

LOUISIANA ENERGY CRISIS REPORT

How AI Data Centers Are Raising Every Louisiana Family's Energy Bills

A Citizen's Brief to Louisiana's Congressional Delegation | March 2026

ADDRESSED TO LOUISIANA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION:

U.S. Senate: Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) | sen.cassidy.senate.gov | (202) 224-5824

U.S. Senate: Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) | kennedy.senate.gov | (202) 224-4623

U.S. House: 6 Representatives — find yours at:
house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative

LA Public Service Commission: lpsc.louisiana.gov | (225) 342-4427

1.1M+

Entergy Louisiana customers affected

+29%

Cleco bill increase — July 2025

+20%

SWEPCO bill increase — July 2025

\$10B

Meta Hyperion investment in LA

\$12B

Amazon data center investment in NW LA

3

New gas plants Entergy building for Meta

SECTION 1: What Louisiana Families Are Already Paying

The energy cost crisis is not coming to Louisiana — it is already here. In 2025, Louisiana households absorbed some of the steepest electricity bill increases in recent memory, driven by natural gas price spikes, an aging grid, and the early stages of massive AI data center construction now underway in your own state.

The Three Major Louisiana Utilities — What Happened in 2025

Utility	Customers	2024 Avg Bill	2025 Avg Bill	Increase
Entergy Louisiana	1.1 million	~\$140/mo	~\$155/mo	+11%
Cleco Power (24 parishes)	295,000	\$123/mo	\$159/mo	+29%
SWEPCO (NW Louisiana)	235,000	\$126/mo	\$151/mo	+20%

Source: Louisiana Public Service Commission data, July 2025. The last time Louisiana bills reached these levels was in the summer of 2022, itself a crisis year. We are back at those highs — and heading higher.



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR A LOUISIANA FAMILY

A Cleco customer who was paying \$123/month in July 2024 paid \$159/month in July 2025 — an extra \$432 over the course of a year.

A SWEPCO customer absorbed an extra \$300 annually just from the 2025 summer increase alone.

Louisiana has some of the highest 'energy burden' in the country — meaning a large share of residents pay 25–30% of their monthly income on electricity alone. These increases hit Louisiana families harder than most states.

Why Are Bills Going Up? The Official Explanation vs. The Full Picture

Utilities and state regulators point primarily to natural gas price increases as the cause. That is partially true — but it is not the whole story.

- Natural gas makes up 74% of Louisiana's electricity generation — the highest dependence of any state in the South
- When natural gas prices spiked to \$4.12/MMBtu in March 2025 (up from \$1.49 in March 2024), Entergy passed the full increase to customers as a 'fuel adjustment charge' on your bill
- Entergy Louisiana is also charging customers for a \$1.9 billion 'Future Ready Resilience Plan' grid upgrade — approved by the PSC in April 2024 — as a separate monthly line-item charge starting in 2025
- Economist David Dismukes of LSU placed part of the blame on utilities themselves, saying they 'failed to make infrastructure investments that could deliver electricity much more efficiently and save their customers money'

- Consumer advocates note that utilities have 'little financial incentive to reduce energy waste' because their profits are tied to infrastructure spending, not efficiency

SECTION 2: The AI Data Center Invasion of Louisiana

Louisiana is ground zero for the national AI data center build-out. Two of the largest AI infrastructure investments in American history are being built on Louisiana soil right now — and the long-term impact on your electricity grid and your energy bills depends entirely on whether the right protections are in law.

Project Hyperion — Meta's \$10 Billion Mega-Campus in Richland Parish

- Location: 2,250 acres between Rayville and Delhi, Richland Parish, Northeast Louisiana
- Scale: 4 million square feet — the largest data center in Meta's entire global network
- Power demand: 2 gigawatts initially, scaling to 5 GW — equivalent to 3x the annual electricity usage of the entire city of New Orleans
- Construction: Nearly 4,000 workers as of early 2026, peaking at 5,000 by mid-2026
- Louisiana's total statewide electricity demand is expected to rise by an estimated 15% from Hyperion alone

What Entergy Is Building to Power Hyperion — At Ratepayer Risk

To power Meta's campus, Entergy Louisiana received PSC approval to build three new natural gas power plants:

- Combined capacity: 2.26 gigawatts from three combined-cycle combustion turbine facilities
- Total infrastructure cost: approximately \$3.2–4 billion
- Transmission additions: \$1.2 billion, 100-mile 500kV transmission line; two new substations; eight new 230kV transmission lines
- Timeline: Two units online in 2028, third unit at Entergy's Waterford site in St. Charles Parish in 2029

THE CRITICAL RISK LOUISIANA RESIDENTS MUST KNOW

Meta restructured its ownership of the Hyperion campus in October 2025, transferring 80% of the project to Blue Owl Capital (private equity) through a new Delaware LLC called 'Beignet Investor.'

