Pennsylvania Utility Law Project

PULP is a statewide legal services project and a member of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network.

PULP's mission is to secure just and equitable access to safe and affordable utility services for Pennsylvanians experiencing poverty.

We work to achieve our mission by empowering individuals and communities through:

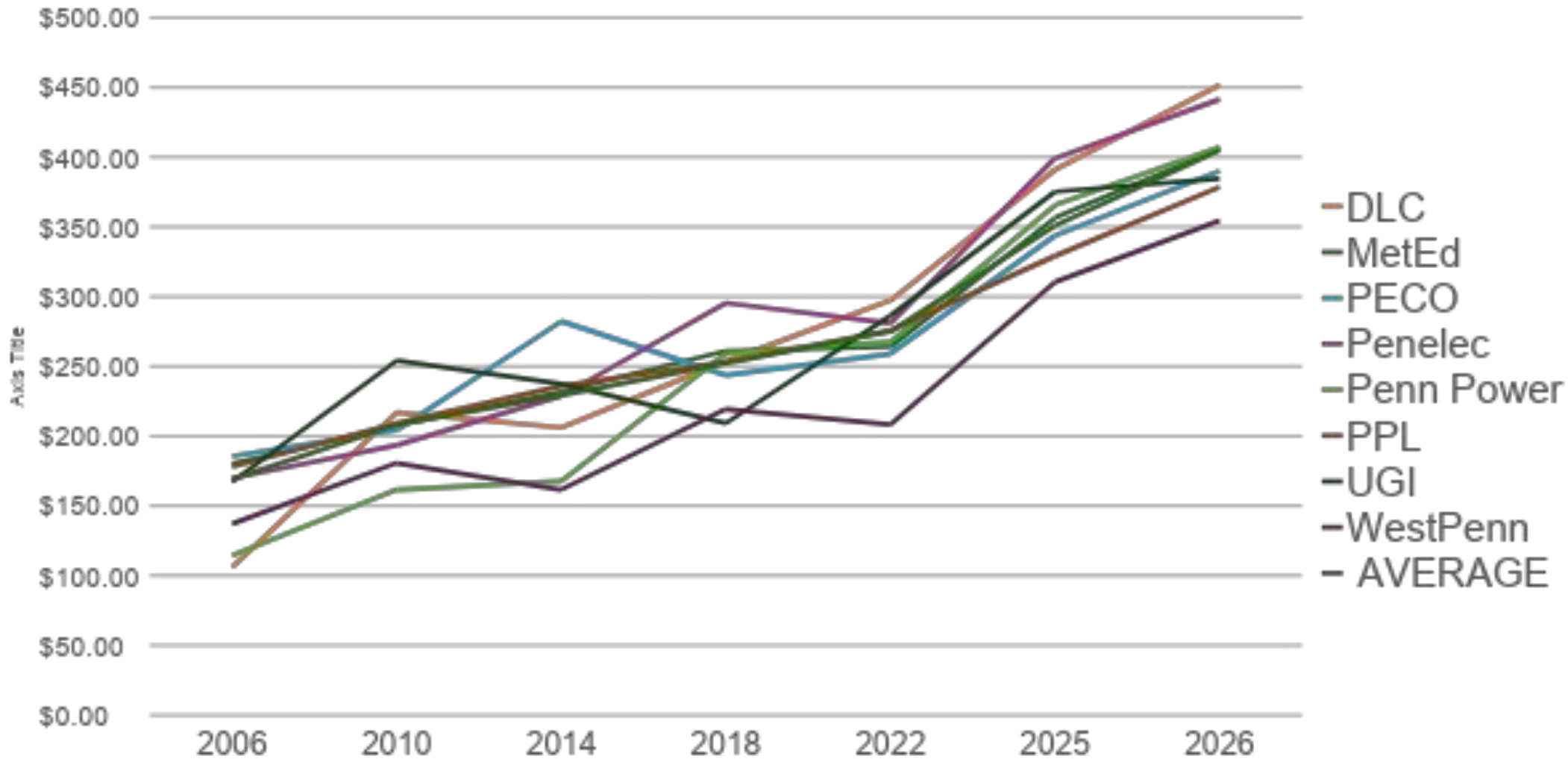
- Legal Representation, Groups, and Individuals
- Education and Training
- Policy Advocacy
- Supportive Services
- Consultation

PULP
PENNSYLVANIA
UTILITY LAW PROJECT

Electric rates are outpacing inflation, and utility insecurity is on the rise.

