

Objective Strategic Session (OSS) Informational Webinar

CWX-018-GDO

January 8, 2026 (2 PM ET)

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ConnectWerx (CWX) Resources



COMMUNICATIONS

Stay **engaged and connected** with our various outreach channels

- CWX web & opportunities page
 - Opportunities / Awards
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- CWX emails and outreach
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VIRTUAL EVENTS

Take part in **opportunities** through virtual events

- CWX & DOE Objective Strategic Sessions (OSS/Webinars)
 - Learn about PIA opportunities facilitated by CWX.
 - Overview of opportunity and additional details to participants.
 - Q & A
- CWX & DOE Office Hours
 - Ask direct question to DOE and CWX.
 - Note: review application prior.



CONFERENCES

Encourage & coordinate **involvement** at conferences



March 10-12, 2026
Raleigh, NC

The mission of ConnectWerx is to **Engage, Match,** and **Collaborate** across the US Industrial and Academic base to help the Department of Energy (DOE) address **energy, environmental** and **nuclear** challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.



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Agenda

- Introductions & Overview of the Office of Electricity
- Challenges Connecting Large Loads
- Collaborations Advancing Rapid Load Additions (CARLA)
Overview & Opportunity
- Application & Review Process
- Q&A Session

The background of the slide is a photograph of an industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant, at night. The scene is filled with various structures, including tall distillation columns, storage tanks, and a complex network of pipes and walkways. The lighting is a mix of warm yellow and orange from the facility's lights and a cool blue from the ambient night light. A semi-transparent blue overlay covers the entire image. In the bottom right corner, there are several white, concentric, angular lines that form a stylized arrow or geometric pattern pointing towards the center of the slide.

