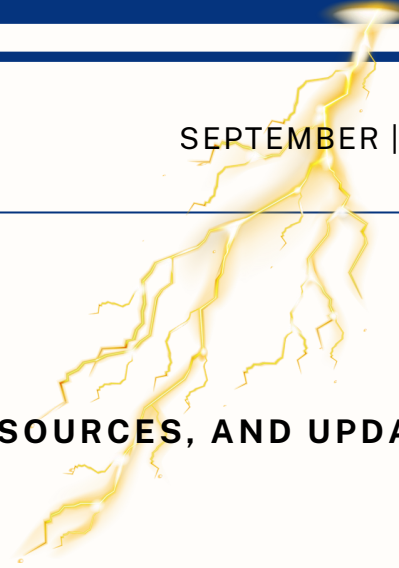




GRID RESILIENCE ROUNDUP

RESEARCH, RESOURCES, AND UPDATES



Extreme heat is testing regional grid reliability

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued multiple emergency orders in July as prolonged heat and rising electricity demand strained regional power systems. Orders covering North and South Carolina and the PJM region authorized specified generation and, in PJM's case, backup generation resources to operate as needed to reduce blackout risk. PJM also activated emergency demand-response measures as air-conditioning demand and unexpected generation outages pushed electricity use to near-record levels.



Growing Need for Transmission Expansion

DOE released a draft 2026 National Transmission Needs Study, identifying a pressing need for additional transmission infrastructure as electricity demand grows and the study highlights how expanded within-region and interregional transmission can relieve congestion, support new generation connections, strengthen reliability and resilience, and help regions manage rapidly changing system needs. DOE is accepting public comments on the draft.



KEYNOTE FROM NARUC'S 2026 SUMMER POLICY SUMMIT

Chief Meteorologist and Geospatial Intelligence ISAC Executive Director Sunny Wescott delivered a keynote examining how extreme weather at the surface and why impacts intensify in some regions more than others. She explored trends in the expansion and severity of extreme weather; implications for transmission, distribution, and generation; global risks to site operations, supply chains, personnel, and security; and the growing interplay between load growth, data-center cooling needs, and the resilience of new and existing infrastructure.

NARUC MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

PUC Approaches to Resilience and Hardening

Targeting Undergrounding Where It Delivers Value: Michigan PSC



In April 2026, the Michigan Public Service Commission adopted recommendations from its Electric Undergrounding Report, directing utilities that propose undergrounding projects to provide project-specific justification demonstrating that undergrounding is the most cost-effective way to achieve reliability and resilience improvements. The action builds on a Commission effort launched after widespread outages in 2023 and a 2025 technical workshop examining undergrounding costs, benefits, alternatives, and lessons from existing utility pilot programs. The Commission's recommendations establish additional expectations for how utilities evaluate, justify, and document proposed undergrounding investments.

Approving Utility Resilience Investments: PUC of Texas



In July 2025, the Public Utility Commission of Texas approved Southwestern Public Service Company's first System Resiliency Plan, authorizing approximately \$495.5 million in resilience investments. The plan includes four resiliency measures intended to address hazards affecting SPS's service territory, including ice and blizzards, extreme heat and drought, flooding, high winds, tornadoes, and wildfire risk. The approved plan establishes SPS's resilience investment priorities through 2028 and identifies the measures the utility will undertake to reduce system vulnerability to these hazards.

Reviewing Long-Term Storm Protection Investments: Florida PSC



In May 2025, the Florida Public Service Commission approved Storm Protection Plan agreements for Florida Power & Light, Duke Energy Florida, Tampa Electric, and Florida Public Utilities Company. Under Florida's framework, investor-owned utilities submit plans every three years outlining a 10-year strategy for reducing storm restoration costs and outage durations and strengthening infrastructure against extreme weather. Eligible incremental costs associated with approved storm protection activities may be considered annually through the Commission's Storm Protection Plan Cost Recovery Clause.

From Silos to Synergy: New Report Highlights Emerging Utility Practices for Integrated Resilience Planning

A new report by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), *Integrating Resilience Planning in Distribution System Planning*, describes how to advance integration of resilience and distribution planning processes to improve planning efficiency, better prioritize cost-effective grid expenditures, and optimize investment strategies. LBNL conducted a detailed review of 22 utility distribution system plans in 16 jurisdictions and interviewed experts to develop a framework that states and utilities can use to integrate resilience threats into broader distribution system planning (see graphic).

The framework identifies 7 key integration points between resilience and distribution system planning. The report reviews emerging utility practices for each of the integration points for more holistic planning and cohesive investment strategies.



Foundational NARUC Resources on Intergrated System Resilience

NARUC Resilience Framework

This framework provides PUCs and other key stakeholders with a structured approach to considering policies and programs that will enhance grid resilience amid evolving technological, environmental, and economic challenges.

[READ MORE](#)

Energy Resilience Reference Guide

This guide provides PUCs with a shared language and practical framework for understanding energy resilience, evaluating proposed investments, and incorporating resilience valuation into regulatory decision-making.

[READ MORE](#)

Most Recent NARUC Publication

Interconnection of Microgrids to the Distribution Grid: Challenges and State Solutions

This issue brief highlights state approaches to reducing cost, timeline, transparency, and cost-allocation barriers to streamline microgrid interconnection and accelerate deployment.

[READ MORE](#)

UPCOMING RESOURCES AND EVENTS

NARUC's 2026 Annual Meeting and Education Conference

This year's theme, "Uniting Regulators: Harmonizing Impact, Advancing Reliable and Resilient Infrastructure," will highlight opportunities to strengthen coordination and advance reliable, resilient infrastructure across the regulatory community.

November 8-11, 2026 | San Juan, Puerto Rico

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

Resilience and Large Loads: An Emerging Frontier for State Utility Regulation Mini-Guide

NARUC's forthcoming Mini-Guide will examine how rapid data center growth affects grid reliability and resilience and highlight emerging regulatory strategies.

PUBLICATION COMING SOON!

NASEO-NARUC Grid Resilience Summit

PUCs, state energy offices, and other state energy officials are encouraged to join us for Advancing Public-Private Grid Resilience Investments through State-Federal Collaboration.

December 2026 | Washington, D.C.

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!