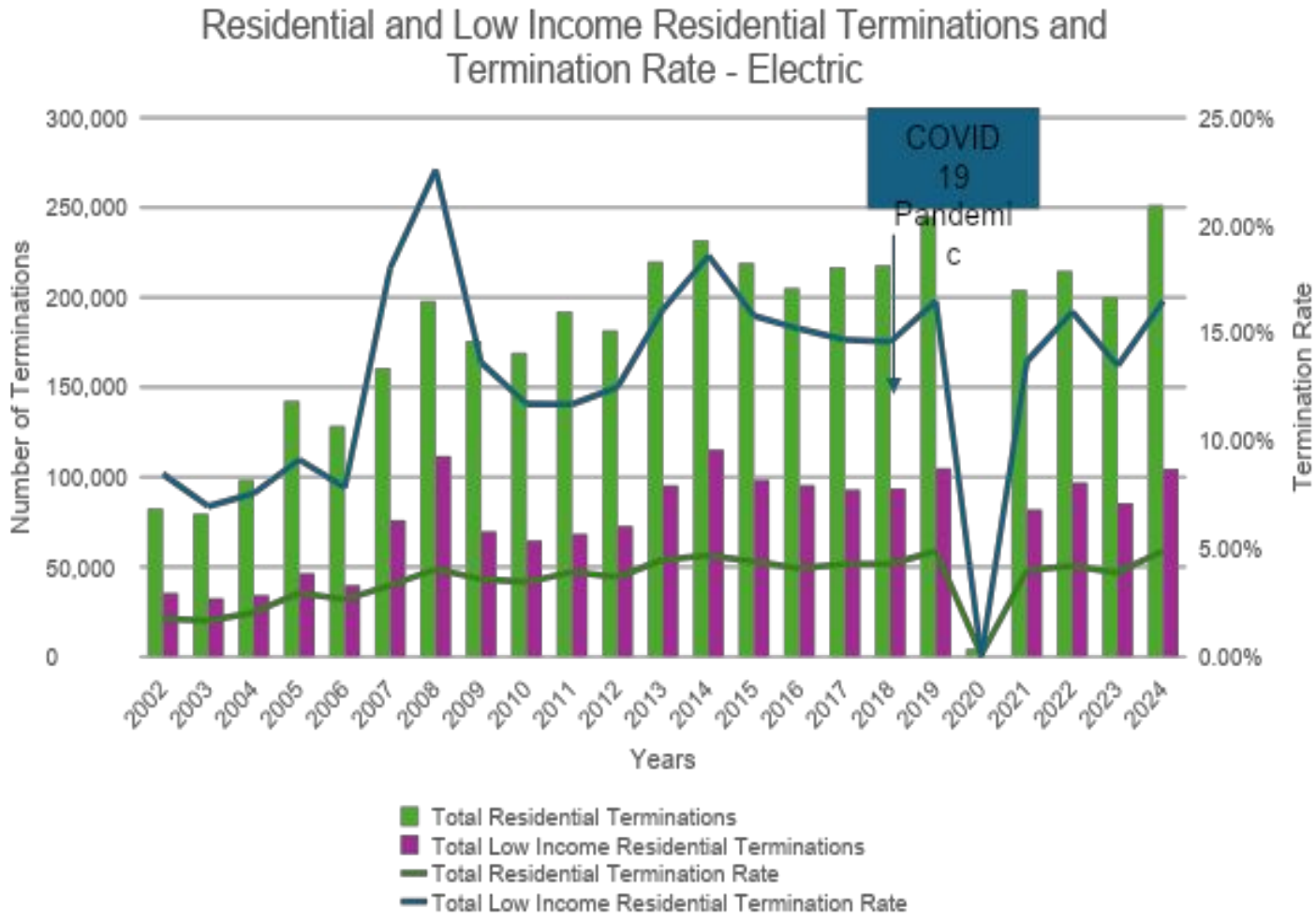
Electric Rates

(2006 to 2025, 2,000 kWh/mo – average for electric heating or cooling)



Energy Insecurity in PA

- **1 in 4** PA households report having difficulty paying their energy bills.
- **1 in 20** PA households have utility debt, with average balances exceeding $1200.
- In 2025, **over 387,000** PA households had their gas or electric service **shut off** because they could not afford to pay.
- **Since 2022, involuntary gas and electric shut offs have increased 27% - *breaking records every year since 2023.***