Introductions & OE Overview

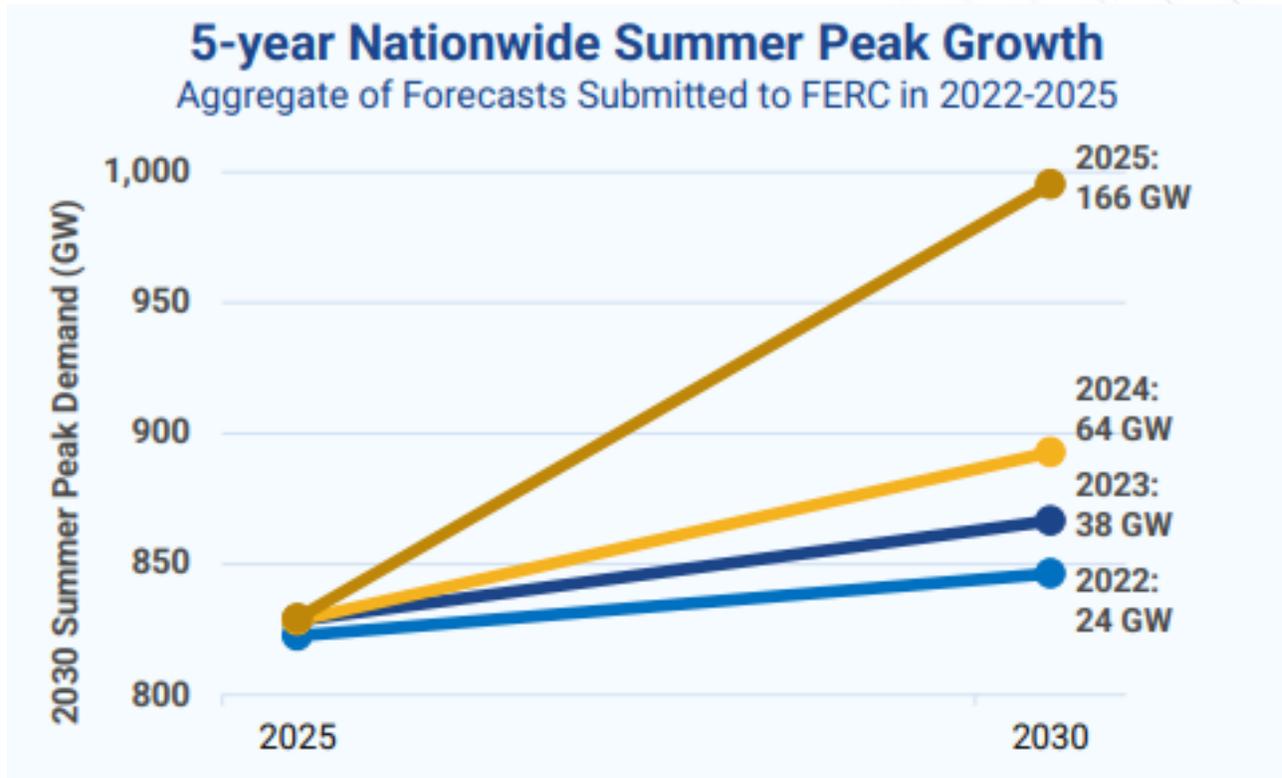
Office of Electricity Mission and Goals

- The Office of Electricity (OE) leads the Department of Energy's Research, Development, Demonstration and Deployment (RDD&D) efforts to strengthen and modernize our nation's power grid to maintain a reliable, affordable, and secure electricity delivery infrastructure.
- The Office of Electricity's main execution goals focus on:
 - Stabilizing the grid—to address the immediate, acute needs that are straining reliability.
 - Optimizing the grid—to get improved performance from the grid while maintaining affordability.
 - Growing the grid—by tapping into our many energy resources, including nuclear energy, natural gas, and coal.

The image shows an industrial facility at night, with various structures and lights visible. A semi-transparent purple overlay covers the entire scene. In the center, the text "Challenges Connecting Large Loads" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. On the right side, there are several white, stylized, overlapping arrow-like shapes pointing towards the right.

Challenges Connecting Large Loads

Large Loads are Emerging Across the U.S.



Source: Grid Strategies, [Power Demand Forecasts Revised Up for Third Year Running, Led by Data Centers](#)

- Aggregated forecasts of peak demand growth between 2025 and 2030 have risen sharply in recent years reflecting the rapid emergence of new large load requests.
- The AI and data boom drive up the need for new and larger data centers in a short time frame, and industrial facilities are on the rise across the country.
- This rapid increase in demand is challenging planners, and the grid is struggling to keep up.

The image shows an industrial facility at night, with various structures and lights visible. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple color. In the center, the text "Collaborations Advancing Rapid Load Additions (CARLA) Overview" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: "Collaborations Advancing Rapid" on the first line, "Load Additions (CARLA)" on the second line, and "Overview" on the third line. The background also features some faint, white, geometric lines on the right side, resembling a stylized arrow or a series of parallel lines pointing towards the right.

Collaborations Advancing Rapid Load Additions (CARLA) Overview

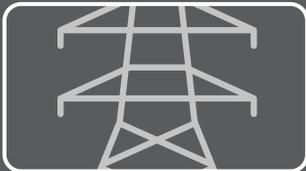
Program Objectives

- Engage a collaborative or multiple collaboratives to develop new approaches and frameworks for system planning, cost recovery, and risk allocation for electricity demand growth, in order to facilitate rapid action to accommodate significant near-term load additions while minimizing or preventing rate increases for residential and small C&I customers.
- DOE is seeking collaborative(s) that reflect a diversity of needs and use cases relating to load growth around the country, including (but not limited to) both rural and urban environments.
 - Include organizations at a variety of scales (i.e., large and small) and experience with participation in government programs.
 - Provide technical support for analyzing electricity demand growth and planning for generation and grid modernization investments to ensure reliable, affordable service.
 - Assist with forecasting demand growth (including sources, locations, scale, and characteristics), identifying opportunities to meet new loads (including demand flexibility in new and existing loads, planning approaches for new generation, interconnection options, transmission expansion, and key grid infrastructure upgrades).
 - May also design new approaches to site identification, cost allocation, and cost recovery structures to enable rapid arrival at load/grid operator agreements in support of infrastructure development.

