



Edison Electric
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Energy Talk

By Julia Slattery • Jul 30, 2026

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In this edition of Energy Talk:

- America's investor-owned electric companies are protecting customers while powering economic development, including through the recently expanded Ratepayer Protection Pledge.
- Senator Dave McCormick joined the Puck x EEI Power Breakfast and highlighted the importance of grid investments and bipartisan permitting reform.
- The latest *Electric Perspectives* podcast episode features lineworkers sharing the rewards and challenges of the job, in celebration of National Lineworker Appreciation Day.

Let's dive in!

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America's Electric Companies Are Protecting Customers and Powering Innovation



L to R: EEI Vice Chair Drew Marsh of Entergy and former Deputy National Security Advisor of the United States Dina Powell McCormick.

America's investor-owned electric companies are serving customers while driving opportunity and economic development in communities across the country.

Why it matters: The White House recently announced an expansion to its Ratepayer Protection Pledge, which helps ensure data centers and other large load customers pay their fair share and help lower costs for local families and small businesses.

- **EEl's member companies** across the country work within compacts set by regulators and local stakeholders to ensure large load investments are win-wins for local communities.
- **Go deeper:** [Read more](#) about how America's electric companies are protecting customers and powering innovation.

Event spotlight: EEl Vice Chairs Drew Marsh of Entergy and Chris Womack of Southern Company joined the recent White House event to mark the Ratepayer Protection Pledge expansion.

- They highlighted the customer benefits that have been unlocked in their communities through these agreements.

Key takeaways from Marsh and Womack:

- **Grid-connected projects save customers billions:** Grid-connected data centers reduce price pressures for customers and upgrade the grid with modern, resilient infrastructure.
- **Collaboration is key:** Electric companies; federal, state, and local governments; and communities are working together to ensure data center developers pay their fair share to access the grid.
- **Projects enhance American competitiveness:** Connecting hyperscalers to the grid can unlock economic development, tax revenues, jobs, and community investments.

Go deeper: [Read the full event recap.](#)

Puck x EEI Event Spotlights Grid Investment and Permitting Reform



EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney and Senator Dave McCormick (R-PA) highlighted grid investment and permitting reform at the recent Puck x EEI Power Breakfast in Washington, D.C.

Why it matters: The grid is vital for economic and national security, powering everything from homes to businesses. Ensuring its reliability and affordability is crucial for the nation's future.

What they're saying:

- *"Capital is sitting on the sidelines. This isn't just energy policy. It's economic policy,"* said **Senator McCormick**.
- He also emphasized the need for bipartisan permitting reform to promote innovation and opportunity across the country, and noted that data centers can be "economic engines" for local communities.

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

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Honoring Lineworkers on July 10



Industry, labor, and government leaders gather at the National Lineworker Appreciation Day reception hosted by EEI, IBEW, and NECA.

On July 10, EEI, IBEW, and NECA celebrated National Lineworker Appreciation Day in honor of the more than 100,000 electrical lineworkers who ensure safe and reliable electricity for millions of Americans.

Event highlight: EEI, IBEW, and NECA hosted a reception with industry leaders, labor representatives, and members of Congress and their staff to honor this essential workforce.

Podcast insight: EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney spoke with lineworkers from National Grid and Alabama Power about what it means to serve on the frontlines of the electric power industry. [Listen to the *Electric Perspectives* podcast episode here.](#)

Sponsored: The Protection Gap No One Is Talking About



Most overhead distribution faults are temporary—and most occur on laterals and sublaterals, far beyond the reach of intelligent protection. That means conventional fuses are often serving as the primary protection, which may not be enough—especially in areas with greater exposure to environmental conditions. Each momentary contact can result in unnecessarily long outages for customers and increased patrol time for crews.

[TripSaver® Reclosers](#) provide intelligent protection from the head of your lateral to sublaterals. Here's how TripSaver Reclosers deliver:

- **Move reclosing closer to faults:** Available in 200-AMP, 100-AMP, and 40-AMP options.
- **Minimize outages:** Restore power for temporary faults and drop out to isolate permanent faults.
- **Support wildfire mitigation plans:** Low-spark interruption, non-reclose mode, and communications-capable for remote operations.

- **Improve grid visibility:** Track device events.
- **Ease system integration and operations:** Programmable curves, sectionalizing mode, and no fuse replacement.

Explore how [TripSaver Reclosers](#) can close the protection gap for your system.

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Record-Breaking Output from U.S. Energy Grid



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“Hitting 100,000 gigawatt-hours in a single week for the first time in history is a milestone — and a preview of what the grid of the future must be built to handle.”

Drew Maloney
President and CEO, Edison Electric Institute

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America’s electric companies delivered a [record of more than 100,000 gigawatt-hours](#) (GWh) of electricity to customers in early July—nearly twice the amount of electricity New York City uses in an entire year.

- Two weeks later, output hit a new record of more than 101,000 GWh.

Why it matters: This milestone highlights the increasing demand on America's energy grid and underscores the need for ongoing investment in energy infrastructure.

- America's electric companies are projected to invest \$239 billion this year, and \$1.4 trillion through 2030, in stronger transmission lines, advanced grid-enhancing technologies, new generation, and modernized distribution systems.

What they're saying: *"America's demand for electricity continues to set new records this summer,"* said **EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney**. *"Meeting growing energy needs while maintaining the reliable service customers depend on will require ongoing investment in the grid."*

Go deeper: A report from the [Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure](#) shows that blunt caps on return on equity might hinder the financial investment needed to meet rising electricity demand.

Quick click: The record output was also featured in [Axios Future of Energy](#).

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The Electric Perspectives Podcast

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Alliant Energy and QTS: Powering Growth for Every Customer



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Rachael Marsh

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The *Electric Perspectives* podcast features the latest trends and issues shaping the electric power industry.

Latest episode: Alliant Energy's Raja Sundararajan and QTS Data Centers' Todd Malan joined EEI's Rachael Marsh to discuss data centers, community engagement, and collaboration between electric companies and hyperscalers.

- [Listen to the episode here.](#)

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Get Social: Hurricane Preparedness



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Severe weather can strike at any time, which is why electric companies prepare 365 days a year to keep the power on.

At our Congressional Hurricane Preparedness & Recovery Lunch & Learn, industry leaders highlighted how energy providers build resilience before storms hit.

Key Takeaways:

- **Every Role Is a Storm Role:** Comprehensive training extends across all utility departments, from frontline crews to leadership.
- **Stress-Testing the System:** Tabletop and functional exercises test emergency communications and field logistics under simulated disaster conditions.
- **Perfecting Mutual Assistance:** Pre-allocation protocols allow seamless deployment of out-of-state utility crews before landfall.

Swipe through to see how the electric power industry works continuously to strengthen grid resilience.

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**3 Key
Takeaways**

**Congressional
Hurricane
Preparedness &
Recovery Lunch
& Learn**



Year-Round Storm Readiness



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