

National Council on Electricity Policy 2026 Annual Meeting

Homewood Suites by Hilton Charleston Historic District
415 Meeting St. Charleston, SC 29403



Responding to Load Growth – Opportunities for Collaboration among State Decisionmakers

May 5-6, 2026

Tuesday, May 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

Wednesday, May 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ET

U.S. electricity demand is expected to rise by 15% by 2030,¹ driven by data centers, AI applications, manufacturing, and electrification. In its recent webinar series, National Council on Electricity Policy (NCEP) members shared opportunities and challenges they are facing at a state level in trying to accommodate large loads after decades of flat or declining electricity demand. Key principles around collaboration, coordination, partnership, and transparency emerged.

At this annual meeting, NCEP will hear large load customer perspectives on load growth and their experiences developing new sites in states around the country. Attendees will then explore five specific themes that need to be addressed by state decisionmakers in the face of this unprecedented load growth: load forecasting; non-grid impacts; cost causation; competition for sites and power; and intrastate and interstate collaboration.

Results of this meeting: “NCEP Framework for Successful State Collaboration on Load Growth” – a tool that will document actionable approaches to the challenges of unprecedented load growth for states.

**** Speaker and Moderator Details Coming Soon ****

Draft Agenda		
Time	Session Title	Speakers
Tuesday, May 5, 2026		
<i>Collaborative Responses to Load Growth</i>		
8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast (provided through hotel)	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00 – 9:15	Workshop Welcome and Overview	

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, [Resource Adequacy Report \(REVISED OCT 27, 2025\)](#), page 18.

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Tuesday, May 5, 2026		
<i>Hearing from Customers and Experts</i>		
9:15 – 9:45	<p>Panel on Customer Perspectives</p> <p>What is the customer experience in developing large data centers and manufacturing facilities? How do they interact with state agencies? What do they wish we knew? This panel will provide a window into how large load customers navigate the state agency landscape.</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speakers:</p>
9:45 – 10:15	<p>Expert Panel on Large Load Tools and Efforts</p> <p>This panel will introduce a variety of resources and tools that are in development to address emerging large loads. Includes: efforts by industry stakeholders and NERC to mitigate the reliability challenges posed by rapid data center growth; an overview of the ESIG large load task force results; and the NARUC demand round table.</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speakers:</p>
10:15 – 10:45	Break	
<i>Framework Development by Theme</i>		
10:45 – 11:30	<p>Interactive Discussion on Load Forecasting</p> <p>States face highly uncertain, fast shifting large load forecasts—often dominated by data centers—that outstrip traditional utility/RTO methods, create price volatility, and undermine prudent planning. States need granular, verifiable, and shared forecasting approaches (including clear indicators of customer commitment), to avoid overbuilding (stranded assets, rate hikes) or underbuilding (reliability threats).</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speaker:</p>
11:30 – 12:15	<p>Interactive Discussion on Cost Causation</p> <p>Explicit cost causation frameworks protect existing customers from the incremental costs and risks of serving very large, often speculative loads. This session will discuss tools like large load tariffs, upfront collateral, minimum demand charges, exit fees, and milestone-based -phasing to avoid stranded assets and ensure affordability.</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speaker:</p>
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch (provided)	

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Time	Session Title	Speakers
Tuesday, May 5, 2026		
<i>Hearing from Experts</i>		
1:15 – 1:45	<p>Expert Panel on How Economic Development Agencies Work</p> <p>How does economic development happen in a state? Who are the participants in the process? What information gets shared? How important is power availability and timelines? This panel of speakers will answer our questions about energy and economic development.</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speakers:</p>
<i>Framework Development by Theme</i>		
1:45 – 2:30	<p>Interactive Discussion on Competition for Sites (and Power)</p> <p>States confront a race for limited sites for large load and available power capacity, in which data centers’ speed and templated development models can outcompete manufacturers for strategic, infrastructure ready parcels (e.g., rail served industrial sites) and available megawatts. This session will examine how states can enable economic development at large, enhance siting and permitting approaches and achieve both taxbase growth and employment outcomes.</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speaker:</p>
2:30 – 2:45	Break	
2:45 – 3:30	<p>Interactive Discussion on Intrastate and Interstate Collaboration</p> <p>All state agencies—PUCs, State Energy Offices, Governor’s Offices, consumer advocates, environmental agencies, economic development offices, or legislatures—engage on large loads and their impacts. This session will examine how coordination can enable aligned timelines, cohesive planning, forward-looking policy, and equitable outcomes (e.g., on who builds, pays, and bears risk).</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speaker:</p>

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3:30 – 4:15	<p>Interactive Discussion on Non-grid Impacts</p> <p>Large load development comes with non-grid impacts—air and water permitting issues, siting and land use conflicts, cooling water demand, stormwater and tree impacts, construction labor needs, and persistent noise. Coordinated handling of these impacts (local zoning vs. environmental permits vs. economic development) can avoid delays, moratoria, and litigation.</p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speaker:</p>
4:15 – 4:30	Break	
Framework Review		
4:30 – 5:00	<p>Group Feedback on Framework Additions</p> <p>Gallery style review of each theme with opportunity to add or remove elements.</p>	Executive Committee with all participants
5:00	Adjourn	
6:00	Optional No-host Dinner	

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Time	Session Title	Moderator
Wednesday, May 6, 2026		
7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast provided through hotel	
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome Jan Brinch Award	Speaker:
Framework Presentation		
8:45 – 10:00	Framework Presentation and Final Discussion NCEP Framework for Successful Collaboration on Load Growth	Speaker:
10:00 – 10:30	Break	
10:30 – 11:30	Roadmaps from the NARUC-NASEO Initiative: Comprehensive Electricity Planning in an Era of Load Growth. The comprehensive electricity planning roadmaps outline coordinated, effective processes that can offer a starting point for state action in different market and regulatory structures.	Speaker:
11:30 – 12:00	Action Plan Guided time to develop a personal action plan to respond to load growth in your state.	Speaker:
12:00	Adjourn (lunch provided for Comprehensive Planning Workshop attendees only)	

PROCESS: At this meeting, you will join colleagues across the country to learn and share your own experiences. Each discussion session will have a brief presentation on the theme based on the information gathered from the webinar series and highlight examples from various states. After each presentation, participants will engage in facilitated discussion to:

- identify any gaps
- gather additional examples
- identify the benefits of coordination
- Identify ways to collaborate

At the end of the meeting, participants will develop an action plan they or their agency can use to improve their jurisdiction’s response to the challenges and opportunities of integrating large loads.