



Public Service Commission

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Rory M. Christian, Chair

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New York Has Sufficient Electricity Supply to Meet Summer Demand

New Extreme Heat Protections in Place for Summer

Energy Efficiency Initiatives Key to Manage Peak Demand for Electricity

ALBANY — The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today announced that New York’s electric grid and its electric utilities are prepared for increased summer demand for electricity. New York is expected to have a ready supply of electricity statewide during the summer peak based on the total expected resource capacity identified by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), along with the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) transmission project beginning commercial operation in mid-May and certain power plants scheduled to retire remaining online for additional time.

“New York’s electric system is expected to be equipped to meet customer needs this summer, and that is good news for residential and business customers,” **said Commission Chair Rory M. Christian.** “Meanwhile, we will continue making investments in energy efficiency and in new clean energy generation and transmission to help us all combat climate change, meet demand on the system, and further stabilize energy prices long term.”

The NYISO, the state’s grid operator and entity that oversees the wholesale electricity markets, reports peak demand this summer is forecasted to be 31,578 megawatts (MW), lower than last year’s actual peak of 31,857 MW. In the summer of 2013, New York State set a record peak demand of 33,955 MW.

The installed generating capacity for 2026 totals 38,027 MW. Combining the installed generation capacity with flexible demand-side and other resources provides New York with a total of 40,872 MW worth of capacity resources for 2026. However, installed capacity alone does not provide the full story of grid reliability and how the system behaves during real-time conditions. After factoring in additional operational considerations, the resulting statewide surplus capacity margin the grid operator expects to be able to depend on this summer is less than half of the amount from the same period in 2025. Nevertheless, the combination of CHPE and delayed planned retirements alleviates much more urgent operational concerns.

Overall, capacity margins have continued to narrow over the last couple of years, as New York contends with an aging generation fleet at the same time as expectations of new load and demand

rise across the state. Additionally, recent generator deactivations and unexpected failures occurring at generation facilities during high-load periods have put additional stress on the system.

The peak forecasts for the coming years see a steady increase overall due to electrification and future large loads. By 2036, the combined effect of energy efficiency and distributed generation are projected to help lower the peak demand by 5,000 MW. This reduction is against a backdrop of an overall increase in peak demand, yet proves how valuable these resources are as the grid faces added pressures. A 5,000 MW decrease in peak demand is the equivalent of electricity generated by several large power plants, enough to supply approximately 5.7 million average-size homes.

To help curb peak energy system demands, each of the utilities have load relief programs in which customers are compensated for providing load reductions when called upon. Currently there are more than 1,566 MWs in these programs for 2026 to further facilitate peak demand reductions during the summer's hottest days. Reducing the amount of electricity that's consumed daily and during the hottest days of summer provides significant benefits to consumers and the environment.

Additionally, the Commission and other State agencies have several programs designed to support low-income customers and reduce energy costs for all New Yorkers. These programs include energy efficiency programs run by utilities and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Energy Affordability Program, the Enhanced Energy Affordability Program, building weatherization programs, and the federally-funded Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

Statewide average supply costs for full service residential customers this summer (June to September) are expected to be approximately \$262, up about 1.5 percent from \$259 a year ago. This slight increase in the 2026 supply bill estimates as compared to 2025 reflects the expected changes in energy and capacity market prices as well as the impact from the utilities' hedging programs. Supply prices regularly rise and fall based on changing market conditions. Electricity energy prices typically follow gas because it is the primary fuel used to generate electricity. The cost of electricity is determined largely by the balance of supply and demand which drives wholesale prices in the energy and capacity markets run by the NYISO. Depending on where a customer is located in the state, what utility they are served by, their actual use, and market prices, the commodity portion of their summer bill will vary, and could be higher or lower than last summer.

Over the past five years the Commission's Office of Consumer Services staff has, in conjunction with intervening parties and the major New York electric utilities, worked within the rate case process to enhance and standardize customer protections during periods of extreme heat for the major electric utilities in New York State. During the same period, New York State experienced some of the hottest summers on record, and heat waves and extreme heat events are anticipated to increase in the years ahead.

Out of recognition of the increase in extreme heat events, the Commission approved a comprehensive statewide policy in March 2026 regarding extreme heat customer protection for the largest investor-owned electric utilities and water utilities. That decision prohibits these utilities from terminating residential customers' service for non-payment during extreme heat events.

Today's report may be obtained by going to the Commission Documents section of the Commission's Web site at www.dps.ny.gov and entering Case Number 26-E-0123 in the input box labeled "Search for Case/Matter Number". Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission documents may also be obtained from the Commission's Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500). If you have difficulty understanding English, please call us at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this press release.

