

On Thursday, September 10, 2026, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) held its monthly [open meeting](#). Much of the discussion centered on electric reliability, natural gas pipeline and storage capacity, and advanced transmission technologies (ATTs). Commissioners were largely aligned on the need to strengthen grid reliability, make better use of existing infrastructure, and develop new resources more efficiently. Members emphasized the need for additional gas-related infrastructure and highlighted opportunities to improve transmission efficiency through grid-enhancing technologies. Issues regarding physical grid security, hydropower licensing, and regulatory efficiencies were also raised.

Additionally, staff for the Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) presented a system performance review of the winter 2026 Arctic cold period. They found that the grid performed well throughout the prolonged cold weather, noting there was no manual load shed. Overall, staff reported that system performance was on par with the 2025 Arctic events and remained notably improved compared to Winter Storm Uri in 2021 and Winter Storm Elliott in 2022.

A summary of the proceedings is below. The agenda can be found [here](#) and orders [here](#).

Opening Statements

Chairman Swett

- Highlighted FERC's approval of Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) proposal for transmission switching, which allows grid operators to reroute power using existing infrastructure to reduce congestion. She noted the technology could lead to annual congestion savings and encouraged other regions to develop similar processes to deliver ratepayer savings.
- Discussed FERC's August 28 [order](#) denying a complaint challenging the NERC geomagnetic disturbance reliability standard, noting the complaint was procedurally deficient and failed to demonstrate the existing standard was unjust or unreasonable.
- Highlighted the approval of the Mississippi and South System Expansion Four project, noting that it and a related project will add more than 2 million dekatherms per day of natural gas capacity in the Southeast to help meet peak and projected demand.
- Discussed agenda item E-1, approving the latest revisions to the physical security reliability standards, emphasizing the importance of protecting critical transmission infrastructure.
- Highlighted agenda item E-2, finding Independent System Operator – New England's (ISO-NE) tariff unjust and unreasonable because it lacked provisions allowing the ISO to

correct certain erroneous or improper payments and charges. She noted the revisions will allow ISO-NE to resolve more billing issues without requiring parties to seek tariff waivers from FERC.

- Praised Commission staff for authorizing agenda item C-1, the Kosciusko Junction Pipeline Project, within one year of receiving the application, noting the project will add more than 1 million dekatherms per day of capacity in the Southeast.
 - Credited the developer's early engagement with FERC staff for facilitating the expedited review and encouraged other developers to similarly engage.
- Expressed support for agenda item C-2, authorizing an increase of more than 600,000 dekatherms per day in the Gator Express Pipeline's certificated capacity without new construction or modifications.
 - Said the project demonstrates the benefits of FERC's blanket certificate program by optimizing existing infrastructure and improving reliability and flexibility for the liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal, while criticizing protests against the project as unnecessary.

Commissioner Rosner

- Highlighted FERC's summer notational docket, particularly its bipartisan work on ATTs, emphasizing their potential to improve grid efficiency and deliver consumer savings.
- Discussed geomagnetic disturbances, noting NERC is on its fourth iteration of reliability standards on the issue and emphasizing the need for continued attention given the potential risks to the grid.
- Expressed support for agenda item E-1 and the revised [CIP-014 physical security standard](#), noting that aligning risk assessment timelines with other reliability standards should make compliance more efficient.
- Highlighted agenda item E-2, directing ISO-NE to establish clear mechanisms for correcting errors and refunding erroneous payments.
 - Characterized the changes as regulatory efficiency and encouraged other regional transmission organizations to consider similar mechanisms.
- Highlighted the "all-of-the-above" energy infrastructure on the agenda, emphasizing the need to maximize the existing grid while efficiently adding new supply to meet growing demand.

Commissioner See

- Reflected on a recent visit to Alaska, including the North Slope, emphasizing that while the U.S. has abundant natural gas supplies, infrastructure remains a challenge to delivering energy where and when it is needed.
 - Pointed to Alaska's looming energy challenges despite its abundant resources and highlighted FERC's role in permitting reform, expressing support for continued progress on both the LNG and Natural Gas blanket authorizations.

- On hydropower, she noted licensing and relicensing requirements can increase costs or prevent projects from moving forward. Expressed support for reforms with Congress and other agencies and progress on FERC's open [Notice of Inquiry](#) on hydropower post-licensing processes.
- Noted her concurrence on agenda item E-2, citing an increase in waiver requests related to erroneous payments and billing issues.
 - Welcomed ISO-NE efforts to address some of these issues but encouraged further reforms, arguing that seeking FERC waivers is not an adequate fallback in all circumstances.
- Expressed support for agenda item C-1, the Kosciusko Junction Pipeline Project, describing it as another major Southeast pipeline expansion needed to move natural gas from supply basins to areas of growing demand. Noted that C-1 and recently approved projects will collectively add significant capacity in the Southeast and help meet increasing regional demand.