Meta's new financing structure gives it the ability to walk away from the data center in as little as four years.

The three natural gas plants Entergy is building have a 30-YEAR lifespan.

If Meta or its private equity partner abandons the data center before those gas plants are paid off, LOUISIANA RATEPAYERS WOULD FOOT THE BILL for 30 years of gas plant costs with no tenant to pay for the power.

The Alliance for Affordable Energy and Earthjustice asked the Louisiana PSC to investigate this risk. The PSC REFUSED to open an investigation on February 27, 2026.

This is not a hypothetical. The financial structure mirrors the kinds of arrangements that caused the 2008 financial crisis, according to legal analysts.

The Amazon Deal — \$12 Billion in Northwest Louisiana (Caddo & Bossier Parishes)

In February 2026, Governor Jeff Landry announced Amazon's \$12 billion investment in three interconnected data center campuses across Caddo and Bossier Parishes in the Shreveport area. This deal is structured very differently from Hyperion — and provides a model of what consumer protection should look like:

- Amazon has committed to paying 100% of its own electricity costs including all infrastructure upgrades
- SWEPCO (Southwestern Electric Power Co.) confirmed no costs will be passed to residential or small-business customers
- Amazon committed \$400 million to local water infrastructure improvements
- 540 permanent jobs promised, plus approximately 1,710 indirect jobs

✓ THE AMAZON DEAL AS A MODEL

Governor Landry stated publicly: 'This is not going to cost the people of Louisiana any more on their utility rates.'

The Amazon deal shows what is possible when the state negotiates hard for ratepayer protections BEFORE approving a data center.

The question Louisiana residents must demand their representatives answer: Why wasn't the same level of protection required for the Meta/Entergy deal — and is it too late to fix it?

SECTION 3: Who Owns Your Louisiana Utility?

The same two investment giants — BlackRock and Vanguard — that appear at the top of utility ownership rolls nationwide are also the dominant institutional shareholders of Entergy Corporation, the parent company of Entergy Louisiana. This is documented in federal SEC filings.

Entergy Corporation (Parent of Entergy Louisiana)	BlackRock Stake	Vanguard Stake	Total Combined
Institutional ownership share	~7.5%	~10.1%	~17.6%

For Cleco Power, the second-largest Louisiana utility, ownership is held through Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets (MIRA) — a large Australian investment firm — which took Cleco private in 2016. The result is even less public accountability than a publicly traded utility.

 THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN LOUISIANA
BlackRock directly owns Aligned Data Centers (a \$40B acquisition) and co-founded the AI Infrastructure Partnership targeting \$100B in AI data center investment.
BlackRock also holds ~7.5% of Entergy Corporation — your utility.
When Entergy raises your electricity rates to build gas plants for Meta's AI campus, BlackRock profits both as a utility shareholder AND as an AI infrastructure operator.
This is a documented financial conflict of interest — not a theory.

SECTION 4: The National Context — Louisiana Is Not Alone

Louisiana's crisis is part of a national pattern now documented by Goldman Sachs, the International Energy Agency, S&P Global, and members of Congress from both parties. Understanding the national scale gives Louisiana residents and their representatives the full context needed to act.