Eligibility



Must meet the “domestic entity” definition for GSA (organized under US laws, majority domestic ownership/control, physical US place of business, and not owned/controlled by a Country of Risk).



Have demonstrated energy system, project development, and project finance expertise, including expertise in electricity demand growth forecasting, planning, analysis, transmission, interconnection, regulatory policy, risk management, site selection and negotiation, stakeholder engagement, or other relevant expertise applicable to the project objectives.



Must be a state entity (e.g., a state energy office or public utility commission). The Applicant team must include a commitment from at least one State or public utilities commission, at least one grid operator, and at least one “point load proponent” (i.e., data center user, data center developer, data center operator, and energy-intensive manufacturer) to perform the work as a collaborative.



Must certify it is not owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of government of Country of Risk [\[2\]](#)

The image shows an industrial facility at night, with various structures and lights visible. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. In the center, the text "Application & Review Process" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. On the right side, there are several white, stylized arrow shapes pointing towards the right, composed of multiple parallel lines.

Application & Review Process

Application

File Title	Max Pages	File Type
Project Summary Slide (If submitted separately from project narrative)	1	PPT, PDF
Project Narrative (Template)	9	MS Word, PDF
Budget Workbook (Template)		Excel, PDF
Project Gantt Chart (Template)		Excel, PDF
Letters of Support and Commitment (if applicable)	1 page maximum per letter	MS Word, PDF

Application Timeline

Milestones to Consider:	Date:
Project Application Period Open: DOE begins accepting applications	Jan 15, 2025
Concept Papers Submitted	Jun 30, 2025 (5PM ET)
Objective Strategic Session (OSS) / Webinar	Jan 8, 2026 (2PM ET)
Informational Office Hours	Jan 22, 2026 (2PM ET)
Submissions Close	Jan 30, 2026 (3PM ET)

Note: timeline reflects full application period with periods of pause during project.

Review Criteria

Technical Merit and Impact (60%)

Extent to which project has the potential to facilitate rapid action to accommodate significant near-term electricity demand growth while minimizing or preventing rate increases for residential and small commercial and industrial customers, including consideration of both the extent of acceleration and the magnitude of load impacted. Extent to which the proposal would provide valuable support for analyzing and preparing for electricity demand growth and/or for planning for and enabling grid capacity growth. Anticipated impact that DOE funding will have on the project and/or how DOE funding would enable work that otherwise would not take place. Extent to which project benefits, best practices, and lessons learned will be shared with and will be applicable to the broader industry.

Review Criteria

Project Approach and Feasibility (20%)

Extent to which project is well-scoped and feasible, including identification of project risks and potential mitigations. Project is supported by a robust and clear project management approach and structure. A well-thought-out budget and schedule with key milestones are included.

Team Qualifications and Capabilities (20%)

Extent to which the Applicant demonstrates necessary partnerships have been established. Credentials, capabilities, and experience of key personnel and partnering organizations. Clarity and likely effectiveness of the project organization, including sub-recipients or partners, to successfully complete the project. Adequacy and availability of proposed personnel, facilities, and equipment to perform project tasks.



Open Forum Q&A

How to Participate

1. Review details on eligibility, evaluation criteria, and how to apply.
2. Review the Objective Strategic Session (OSS) / webinar presentation.
3. Attend Informational Office Hours on January 22, 2026 at 2 PM ET. Click [here](#) to register.
4. Download the Project Narrative template.
5. Complete the online application & upload completed Project Narrative and other required documents in the application [link](#) for CWX-018-GDO.

Submissions are due no later than Friday, January 30, 2026 at 3 PM ET.