Consequences of Utility Insecurity

Health

- Exacerbates negative health outcomes
- Exposure to unhealthy/unsafe temperatures
- Inability to properly sanitize

Family

- Interrupts family unity (CYS/custody disputes)
- Hinders child learning and development
- Severs critical communication with work/school

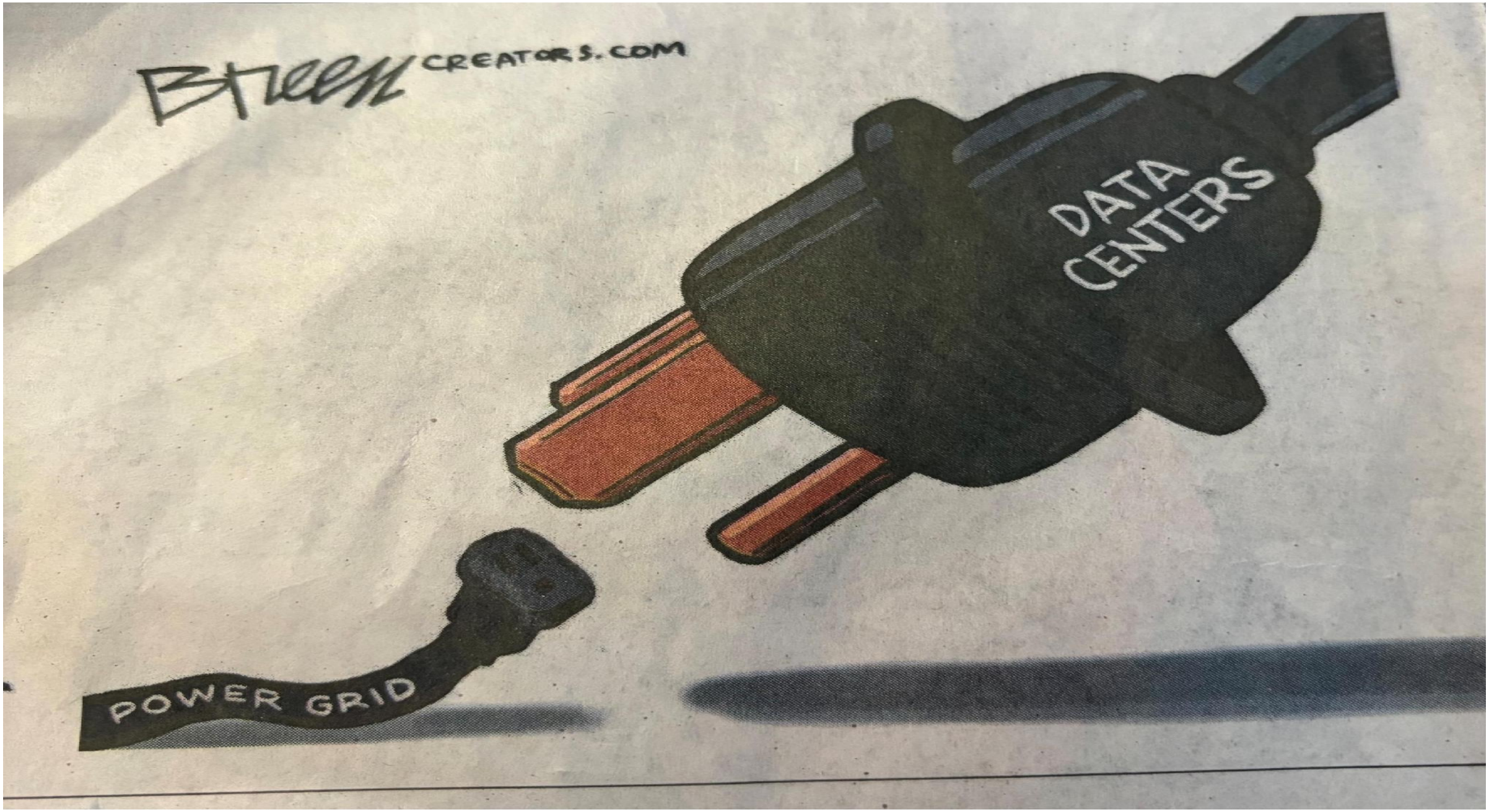
Finance / Consumer Credit

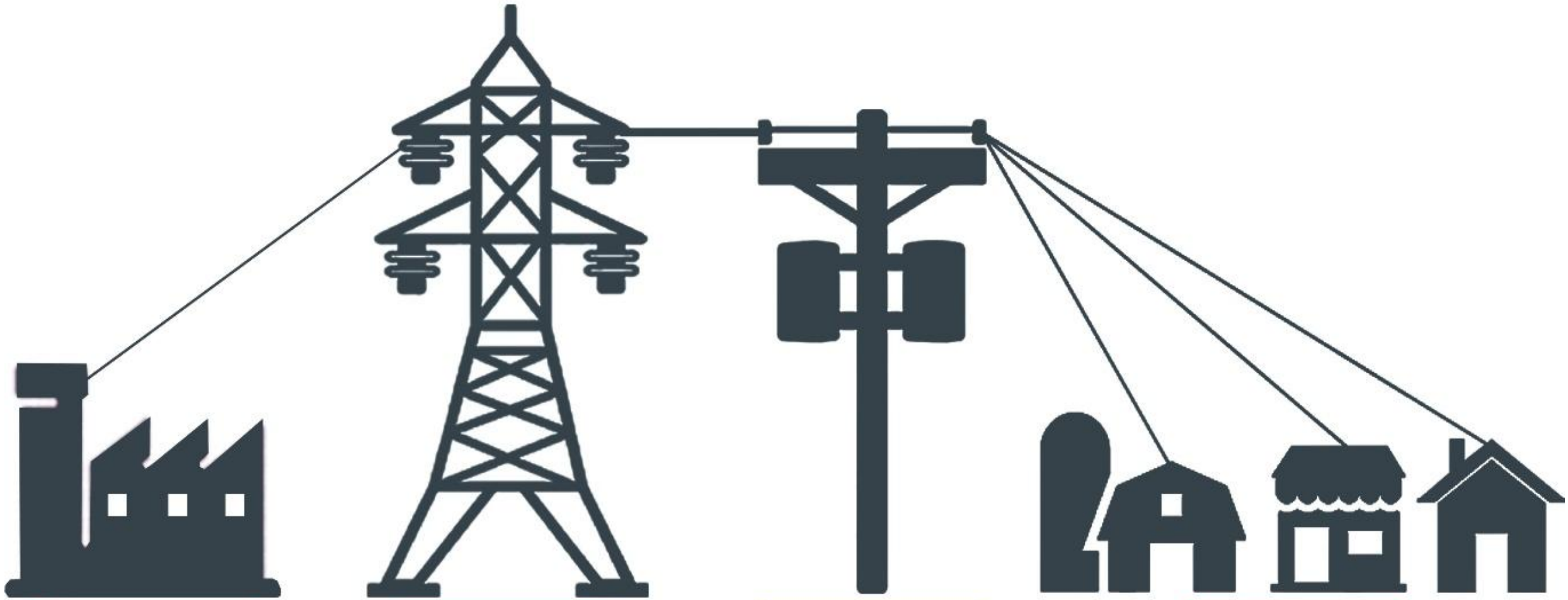
- Long-term impact on consumer credit

Housing

- Catalyst for eviction, foreclosure, and homelessness
- Constructive eviction / “Self-Help”
- Results in condemnation
- Difficulty relocating to new housing
- Ineligibility for public and private housing

Data centers are responsible for increasing costs and acute reliability risks.


BTeen CREATORS.COM
DATA CENTERS
POWER GRID


Generation
Transmission
Distribution
End User

Components of Electricity Bills

DISTRIBUTION

PUC Regulates Distribution Service

Obtained from your local Electric Distribution Company (EDC).

- Per kWh distribution rate
- Flat monthly customer charge
- Taxes
- Distribution System Improvement Charges (DSIC)
- Public Purpose Costs

GENERATION/TRANSMISSION

FERC Regulates Transmission Service and Oversees Competitive Generation

PJM Operates Wholesale Markets and Manages Grid Operations, with FERC oversight.