Commissioner Chang

- Highlighted challenges maintaining grid reliability during increasingly hot summers and extreme weather, thanking grid operators and utility workers for their efforts to keep the system reliable.
- Echoed Chairman Swett's comments on SPP's transmission switching proposal, emphasizing the potential for ATTs to deliver consumer savings.
 - Expressed hope that FERC's recent orders encourage transmission providers to deploy existing tools and developers to pursue new grid-enhancing technologies.
- Discussed agenda item E-4, involving the acquisition of generation assets primarily in PJM, and the Independent Market Monitor's proposal to recognize a new "Chesapeake" submarket for market-power analysis.
- Highlighted agenda item H-2, approving a 40-year license renewal for Northern States Power Company's Cornell hydropower project in Wisconsin.
 - Expressed support for hydropower as a flexible and economic resource and acknowledged the significant work required to relicense hundreds of projects in the coming years.
 - Encouraged continued participation in FERC's ongoing rulemaking to streamline post-licensing activities for hydropower facilities.

Commissioner LaCerte

- Discussed agenda item E-1, highlighting an increase in physical attacks on electric infrastructure and emphasizing the need to continue strengthening and modernizing physical security standards.

- On agenda item E-2, agreed with both Commissioners Rosner and See on the importance of ensuring accurate settlements and billing to maintain fairness and customer trust.
- Highlighted agenda item E-4 and the PJM Market Monitor's identification of a potential Chesapeake submarket.
- Expressed support for agenda item C-2, approving Gator Express' request to increase pipeline capacity by 16 percent without new construction or facility modifications.
 - Rejected arguments for additional environmental review, stating that FERC will not use the *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)* ([Pub. L. 91-190](#)) to unnecessarily delay infrastructure and will follow the Supreme Court's [Seven County decision](#) in appropriately scoping NEPA reviews.
- Thanked staff for completing the Hell's Canyon Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement after a lengthy hydropower licensing process.
 - Expressed hope that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service will issue their biological opinions within the required timeframe so FERC can move toward a final order.
- Highlighted a FERC audit of Atlantic City Electric that identified accounting errors affecting formula rates and resulted in agreed-upon ratepayer refunds, emphasizing the importance of routine audits in ensuring just and reasonable rates.

Consent Agenda

- E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, E-5, E-6, E-7, E-8, E-9, E-10
 - E-2 Commissioner Rosner concurred with a separate [statement](#).
 - E-2 Commissioner See concurred with a separate [statement](#).
- H-1, H-2
- C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4

Items of Note

FERC staff, alongside NERC, presented a system performance review of the winter 2026 Arctic cold period.

- **Overall System Performance:** Staff found that the electric and natural gas systems performed well during the prolonged cold period, with no manual load shed. Performance was comparable to January 2025 and notably improved from Winter Storms Uri and Elliott, reflecting lessons learned from prior events, stronger preparedness, and implementation of NERC's cold weather standards. Staff identified continued needs for stronger electric-natural gas coordination, improved load forecasting, and additional natural gas infrastructure and storage.
- **Generator Performance:** Unplanned generator outages across the Eastern and Texas Interconnections peaked at 68,169 MW on January 26, roughly in line with January 2025 levels. Outages were generally lower than during prior major winter storms,

although Texas experienced roughly twice as much wind generation outage capacity as during the January 2025 Arctic events.

- **Emergency Orders:** The Department of Energy issued 15 emergency orders under Federal Power Act Section 202(c) during the 2026 Arctic cold period, including orders allowing generators to exceed certain environmental limits and directing backup generation at large loads to operate as a last resort. Five orders were extended.
- **Natural Gas Infrastructure & Storage:** Staff found that natural gas storage played a critical role in meeting demand as production declined during the cold period and noted that additional storage and pipeline transportation capacity could improve reliability during future Arctic events.
- **LNG Markets:** LNG export feed gas, which has grown substantially over the past decade, fell by more than 40 percent during the cold period to as low as 11.3 Bcf/day. Staff said the reduction eased domestic supply constraints, while LNG import shipments at several terminals also helped meet domestic demand.

Commissioner Responses

- Swett asked how natural gas infrastructure constraints affected electric reliability. Staff noted that the gas system was built around more predictable demand and can lack flexibility to meet hourly power-sector needs, particularly in constrained regions such as ISO-NE, where gas prices remained elevated for longer. Staff also pointed to strategically located gas storage as a potential reliability tool.
- Rosner described the cold period as an “endurance challenge” and asked about the role of interregional transfers. Staff highlighted MISO’s approximately 9,000 MW of imports at peak need and noted that some regions exported power during Fern but later imported during Gianna, illustrating the two-way reliability value of regional transfers.
- See highlighted that the system met historically high demand without manual load shed, describing that outcome as evidence of improved cold-weather preparation, fuel readiness, and coordination. She also emphasized the value of post-event reviews in informing future reliability improvements.
- Chang focused on gas-electric coordination and Black Start resource availability. Staff said several regions use recurring generator readiness surveys, with ISO-NE conducting them daily during the event, covering fuel availability, cold-weather limitations, alternate fuels, and critical non-fuel consumables. On Black Start resources, staff pointed to prior FERC-NERC studies emphasizing winterization and electric-gas coordination.
- LaCerte emphasized that several regions still operated with tight reserve margins and asked how recent natural gas pipeline and storage development affected reliability. Staff said the benefits of many newer projects were not yet fully reflected because of construction timelines, but additional storage is expected to improve reliability in future winters.