to veto projects and the ability to appeal a FERC decision. Rep. Fedorchak asked Chair Swett when she would be able to provide a report to Congress on the FERC rules and regulations she was currently evaluating. Chair Swett said she would be looking at these rules for the entirety of her tenure and expressed her willingness to discuss these issues with Rep. Fedorchak's office.

Rep. Greg Landsman (D-OH) asked Chair Swett to discuss FERC's process to deliver lower electricity rates in a manner his constituents would understand. Chair Swett stated that FERC always considered the rates consumers paid in their decision-making processes. Rep. Landsman noted that FERC had the power to adjust profits for each company. He asked her how quickly



this could happen. Chair Swett said that every rate was examined to see the rate of return but argued that this only made up one third of a ratepayer's bill. Rep. Landsman stated that his constituents would probably be excited to see a third of their bills go down. He discussed the rise in AI demand and expressed his concerns over utility rates going up for Americans. He asked Chair Swett what she would say to local communities worried about data centers being built in their areas. Chair Swett said every agreement FERC approved provided for data center companies to cover full upgrade costs. She stated that many companies she discussed this with were even willing to subsidize local ratepayer utility bills. Rep. Landsman said that Congress should establish legislation to require companies to do this. He asked Chair Swett what she was doing to ensure local communities were involved in these types of decisions. Chair Swett stated that community engagement was not under FERC's jurisdiction, but that many data centers had understood the importance of this. Rep. Landsman argued that this was not his district's experience and discussed how many data centers in Ohio were bypassing community needs and would ultimately increase costs.

Rep. Craig Goldman (R-TX) asked Chairman Swett what the biggest opportunities are to improve FERC. Chairman Swett said she is very proud of the agency they are representing and have made a lot of strides in what they are doing including improving FERC moral. She added that having more certainty on the gray areas of their jurisdiction for example permitting. Rep. Goldman asked if she anticipates to keep with the timeline on FERC rule making for co-location and interconnect for data centers to be complete by the April 2026 deadline. Chairman Swett said that is historic problem that is taking all the minds to solve. She said they have gotten over 300 sets of comments, in which every single one needs to be analyzed and responded to, and they are currently moving as fast as they can to create a thoughtful and durable answer. Rep. Goldman asked Cmsr Rosner what recommendation does he have for Congress to make speed and success more permanent. Cmsr. Rosner said having a bipartisan consensus amongst commissioners helps they do their work more rapidly, and having a unanimous decision makes them more legally durable. He added that all of the above permitting reform that Congress deems appropriate, he would be excited to implement as a commissioner. Rep. Goldman asked what should be done to expand natural gas pipelines in New England. Cmsr. See said we need more infrastructure and will respond more in writing.

Rep. Kevin Mullin (D-CA) asked what specific cost allocation frameworks will protect consumers from these new large loads, such as data centers. Cmsr. Chang said the captive customers have always been the one to pay for system upgrades, but as they enter this new age, they have the opportunity to upgrade the system for everyone not just the data centers. She said we also have the opportunity to increase the capability of the grid for everyone while keeping the rates flat. She added that we run the risk that if upgrades are to only benefit large customers, then those prices should not be shifted to existing captive customers. Rep. Mullin asked Cmsr. Rosner to describe the importance of ensuring RTO filings strictly comply with the reliability and affordability mandates of orders 1920 and 1920a. Cmsr. Rosner said he looks forward to working on compliance, but as an individual commissioner he does not set the timeline for moving that forward. He added that this is the type of rulemaking that brings states in at the ground floor, get a 20 year forward look and get comments on how it should run and how the cost should be shared. Rep. Mullin asked how critical is it to expanded access to real time data for the success



of demand response programs and how would that help lower costs for families. Cmsr. Rosner said it is critical to have access to the data. He added that the cheapest megawatt is the one you do not use, and that setting up demand response is it creates a lot of flexibility to set up programs that work for consumers, and various size businesses.

Rep. John Joyce (R-PA) said ensuring every American has affordable and reliable energy had become increasingly complicated in recent years from premature retirement of dispatchable baseload power, and the increased demands on the grid from AI data centers, made more complicated by extreme weather events. He said he wanted to discuss what the commission saw as a path forward to recognize the potential of AI and advanced manufacturing while keeping energy affordable. He asked Cmsr. LaCerte what role FERC could play in establishing guidelines for when and how energy demand for new projects were considered as part of a load forecast. Cmsr. LaCerte said order 1920 was a good start but they could partner better with states to encourage generation as well as a good energy mix of natural gas pipelines and baseload power. Rep. Joyce asked what the risks and downsides when a load forecast accounts for demand that is unlikely to ever materialize or when demand arises that forecasts do not count for. Cmsr. LaCerte said that when the load forecast is inaccurate, because it was too high, consumers were going to pay the bill and they need better forecasting and data for proper planning. Rep. Joyce spoke about proactive contracts between data centers and existing or new generation sources for energy demand to provide predictability. He asked Chairman Swett how FERC could ensure that existing generators were not disadvantaged in entering into long term deals with large load as compared to load that partners with new generation. Chairman Swett said they did everything in a nondiscriminatory manner and would consider the merits to create a just and reasonable result.

Chairman Latta brought the hearing to a close.