Charges are usually bundled into a Price To Compare (PTC) / Supplier Price:

- Energy charges
- Transmission charges
- Capacity
- Taxes
- Other (ancillary services)

Reliability Risk

Table 8. Modeled PJM-wide resource adequacy for 2030

Scenario Name	Modeled 2030 LOLE
Reference	0.59 *expected value of 5.9 events every ten years, 6X worse than PJM planning criterion*
High Load and Low Supply	13.20 *expected value of 13.20 events every year, 132X worse than PJM planning criterion*
No New Data Centers	0.05 *expected value of 1 event every 20 years, 2X better than PJM planning criterion*
PJM planning criterion	0.1

- LOLE = Loss of Load Expectation
- 0.01 = 1 day expected loss / 10 years
- 13.2 LOLE, High Load / Low Supply = 13 days / year

PUC Resource Adequacy Report (Synapse) – Sept. 14, 2026

Modeled scenarios

Reference: developed using PJM's 2026 load forecast; represents a future where no additional policy actions are taken and resource supply gradually improves through 2040

High Load and Low Supply: represents a worst-case future, with even higher levels of data center load and constrained supply through 2040

No New Data Centers: represents a future in which no new data center load is built anywhere in PJM in 2027 or any later year, but which otherwise utilizes the Reference-scenario assumptions regarding supply resource availability.

