

195 FERC ¶ 61,045
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Before Commissioners: Laura V. Swett, Chairman;
David Rosner, Lindsay S. See,
Judy W. Chang, and David LaCerte.

Interconnection of Large Loads
to the Interstate Transmission System

Docket No. RM26-4-000

ORDER REGARDING INTENT TO ACT

(Issued April 16, 2026)

1. On October 23, 2025, the Secretary of Energy (Secretary) released an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANOPR)¹ pursuant to Section 403 of the Department of Energy Organization Act.² The ANOPR directed the Commission to consider “potential reforms to ensure the timely and orderly interconnection of large loads to the transmission system.”³

2. We agree that, “[i]n light of the unprecedented current and expected growth of large loads” such as data centers,⁴ there is an urgent need for thoughtful reforms to ensure that large loads are “able to connect to the transmission system in a timely, orderly, and non-discriminatory manner.”⁵ Toward that end, the Commission has taken several actions in the months since the ANOPR was issued. Among other things, the Commission: issued a landmark order in December 2025 directing PJM, the nation’s largest grid operator, to establish transparent rules that recognize the ability of large loads that are co-located with generation facilities to limit their withdrawals from the

¹ *Interconnection of Large Loads to the Interstate Transmission System*, Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Oct. 23, 2025) (ANOPR); *see also* Letter from Chris Wright, Sec’y, U.S. Dep’t of Energy (Oct. 23, 2025) (Secretary’s Letter).

² 42 U.S.C. § 7173.

³ ANOPR P 1.

⁴ *Id.* P 12.

⁵ Secretary’s Letter at 1.

transmission system;⁶ issued an order in January 2026 that approved SPP’s innovative High Impact Large Load proposal, which established new study processes for large loads that will both expedite load interconnection and protect consumers,⁷ and SPP’s equally innovative High Impact Large Load Generation Assessment proposal, which enables expedited interconnection opportunities for generating facilities that are electrically proximate to large loads;⁸ and acted on a number of proposed tariffs and agreements related to large loads connecting to the transmission system, accepting many⁹ while rejecting those that exceeded the Commission’s jurisdiction¹⁰ or failed to reasonably allocate costs.¹¹ While processing filings in those cases, the Commission has also been hard at work on the ANOPR proceeding: we have closely reviewed the more than 3,500 pages of comments filed on this docket, held numerous meetings with stakeholders, and engaged with our partners government-wide about the appropriate path forward. We have also paid close attention to other intervening developments pertaining to large loads, including several actions taken by the National Energy Dominance Council established in February 2025,¹² execution of the Statement of Principles regarding PJM in January 2026,¹³ and execution of the President’s Ratepayer Protection Pledge in March 2026.¹⁴

3. We appreciate the leadership demonstrated by the Secretary and the White House, and we welcome the robust and iterative conversation initiated by the ANOPR. As requested, the Commission and its dedicated staff have been implementing and “build[ing] upon [the ANOPR] principles” in our recent work,¹⁵ and our view is that the Commission and regulated parties have made meaningful progress toward addressing the

⁶ *PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.*, 193 FERC ¶ 61,217, at P 160 (2025).

⁷ *Sw. Power Pool, Inc.*, 194 FERC ¶ 61,031, at PP 61-63 (2026).

⁸ *Id.* PP 64-69.

⁹ *See, e.g., Commonwealth Edison Co.*, 194 FERC ¶ 61,181 (2026).

¹⁰ *Tri-State Generation & Transmission Ass’n*, 193 FERC ¶ 61,070, at P 45 (2025).

¹¹ *Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC*, 193 FERC ¶ 61,237, at P 16 (2025).

¹² Exec. Order No. 14213, 90 Fed. Reg. 9945 (Feb. 14, 2025).

¹³ *Statement of Principles Regarding PJM*, U.S. DEP’T OF ENERGY, <https://perma.cc/94EL-6DC2>.

¹⁴ Proclamation No. 11014, 91 Fed. Reg. 11439 (Mar. 4, 2026).

¹⁵ Secretary’s Letter at 2.

urgent and important problems identified by the Secretary. But it is clear to us that further action is warranted to support further progress where it is needed.

4. We therefore announce today that the Commission intends to act with respect to this docket by the end of June 2026. In June, we will address the problems discussed in the ANOPR in a manner that is quick, efficient, and legally durable. Indeed, we are eager to continue working with stakeholders to achieve the goal we share with the Secretary—i.e., ensuring that all Americans (and all American businesses) have access to affordable, reliable, and secure electricity.

5. That said, we fully agree with the Secretary that Commission-led efforts towards reform, including those we will announce in June, should not be interpreted as “discourag[ing] public utilities from making filings to address these and similar issues under [Federal Power Act (FPA)] section 205.”¹⁶ As always, the Commission stands ready and willing to discharge its statutory responsibility to act on filings made under sections 205 and 206 of the FPA.

By the Commission.

(S E A L)

Carlos D. Clay,
Deputy Secretary.

¹⁶ ANOPR P 32.