# ELECTRICITY INSIGHTS

Your EPC Energy Newsletter | October 21, 2026



## Southwestern Ohio EPC Electricity Insights!

Quarterly Energy Market Insights for EPC Members

Energy costs continue to evolve, but better data is giving school districts more opportunities to understand, manage, and potentially reduce those costs.

This quarter, we're highlighting an important AES Ohio transmission opportunity, closing out the 2026 capacity tag setting season, and showing you how your energy data can help identify opportunities within your buildings!

**Please feel free to reach out to Maha Kashani of IGS anytime with questions!**
**Maha.Kashani@igs.com or 937-972-0379**

## 💡 Transmission Update

### AES Ohio Opt-In Opportunity Could Deliver Meaningful Savings

We have identified over $1Million in potential savings! Many school districts in the AES Ohio service territory have already taken advantage of this opportunity to reduce transmission-related costs for secondary non-residential accounts by opting in via the instructions provided by Maha.

Traditionally, these accounts are billed for transmission costs based on their billing demand, which can create an issue for schools. We have seen buildings pay year-round penalties for high demand during a relatively short period, such as August, when kitchens, HVAC systems, and other equipment are operating simultaneously as school resumes. This opportunity can help to alleviate some of that pain.

### Why the Opt-In Opportunity Matters

For eligible accounts, the opportunity uses the Network Service Peak Load, or NSPL transmission tag, which is based on your contribution to the AES peak hour of the year, as the basis for transmission $/kW costs rather than the account's monthly kW billing demand.

This can be particularly valuable for school facilities where those short-lived demand spikes or demand ratchets result in transmission charges that may not accurately reflect your building's typical usage.

Maha has completed a comprehensive account-level analysis of this opportunity and is available to share the results with any participating EPC school district interested in reviewing its potential savings.

**Interested in seeing the analysis for your district?**
**Contact Maha Kashani for a copy and account review.**

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## 🕑 Capacity Update

**Another 2026 Peak Season Is Complete**

Another PJM capacity season is officially behind us. Based on initial metered peak information, the five Coincident Peak (5CP) days and hours occurred this year on July 1, July 2, July 15, July 16, and September 1, each between 5-6pm EDT.

**One Important Caveat**

These are based on the initial metered peaks and should not yet be considered final. PJM is expected to release its official reconciled peak information in the back half of October. We do not anticipate these values to change and will provide an update at the November 3rd meeting if they do. These are the days/hours that AES Ohio will use to calculate your Fiscal Year 27/28 capacity obligations.

**Why does this matter?** Every kWh your facilities consumed during those peak hours establish your future capacity obligation. Understanding when those peaks occur and how your building is consuming energy helps districts evaluate future load-management strategies.

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## ⚡ Turning Data Into Action

**Your Change in Cost Analysis Is More Than a Budgeting Tool!**

EPC members can request a Change in Cost Analysis at any time to better understand how their energy costs are changing and, just as importantly, **why**. While this information is valuable for budgeting and Five-Year Forecast planning, the underlying data can tell us much more.

When we look across individual buildings & accounts, we can begin identifying patterns that warrant a closer look:

- Why is one building using considerably more energy than similar facilities?
- Has a building experienced an unexplained increase in demand, consumption, or obligations?
- Are operating patterns indicating that equipment may be running unnecessarily?
- Could an older or inefficient building benefit from a deeper energy review?
- Are demand penalties creating avoidable expenses?

The goal isn't simply to report the numbers. It's to use the data to ask better questions and identify cost savings opportunities.

A building that stands out from the rest doesn't necessarily mean there is a problem, but the data gives us a place to start looking. Over time, this type of benchmarking can help EPC districts prioritize where an energy audit, equipment review, operational change or capital improvement may provide the greatest value.

**Contact Maha if you would like to review your district's Change in Cost Analysis and identify accounts or buildings worth a closer look.**

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## 💡 Maha's Minute

**Data Centers: Why They're Changing the Energy Market**

You've probably heard a lot about data centers lately. There's a good reason.

PJM (our slice of the grid) is forecasting approximately 32 GW of additional peak electricity demand between 2024 and 2030, with about 94% of that attributed to data centers. Put differently, data centers are accounting for the overwhelming majority of PJM's projected peak load growth over the next 4-5 years.

### Why should your district care?

Because all of that new electricity demand has to be served.

For decades, electricity demand was relatively flat. Now the grid is being asked to accommodate enormous new loads from data centers and other large energy users while maintaining reliability for everyone already connected to it.

PJM itself has admitted this surge in demand has created **significant upward pricing pressure** and has raised concerns about having sufficient resources available to reliably serve future demand. At the same time, our electric infrastructure must evolve to support this 21st-century economy and AI boom. That means investment in generation, transmission, and other grid resources while electricity demand is growing rapidly… and that cost is traditionally passed down to us, the ratepayers.

### What does that mean for EPC members?

**Continued cost pressure should remain on our radar!**

No one can predict precisely when today's rapid growth will moderate or when additional supply and infrastructure will catch up. But the direction of the challenge is clear: PJM is planning for dramatically greater electricity demand, and data centers are the dominant source of that forecasted growth. **For EPC members, this reinforces something we've talked about for years: a thoughtful, structured approach to energy procurement and risk management matters.**

We can't control how quickly data centers are built. We can control how thoughtfully we prepare for the market they are helping create.

That's your Maha's Minute.  As always, do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!