Distribution Rate Increases Since 2024

	Approved Increase	% Increase, Residential	Effective Date
DLC	$85,100,000	4.0%	Dec. 2024
PECO Electric	$354,000,000	10.0%	Jan. 2025
PECO Gas	$78,000,000	12.5%	Jan. 2025
MetEd	$39,500,000	2.0%	Jan. 2025
Penelec	$57,700,000	4.0%	Jan. 2025
Penn Power	$24,800,000	4.5%	Jan. 2025
West Penn	$102,900,000	6.2%	Jan. 2025
UGI Gas	$69,500,000	6.7%	Oct. 2025
PGW	$62,000,000	6.6%	Oct. 2025
Columbia Gas	$55,000,000	6.0%	Dec. 2025
PPL Electric	$275,000,000	5.0%	Jul. 2026
TOTAL APPROVED	**$ 1,203,500,000**		

Default (Generation) Rates

(Dec. 2024 vs. June 2026)

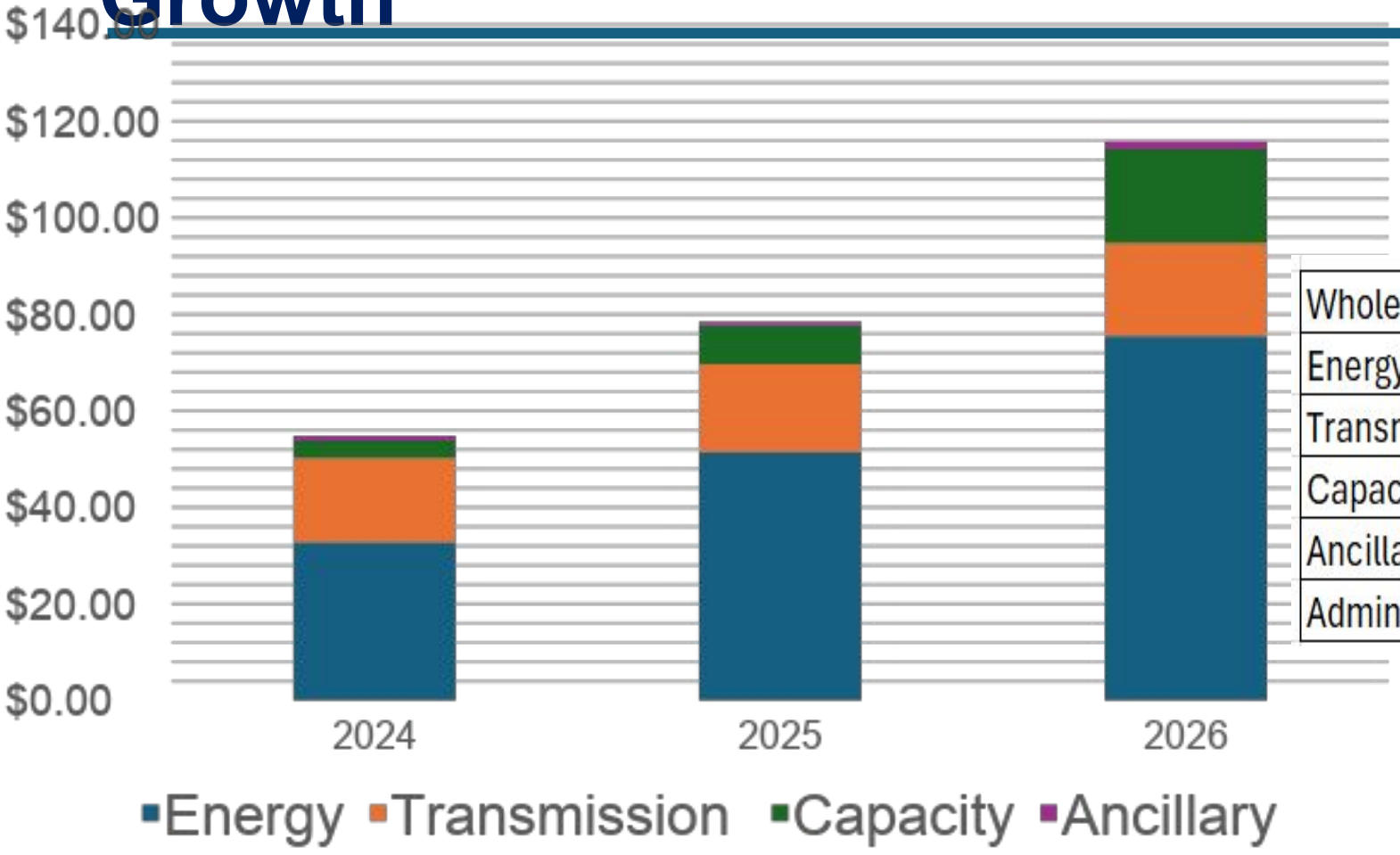
12/1/24 versus 06/1/26					
	As of Dec 2024	As of June 2026	% Increase	Increase /Mo. @ 500 kWh	Increase/ Mo. @ 2000 kWh
PECO	$ 0.092	$ 0.116	25.3%	$ 11.67	$ 46.66
PPL	$ 0.108	$ 0.131	22.1%	$ 11.88	$ 47.52
DLC	$ 0.109	$ 0.141	30.3%	$ 16.45	$ 65.80
MetEd	$ 0.110	$ 0.140	26.7%	$ 14.71	$ 58.82
Penelec	$ 0.105	$ 0.131	25.5%	$ 13.34	$ 53.36
Penn Power	$ 0.112	$ 0.135	20.7%	$ 11.55	$ 46.18
West Penn	$ 0.095	$ 0.121	27.4%	$ 12.97	$ 51.88
Smaller EDCs					
Citizens	$ 0.087	$ 0.132	52.0%	$ 22.60	$ 90.40
Pike^	$ 0.106	$ 0.134	27.0%	$ 14.27	$ 57.08
UGI Elec.	$ 0.106	$ 0.126	18.6%	$ 9.90	$ 39.60
Wellsboro	$ 0.091	$ 0.126	37.3%	$ 17.06	$ 68.24
^ Pike is not in PJM, it is connected to NYISO					

