



NARUC

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

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Essential Guide to NARUC Load Growth and Large Loads Resources



Overview

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) members are increasingly faced with challenges surrounding the increased demands that large load customers—particularly data centers—place on the grid.

This guide connects commissioners and commission staff to essential load growth resources that the NARUC Center for Partnerships & Innovation (CPI) has developed with support from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). All of these resources can be found on the [NARUC Load Growth Resources for Utility Regulators webpage](#), which acts as a central hub for relevant information on large loads and load growth. In addition to reports, technical papers, and virtual training opportunities, the website will soon include podcasts and articles. For more information, contact Jeff Loiter, jloiter@naruc.org.

Foundational NARUC Resources on Large Loads and Data Centers

- [NARUC-NASEO Comprehensive Electricity Planning Initiative Roadmaps for Comprehensive Electricity Planning in an Era of Load Growth](#), July 2026

NARUC and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) have provided a forum for the development of state-led pathways toward a more resilient, efficient, and affordable grid that accommodates load growth. Three roadmaps produced by NARUC and NASEO members describe visions for ideal comprehensive electricity planning processes that align distribution, generation, and transmission planning processes that historically have not significantly informed one another.

- [Data Center Siting Primer](#), forthcoming summer 2026

Intended specifically for utility regulators who are starting to engage on hyperscale data center development and tariffs in their states, this primer will help state utility commissions understand the data center development process, the stakeholders involved, and key decision points.

About the NARUC Center for Partnerships & Innovation

NARUC CPI identifies emerging challenges and connects state commissions with expertise and strategies to navigate complex decision-making. CPI accomplishes this goal by building relationships, developing resources, and delivering training that provides answers to state commissions' questions. NARUC CPI conducts work in five key energy topics: generation; transmission; distribution; customers; and critical infrastructure, cybersecurity, and resilience. Find all resources and upcoming events at: www.naruc.org/cpi.

- [Consolidated 2025 NARUC Demand Roundtable Series Summary](#), February, July, and November 2025
Three 2025 NARUC Demand Roundtables brought together a rotating group of seven public utility commissioners, seven large electricity customers, and seven grid operators to discuss critical issues surrounding increased energy demand over the next decade. The summary highlights four recurrent and widely discussed themes synthesized from conversations among the more than 60 participants during 2025: collaboration, transparency and certainty, responsibility for incurred costs, and innovation. Individual event summaries are also available: [February 2025](#), [July 2025](#), [November 2025](#).

Publications and Activities on Key Large Load Topics

The following resources can be found on the [NARUC Load Growth Resources for Utility Regulators webpage](#). Hyperlinks lead to PDFs of the publications or webinar presentations. To view recordings of past webinars, visit those Load Growth webpage or [NARUC's YouTube channel](#).

Improving Electricity Planning and Load Forecasting

[Large Load Tariffs and Load Forecasting: Reducing Uncertainty in an Era of Load Growth](#), April 2026

This paper examines how public utility commissions can translate large load tariff provisions into load forecast inputs, including via planning assumptions and sensitivity analyses.

[Virtual Roundtable on Large Load Forecasting](#), February 2026

As part of a series of [Virtual Roundtables for Regulators](#), commissioners in this session discussed challenges and solutions related to accurately forecasting large load growth. The discussion followed a presentation by Align Energy Advisors on a [four-step framework](#) for translating large load tariff provisions into load forecast inputs. Topics covered include managing the interconnection queue and speculative load requests, cross-jurisdictional coordination, load flexibility, and self-generation.