- 112 million+ Americans face electricity rate increases in 2025–2027
- \$92 billion in total utility rate increases have been requested across 49 states
- National electricity prices rose 6.9% in 2025 — more than double general inflation
- Goldman Sachs projects another 6% increase in 2026–2027
- AI data centers now account for 40% of all U.S. electricity demand growth
- \$720 billion in grid upgrades will be needed by 2030 — mostly passed to consumers

- In the PJM grid region alone (13 states), consumers were billed an extra \$23 billion to cover data center-related grid costs — what analysts call 'a massive wealth transfer'

What Congress Is Already Doing — And What Louisiana's Delegation Should Join

Legislation	Sponsors	What It Does
The GRID Act	Sen. Hawley (R-MO) & Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT)	Bans data center electricity costs from being passed to residential customers; requires tech companies to fund their own grid infrastructure
Preventing Power Outages Act	Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)	Reauthorizes DOE grid resilience grants to help states modernize aging grid infrastructure — your own Senator introduced this bill
Data Center Energy Accountability Act (proposed)	Various	Would require full public disclosure of data center electricity consumption and ratepayer impact before PSC approval

Note: Senator Cassidy's Preventing Power Outages Act addresses grid resilience but does not yet include specific protections preventing data center costs from being passed to Louisiana ratepayers. Louisiana's delegation should be asked to close this gap.

SECTION 5: What Louisiana Faces Going Forward

Based on current trajectories documented by federal and independent energy research organizations, here is what Louisiana families can expect over the next five years if no additional protections are enacted:

The Natural Gas Dependency Problem

Louisiana's grid is more exposed to natural gas price volatility than almost any other state in the country — 74% of electricity generation comes from natural gas. This means:

- When national or global gas prices spike (as they did in early 2025 and again in January 2026), Louisiana families absorb the full impact almost immediately
- The three new gas plants being built for Meta's Hyperion campus lock Louisiana into additional natural gas dependency for 30 years
- Louisiana has almost no state-level renewable energy transition support — no state solar tax credits, no rebates — limiting residents' ability to self-protect

The Aging Grid Problem

Independent energy economists have flagged Louisiana's grid infrastructure as a compounding vulnerability:

- Louisiana has aging transmission and distribution lines that waste power, according to LSU economist David Dismukes
- Residents average 1.73 electrical outages per year at 222 minutes per outage — worse than the national average
- The \$1.9 billion Entergy resilience plan approved in 2024 will add monthly charges to every Entergy customer's bill through at least 2030

The 5-Year Projection for Louisiana Families

Year	Estimated Entergy Avg Monthly Bill	Estimated Cleco Avg Monthly Bill	Key Driver
2025	\$155/mo (actual)	\$159/mo (actual)	Gas price spike + fuel adjustment
2026	\$162–170/mo	\$167–178/mo	Resilience plan charges + AI demand growth
2027	\$170–182/mo	\$175–190/mo	Hyperion gas plants coming online; grid expansion costs
2028	\$180–195/mo	\$185–202/mo	Full Hyperion load; national grid inflation +6%
2030	\$195–215/mo	\$200–225/mo	All three gas plants operational; 15% statewide demand increase

Projections based on: Louisiana PSC data, Goldman Sachs electricity forecast, S&P Global data center demand forecast, Entergy resilience plan filings, and current natural gas price trends. These are estimates, not guarantees.



THE BOTTOM LINE IN DOLLARS

A Louisiana family currently paying \$155/month for electricity could be paying \$195–215/month by 2030 — an increase of \$40–60/month, or \$480–720 more per year.

For a family already spending 25–30% of income on energy bills, this could be the difference between keeping the lights on and facing disconnection.

The question for your representatives is simple: Will Louisiana require tech corporations to pay for what they use — or will Louisiana families pay for it instead?

SECTION 6: What We Are Asking of Louisiana's Congressional Delegation

This report is submitted to Louisiana's U.S. Senators and Representatives as a formal citizen request for action. The following are specific, concrete, and achievable asks — grounded in legislation that already exists or is currently moving through Congress.

Ask #1 — Co-Sponsor the GRID Act

We ask Senators Cassidy and Kennedy and all six House Representatives to co-sponsor or introduce companion legislation to the bipartisan GRID Act, which would:

- Prohibit data center-related electricity costs from being passed to residential and small-business customers
- Require AI and tech corporations to fund all grid infrastructure required to power their facilities
- Prioritize grid access for homes and small businesses over large industrial data center users

Ask #2 — Investigate the Meta/Entergy Deal

We ask Louisiana's congressional delegation to formally request that the Louisiana Public Service Commission re-open its investigation into the Meta/Entergy Hyperion financing arrangement, specifically:

- Whether the October 2025 ownership transfer to Blue Owl Capital adequately protects Louisiana ratepayers if the data center is abandoned before the 30-year gas plant lifespan expires
- Whether the PSC's fast-tracked approval process provided adequate time for public input as required by state law
- Whether the three new natural gas plants can be repurposed or sold if Meta vacates the facility, and who bears that cost

Ask #3 — Require Consumer Protection Agreements as a Condition of All Future Data Centers

The Amazon deal in Northwest Louisiana shows what good policy looks like. We ask the delegation to support making the Amazon model the legal standard for all future data center projects in Louisiana:

- All data center developers must sign binding agreements to pay 100% of electricity infrastructure costs

- No utility-built generation capacity for a single large customer (data center) may be charged to other ratepayers
- Any change in data center ownership must trigger a mandatory PSC review of ratepayer protections

Ask #4 — Support Senator Cassidy's Preventing Power Outages Act — and Expand It

Senator Cassidy's bill to reauthorize DOE grid resilience grants is a step in the right direction. We ask that this legislation be expanded to:

- Specifically prioritize grants for states with high natural gas dependency (like Louisiana) to diversify their grid away from single-fuel vulnerability
- Include funding for utility-scale renewable energy projects that reduce the fuel adjustment charges that are currently the largest driver of Louisiana bill increases
- Require that any utility receiving federal grid resilience funds disclose how much of its rate increases are attributable to data center load growth

Ask #5 — Hold a Congressional Hearing on Louisiana Energy Costs

We respectfully request that Louisiana's congressional delegation use its committee assignments to hold or support a formal hearing on the following questions:

- What is the full projected impact of Meta Hyperion and the Amazon data center campuses on Louisiana electricity rates through 2035?
- Is the current structure of the Meta/Entergy gas plant deal compliant with federal utility consumer protection standards?
- What financial conflicts of interest exist between institutional investors (BlackRock, Vanguard) who own Louisiana utilities and their simultaneous ownership of AI data center infrastructure?

SECTION 7: What Louisiana Residents Can Do Right Now

Contact Your Representatives — Today

- Sen. Bill Cassidy: (202) 224-5824 | cassidy.senate.gov/contact
- Sen. John Kennedy: (202) 224-4623 | kennedy.senate.gov/contact
- Find your U.S. House Representative: house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative
- Louisiana Public Service Commission: (225) 342-4427 | lpsc.louisiana.gov

Engage the Louisiana Public Service Commission

- The PSC regulates Entergy Louisiana, Cleco, and SWEPCO — every rate increase must go through them
- Attend PSC meetings — they are open to the public and held in Baton Rouge and around the state
- Submit written comments during any open rate case — they carry legal weight in the proceeding
- Ask the PSC directly: 'What percentage of Entergy's proposed increases is attributable to data center load growth?'

Support Louisiana Consumer Advocacy Groups

- Alliance for Affordable Energy (AAEnergy.org) — Louisiana-based, has been fighting the Meta/Entergy deal in the PSC
- Together Louisiana — community organizing group that appeared at the PSC on Entergy rate cases
- Earthjustice — represented the Alliance for Affordable Energy and Union of Concerned Scientists at the PSC on Hyperion
- Sierra Club Louisiana Chapter — tracking data center and grid issues statewide

Reduce Your Own Exposure

- Apply for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) — call 1-800-332-8247 for Louisiana assistance
- Contact Entergy Louisiana about their budget billing plan to spread costs evenly across all 12 months
- Ask Entergy or Cleco for a free energy audit — they are often subsidized or free for residential customers
- Louisiana offers a 100% property tax exemption for solar panel installations — no state tax credit but no added property tax
- Community solar subscription programs are expanding in Louisiana — contact your utility about availability

THE CORE MESSAGE TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Louisiana is at the center of the national AI data center build-out. That is a fact. The question is not whether these facilities come to our state — some already have. The question is who pays for them.

The Amazon deal proves it is possible to attract billions in investment while protecting ratepayers. The Meta/Entergy deal proves what happens when that protection is absent.

Louisiana families — many of whom already spend 25–30% of their income on energy — cannot absorb decades of cost increases to subsidize the electricity needs of trillion-dollar corporations.

We are asking our elected representatives to make the Amazon model the law — not the exception.

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