Default (Generation) Rates

(Dec. 2024 vs. June 2026)

Utility	Average kWh	Overall, Monthly	Overall, Annual	Average Annual/Cust
PECO	702	$ 25,052,759.10	$ 300,633,109.24	$ 196.53
PPL	933	$ 27,978,710.63	$ 335,744,527.50	$ 266.02
DLC	600	$ 10,818,961.02	$ 129,827,532.24	$ 236.88
MetEd	913	$ 13,913,446.26	$ 166,961,355.13	$ 322.22
Penelec	702	$ 9,375,449.38	$ 112,505,392.58	$ 224.75
Penn Power	808	$ 2,792,631.13	$ 33,511,573.60	$ 223.88
West Penn	913	$ 14,988,612.59	$ 179,863,351.08	$ 284.20
		$ 104,920,570.11	**$ 1,259,046,841.38**	

Wholesale Power and Data Center Load Growth



Wholesale Power	2024	2025	2026
Energy	$ 32.83	$ 51.45	$ 75.47
Transmission	$ 17.45	$ 18.22	$ 19.38
Capacity	$ 3.52	$ 8.10	$ 19.34
Ancillary	$ 1.05	$ 0.66	$ 1.66
Administration	$ 0.67	$ 0.66	$ 0.68

Sources: Comparison of IMM report to PJM Members Committee on 8.20.25 with 8.19.26.

Transmission Costs

Table 1. Data Center - Caused Transmission Costs in Millions of Dollars Approved in 2024

State	Number of Projects	Cost (Millions)
Illinois	3	$239.0
Maryland	4	$107.5
New Jersey	8	$14.5
Ohio	37	$1,299.7
Pennsylvania	16	$491.8
Virginia	60	$1,988
West Virginia	2	$215.8
Total	130	$4,356.3

Source: Union of Concerned Scientists, Policy Brief: Connection Costs (2025)

Transmission Costs

UTILITY DIVE

Sign up

PJM board approves $11.8B transmission expansion plan

Dominion Energy utility lands $4.8-billion, high-voltage, direct-current underground project in Virginia as NextEra Energy-Exelon is awarded a $1.7-billion project in Pennsylvania.

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