- [Webinar: Long-term Forecasting for Large Loads to Inform Resource and Transmission Planning](#), April 2026
Part of NARUC's [Bulk Power System Learning Modules](#), this training webinar focused on how planners can forecast the impacts and transmission needs of new large loads, including how to account for load flexibility and new approaches to considering large load interconnection.
- [NARUC-NASEO Comprehensive Electricity Planning Initiative for Load Growth Learning Series](#), June 2025
Experts discussed load forecasting for large loads, including data centers, from the perspective of planning across bulk power and distribution systems. Additional webinars in this series are available; all were designed for [electricity planning](#) in an era of load growth.
- [Training: Data Centers and Grid Impacts for State Regulators](#)
This professional development course discussed the utility and regulatory considerations of increasing data center electricity demand. Participants learned about data centers and their energy usage; new load growth drivers and uncertainties; and the evolving and varied toolbox of approaches to accommodate growth through energy policy, utility regulation, and power system planning and operations. The course is now available on demand for a discounted fee for NARUC members.

Supporting Large Load Interconnection

[NARUC Supplemental Comments: FERC Interconnection of Large Loads to the Interstate Transmission System, Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(Docket No. RM26-4-000\)](#), April 2026

In a letter to FERC, NARUC emphasizes that state utility commissions are in the best position to ensure rational and efficient interconnections of new large loads while protecting all customers from improper cost-shifts or unfair interconnection processes. It also highlights six examples of how states are effectively handling large load customers and the surrounding issues.

[Virtual Roundtable on Large Load Interconnection](#), March 2026

As part of a series of [Virtual Roundtables for Regulators](#), commissioners in this session discussed how their states are dealing with the challenges of interconnecting new large loads. Topics covered include interconnection standards and study processes, cost allocation and jurisdictional ambiguities, flexibility services, resource adequacy implications, and the practical challenge of managing competing pressures from data center developers, ratepayers, and economic development interests.

[Addressing Challenges of Load Growth with Energy Efficiency, Demand Response, and Demand Flexibility](#), forthcoming fall 2026

This forthcoming report will provide NARUC members with a resource that describes successful strategies by leading states to use demand-side management to respond to load growth affordably and provide “headroom” in the near-term to accommodate new large loads. Strategies will be organized by common regulatory and policy contexts (e.g., restructured, vertically integrated) to help state utility commissions identify strategies relevant to their specific needs.

- [Webinar: Processing Large Load Interconnection Requests](#), April 2026

Part of NARUC’s [Bulk Power System Learning Modules](#), this training webinar looked at large load interconnection in greater detail, including real-world examples from a system operator and a utility who shared how they are evolving their processes and analyses to better manage increases in the number and scale of interconnection requests.

Large Load Tariffs

[Virtual Roundtable on Data Center Tariffs](#), January 2026

As part of a series of [Virtual Roundtables for Regulators](#), commissioners in this session discussed how their states are implementing or contemplating tariffs for large loads or data centers. Topics covered include tariff design, cost allocation, risk mitigation, interconnection queue management, load flexibility, public engagement, legislative dynamics, and the question of commission authority over data center siting.

[Large-Load Tariff Quick-Reference Guide](#), forthcoming summer 2026

This guide will provide summary information about utility large load tariffs approved by state utility commissions based on existing research (e.g., SEPA DELTa).

Working with Other State Agencies

[National Council on Electricity Policy \(NCEP\) Framework for Collaboration on Load Growth](#), July 2026

NCEP has developed a framework that features three principles and eight approaches state agencies can take to support load growth, economic development, and state policy goals.

- [Webinar Series: How States are Approaching Load Growth](#), September-November 2025

This load growth webinar series was designed to support NCEP member state agencies in working together to identify the benefits and costs of expected loads, share examples of tools and strategies for managing risks and balancing speed and engagement, and look for opportunities to improve state agency processes around load growth. The four webinars covered: benefits and state agency roles; managing costs and risks; balancing speed and engagement; and state agency collaboration.

Non-NARUC Load Growth and Large Loads Resources

- [Database of Large-Load Tariffs \(DELTA\)](#), Smart Electric Power Alliance and the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center

Updated quarterly, this is a comprehensive map of 75+ tariffs designed to help plan for load growth, fairly distribute costs and benefits, and support local policy objectives in the United States.

- [2026 Large Load Literature Review and Data Sources](#), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Extensive literature review coordinated by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory that is updated monthly, summarizing reports and data published in 2026 that focus on large loads.