

9:43:15 AM

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PUC Study Warns Rapid Data Center Growth Could Pose Serious Risks to Electric Reliability

Independent analysis underscores need for urgent PJM action and comprehensive Pennsylvania energy policy

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today released an independent analysis warning that rapidly growing electricity demand – driven largely by data center development – could create serious reliability risks across Pennsylvania and the broader region unless electricity supply keeps pace with that growth.

[The analysis](#), conducted by Synapse Energy Economics, a nationally recognized energy consulting firm, examined whether sufficient electric resources will be available to reliably serve customers as demand grows and existing generation retires.

The study found that based on current load forecast from regional power grid operator PJM and assuming no additional policy actions, the regional grid fails to meet PJM's reliability planning standard from 2027 through 2030.

By 2030, the modeled reliability risk is nearly **six times worse than PJM's planning standard**.

“Pennsylvania is at an energy crossroads,” said PUC Chairman Steve DeFrank. “Data center development brings significant opportunities, but that growth cannot come at the expense of the families and bus...

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