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NATIONAL COUNCIL
ON ELECTRICITY POLICY

New Framework Helps States Manage Rising Power Demand from Data Centers and Large Industrial Projects

WASHINGTON (August 7, 2026) — The National Council on Electricity Policy has released a new framework to help state agencies work together to plan for major new power users, such as data centers and advanced manufacturing facilities.

The framework provides practical guidance for state leaders and energy decision-makers as they respond to rising electricity demand while protecting reliability, affordability and economic growth.

"As electricity demand grows, states have an opportunity to plan ahead in ways that protect consumers while supporting economic development," said Joseph Pereira, consumer advocate and director at the Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate and NCEP executive committee member. "This framework encourages agencies to work together early, use shared data and carefully consider how costs and benefits are distributed."

The framework highlights three priorities for states managing load growth:

- Strong coordination across state agencies.
- Shared data and analysis to support decision-making.
- Careful evaluation of economic costs, benefits and risks.

To support these goals, the framework outlines six approaches states can consider:

1. Early coordination among agencies.
2. Centralized information-sharing tools.
3. State-level electricity demand forecasting.
4. Policies for connecting large new customers to the grid.
5. Rate structures designed for large electricity users.
6. Shared state-level economic development objectives.

The publication also includes a collection of additional resources to help states evaluate and respond to increasing demand.

"NCEP is uniquely positioned to bring together the state agencies responsible for energy policy, utility regulation, economic development and environmental stewardship," said NCEP Director Deborah Reynolds. "This framework provides practical strategies states can use to coordinate planning for growing electricity demand while balancing reliability, affordability and economic opportunity."

The framework aims to help states improve transparency, align infrastructure planning with future demand and ensure that the impacts of large new electricity users are fairly considered. Because state policies and regulatory structures vary, the framework is designed to be adapted to individual state needs.

Explore the *NCEP Framework for State Agency Collaboration on Load Growth* at bit.ly/44RfjC9 and visit the NCEP webpage at www.naruc.org/ncep to stay up to date on the latest activities.

NCEP will host a webinar introducing the framework and discussing how states can apply it on August 12, 2026, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET. Register at bit.ly/4yLTVR5.

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About NCEP

The National Council on Electricity Policy (NCEP) is a platform for all state-level electricity decisionmakers to share and learn from diverse perspectives on the evolving electricity sector. The NCEP community includes representatives from state public utility commissions, air and environmental regulatory agencies, governors' staffs, state energy offices, state legislatures, consumer advocates and other entities.