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PUC Moves to Address Data Center Impacts on Electric Reliability and Consumer Costs

Commission directs development of updated emergency load control rules and notices a Technical Conference on cost allocation

HARRISBURG – As rapid data center development adds significant new demand to the regional electric grid, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today took steps to examine Pennsylvania's emergency load control procedures and the allocation of costs associated with large computational loads.

By a vote of 5-0, the Commission approved a [motion by Vice Chair Kimberly Barrow](#) directing PUC staff to develop proposed updates to Pennsylvania's emergency electric load control regulations, including greater clarity regarding the order, criteria and circumstances under which customers may be curtailed during pre-emergency and emergency conditions.

“The combination of rapid load growth and tightening resource adequacy conditions requires us to carefully examine whether our existing regulatory framework is sufficient for the challenges ahead,” Vice Chair Barrow said. “We need clear and consistent procedures for managing load during pre-emergency and emergency conditions, while also examining how costs associated with large new loads should be allocated. These are...

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