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Data Centers:
Large Load Energy Use and Air Emissions

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Data Centers & Large Loads: Overview

- High electricity use: computing, storage, cooling, and backup
- Large loads: data centers, manufacturing and industrial facilities
- Significant new electric demand
- Air emissions: backup generation, construction, supply mix
- PRC focus: service, reliability, rates, planning, customer protection

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Utility Impacts of Large Loads

- New generation / purchased power
- Transmission and distribution upgrades
- Impacts forecasting and planning assumptions
- Special contracts/tariffs
- Cost recovery, cost allocation & reliability review
- Stranded cost risk
- Emissions impacts

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How Large Loads Appear at the PRC

- Special service contracts and large-customer tariffs
- Interconnection tariff filings by investor-owned utilities
  - Include commitments, financial protections, cost assignment
- Utility planning, forecasting, and procurement decisions
- Generation, transmission, and distribution investments
- Rate cases and customer protection reviews
- Non-traditional models (self-supply, microgrids, behind-the-meter)

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New Mexico Example: Meta (Los Lunas)

- Data center project began in 2016; expanded multiple times
- Major NM economic driver
- Supported by special service contracts with PNM
- Demonstrates planning, procurement, contracts, and customer protections

290 MW Solar*
268 MW Battery Storage
1,175 MW Renewables (total)
368 MW Storage (total)

*PRC Case No. 25-00048-UT approved: Dec. 18, 2025

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Key Takeaways

- ✓Data centers drive economic development
- ✓Large loads require careful system planning
- ✓Protect existing customers from cost shifts
- ✓Mitigate risk if projects are delayed or reduced
- ✓Air permitting handled by environmental regulators
- ✓PRC ensures reliable, affordable electric service
- ✓Goal: balance growth with reliability and cost stability