



Edison Electric  
INSTITUTE

# Energy Talk

## Your Monthly Energy News Digest

January 2026

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Industry continues restoration work after historic Winter Storm Fern.
- EEI supports President Donald Trump's efforts to lower energy costs for customers.
- Drew Maloney speaks at USEA State of the Energy Industry Forum.

### TOP STORY

## Winter Storm Fern: An Ongoing, Powerful Response



More than 65,000 workers from at least 44 states are working day and night to restore power to the communities impacted by Winter Storm Fern.

Though significant progress has been made—with power restored to more than 815,000 customers—crews are continuing to work diligently to restore power to all customers who can safely receive it.

As restoration progress continues, mutual assistance crews will continuously be reallocated to these most impacted communities until every customer who is able to

receive power is safely restored.



EEl President and CEO Drew Maloney highlighted the industry’s mutual assistance response [when speaking with CNBC](#) this week, noting *“the coordination with federal, state, and local officials...to get power up as quickly as possible during this historic ice storm.”*

The CEO-led Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council continues to be engaged to ensure unity of effort across the highest levels of government and across all segments of the industry.

Learn more about the industry’s response to this historic winter storm on [EEl’s Storm Center](#).

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## IN THE NEWS

# EEl Statement on President Trump–Governor Proposal to Protect Customers and Ensure Data Centers Pay Their Fair Share





Recently, President Donald Trump and a bipartisan group of governors called on PJM Interconnection to hold an emergency auction to require technology companies to fund new electricity generation needed to serve growing data center demand.

*“We support President Trump and the Governors' focus on swift changes to help lower energy costs for customers and get more power plants online,” said EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney in response. “We have called for fundamental reforms to ensure resource adequacy in PJM. We look forward to working with FERC and the state commissions to be part of the solution.”*

[Read more on EEI's website.](#)

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## CROSS-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP

### Drew Maloney Speaks at USEA State of the Energy Industry Forum



Earlier this month, EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney joined federal and industry leaders, including U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright, at the United States Energy Association State of the Energy Industry Forum to discuss the critical intersection of energy affordability and reliability.

*“We operate the most important machine in America, which is the energy grid. To keep it working, we need steel in the ground,” said Maloney during a panel discussion on balancing reliability and affordability. “It can take more than a decade to build a transmission line in the United States, while our competitors can do it in three. That delay is a cost borne by customers. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Congress to streamline permitting, cut the red tape, and ensure we win the AI technology race.”*

Maloney also highlighted that by building innovative partnerships and prioritizing smarter grid interconnections, America’s electric companies are proving they can meet record energy demand while keeping the energy of every day reliable for every family and community they serve.

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## LEADERSHIP ON DISPLAY

# Highlights From EEI's Winter Board of Directors Meeting



EEI's Winter Board of Directors and Chief Executives meeting featured conversations on industry efforts to meet growing demand while keeping electricity reliable and as affordable as possible for all customers.

EEI Chair Calvin Butler, president and CEO of Exelon Corporation, spoke with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Laura Swett, and Puget Sound Energy President and CEO Mary Kipp spoke with National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners President Ann Rendahl, commissioner of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, on 2026 federal and state regulatory priorities.

Other programming highlights included a conversation between EEI Vice Chair David Campbell, chairman and CEO of Evergy, and Blackstone Chairman, CEO, and Co-Founder Stephen Schwarzman, who discussed how infrastructure investments are helping to meet rising electricity demand and the impact of AI technologies on the energy and financial industries.

Additionally, EEI Vice Chair Chris Womack, chairman, president, and CEO of Southern Company, led a conversation with Walmart Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs Dan Bartlett on how the company is navigating customer affordability concerns, investing in data centers, and adjusting its business model to better integrate new AI technologies.

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THE ENERGY OF EVERY DAY

## America250 Announces Partnership With EEI to Power the Nation's 250th Anniversary Celebration



EEI will serve as a national partner of America250, the nonpartisan organization charged by Congress with leading the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

As part of the partnership, EEI and its member companies will support official America250 initiatives and events, collaborate on educational programming, and help elevate the role of innovation, reliability, and resilience in shaping the American story—past, present, and future.

[Read more in EEI’s press release](#) and [watch EEI’s new video](#) to learn more about how America’s electric companies are supporting America250 while providing the energy of every day.

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