

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

**Interconnection and Tariffs
For Large Load Customers**

**Public Meeting of April 30, 2026
TUS-3054271
Docket No. M-2025-3054271**

STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIR KIMBERLY BARROW

Today marks the culmination of over a year's work aimed at providing guidance to our electric distribution companies (EDCs) on interconnection of new Large Load Customers. Our *en banc* hearing last Spring began a process whereby interested parties have commented on how best to manage the recent impacts of data center growth within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I write to encourage EDCs to be bold in crafting rules that offer more complete solutions to the challenges presented by exponential and unprecedented load growth in the PJM footprint, especially the expected electric supply cost impact on ratepayers. The Model Tariff we issue today provides basic parameters regarding many important aspects of large load interconnection. My focus is on two areas where both EDCs and Large Load Customers can streamline interconnection processes and better protect the most vulnerable ratepayers.

First, hosting capacity mapping is a tool utilized in 26 states,¹ notably states immediately adjacent to this Commonwealth, to inform the efficient geographic siting of distributed energy resources (DER). What is hosting capacity mapping? It is a tool that provides an assessment of the ability of a distribution grid to "host" additional DERs. It identifies specific locations that are not in need of upgrades or lengthy interconnection studies to allow interconnection. As used currently, it can also help prospective DER customers understand the potential hurdles for upgrading the distribution grid, especially if there is not adequate ability for that location to accept new resources. It also gives developers information about how many and the size of other projects that are in the queue ahead of them. Basically, the EDC sets up the hosting capacity map on its public website, allowing for transparent information to flow to project developers about available capacity – importantly the locations most likely to be suitable for interconnection of generation.


Hosting capacity mapping has been successful in other jurisdictions to advance the speed and transparency of DER interconnection and several of our Pennsylvania EDCs, like PECO and PPL, have explored ways to increase public awareness of distribution system hosting capacity. These efforts have stopped short of employing hosting capacity mapping and they have enjoyed limited success. However, there is no silver bullet available to solve the looming capacity shortfall, so in my view, our current environment calls for EDCs to maximize the use of all available planning tools that can add supply to the grid. Accordingly, I propose that EDCs strongly consider the establishment of hosting capacity mapping, in general – not only for DERs, but to facilitate efficient large load interconnection as well.

¹ The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico also have EDCs using hosting capacity mapping. For a complete list of jurisdictions and EDCs utilizing some form of hosting capacity mapping See <https://www.energy.gov/cmei/us-atlas-electric-distribution-system-hosting-capacity-maps>.

Recent testimony before the PA House Energy Committee noted utilization of hosting capacity mapping by EDC subsidiaries of Exelon Corporation (Commonwealth Edison), PPL (Rhode Island Electric), and FirstEnergy Corporation (Jersey Central Power & Light) in other jurisdictions. Even though there are costs to ratepayers to employ it, these EDCs view hosting capacity mapping as an investment that ultimately benefits all. Of course, the security of our electric grid is top of mind and thus, the set-up of such mapping for public access is key. With careful and prudent planning, we can reduce EDC interconnection review times and close the supply/demand delta, thereby helping to keep electric supply rates lower. Mapping can give communities, project developers seeking interconnection, and the EDCs themselves a snapshot in time of where the EDC has capacity available for use. It currently takes too much time and a lot of coordination to bring developers and EDCs together to allow interconnection projects to move forward or to fail. Therefore, I encourage EDCs to include hosting capacity mapping in their tariff provisions governing large load interconnection queues.

Finally, and just as important, I support the Universal Service Fund contributions detailed in the Model Tariff as a good **starting** point. However, I encourage the EDCs to work toward a point where Large Load Customers are making volumetric contributions commensurate with the electric supply cost increases caused by their outsize demand.²

April 30, 2026



Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair

² Data center load forecast for 2026 resulted in a \$7.3 billion, or 82%, increase in capacity market revenues for the 2026/2027 RPM Base Residual Auction. The result for the 2027/2028 auction was \$6.5 billion, or a 65% increase, in capacity market revenues. Independent Market Monitor, 2025 State of the Market Report for PJM, Volume 1, pg. 1. Monitoring Analytics, LLC (March 12, 2026). *See also*, Volume 2 at 305-317.