

# **KPP** LIGHTNING ROUND

**August 2025**

## **2025 KMU DG Toolkit Update**

### **SUPPORTING KPP MEMBERS THROUGH TAILORED GUIDANCE**

KPP Energy has completed distribution of KMU's Updated 2025 Distributed Generation (DG) Toolkit to all KPP member utilities. The toolkit was shared via email and included an open offer of assistance in preparing updated ordinances and interconnection standards for attorney review. Our thanks to KMU for updating the toolkit to reflect recent legislative changes.

KPP Energy recognizes and understands firsthand that updating regulations on distributed generation is a detailed and time-consuming process. To date, we have assisted eleven members in this endeavor, enabling our staff to gain a deeper understanding of both the required changes and the current policies in place across our membership. Our offer of assistance remains available for those who have not yet begun the process of review or implementation.

As members have begun reviewing the updated materials, questions have been raised regarding liability insurance requirements, limiters, and "grandfathering" provisions. These topics are expected to be part of the discussion during the upcoming Technical Breakout on Distributed Generation at KPP's Annual Conference, which will provide a valuable opportunity for members to exchange insights and explore potential refinements together.

The DG Toolkit remains an evolving resource, ensuring that member communities are equipped with the latest standards and practices as distributed generation continues to play an increasingly important role in local utility systems. By walking alongside members in this process, KPP Energy strengthens its commitment to providing practical solutions while reinforcing the collaborative relationships that define the organization. Ready for help? If your community would like support with DG ordinance updates or Interconnection Standards, please reach out to Leslie Atherton, KPP Director of Member Services, at [latherton@kpp.energy](mailto:latherton@kpp.energy) to get started.

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# 2025 KPP

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

EMPOWERING KANSAS COMMUNITIES



### KPP HEADQUARTERS

2229 S. West Street, Wichita, KS



THURSDAY

**SEPTEMBER 25 | 9AM**

Join us at our brand-new headquarters for a full day of learning, updates, and connection.

#### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Featured Speaker: Reed Barrett
- Technical Sessions
- Member Spotlights
- The Great Yard Party

**REGISTER TODAY!**

[KPP.ENERGY/EVENTS/2025-KPP-CONFERENCE/](https://KPP.ENERGY/EVENTS/2025-KPP-CONFERENCE/)



# 2025 KPP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

EMPOWERING KANSAS COMMUNITIES

## SEPTEMBER 25, 2025 SCHEDULE

- 9 A.M. COFFEE HOUR**
- 9:30 A.M. RIBBON CUTTING**  
New KPP Energy Offices - Wichita Mayor Lily Wu & KPP Board of Directors
- 10 A.M. WELCOME**  
Wichita Mayor Lily Wu
- 10:15 A.M. SELF-ADMINISTERED CPR**  
Reed "Roller" Barrett - Keynote Speaker, F-16 Pilot & Professional Magician
- 11:15 A.M. REFRESHMENT BREAK**
- 11:30 A.M. LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH KANSAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
Gimmie Jo Jansonius - State Director for Kansas
- 12 NOON LUNCH**
- 1 P.M. CEO UPDATE**  
Colin Hansen
- 1:15 P.M. KPP YEAR IN REVIEW**  
KPP Staff
- 2 P.M. TECHNICAL BREAKOUTS**  
Energy Market Trends - Courtney Mehan, Tenaska  
Local Generation Opportunities - Cliff Gamblin, CAT | Erik Babcock, Solar | David Tomes, Cooper  
New Changes to Distributed Generation Requirements - Greg DuMars, Kansas Municipal Utilities
- 3 P.M. REFRESHMENT BREAK**
- 3:15 P.M. THE VALUE OF PUBLIC POWER**  
Dawn Lund, Vice President - Utility Financial Solutions
- 4 P.M. MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS**  
Scott Glaves, Clay Center  
Chris Komarek, Ellinwood  
Taggart Wall, Winfield
- 4:45 P.M. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**
- 5 P.M. KPP'S GREAT AMERICAN YARD PARTY**  
Wichita's Top Food Trucks | Games | Door Prizes

## Kingman Economic Development Efforts Paying Off

**KPP MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - LESLIE SCHRAG, KINGMAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**



Since January 2020, I have had the privilege of serving as Kingman's Economic Development Director, where part of my role focuses on securing resources that strengthen our community and the region we call home. Since stepping into this role, I have

written or helped write 33 successful grant applications totaling more than \$6.5 million. These funds have supported projects ranging from downtown revitalization and housing to infrastructure, childcare, and tourism. Every successful grant represents more than just funding; it's a direct investment in the people and future of Kingman.

Kingman was recently awarded a multi-year Child Care Zones Grant, helping us address one of rural Kansas's greatest challenges: access to reliable childcare. Through this program, we are supporting quality, accessible care in five counties: Kingman, Harper, Kiowa, Comanche, and Morton. Funding supports providers with workforce bonuses, recruitment activities, employer and public outreach, equipment, and operations. This collaborative approach recognizes that regional solutions are key to the long-term success of rural Kansas.

On a more power pool related note, Kingman secured a KDOT Transportation Emissions Reduction Program award of \$922,960. With a 20% local match, this grant funds the replacement of the traffic signal at U.S. 54 and Main Street, our busiest intersection. The upgrades will enhance safety, improve traffic flow, and reduce emissions. It pairs well with our Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant through the Kansas Corporation Commission, which provided \$67,650 to replace nearly all of our streetlights. The City invested an additional \$11,000 to complete the

system-wide replacement. The result: lower energy and maintenance costs, improved safety, and projected annual savings of more than \$13,000.

Some grants are about bringing joy! The Planes on the Plains public art project, funded through the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission's EPIC program, celebrates Kingman's aviation history with large-scale sculptures across the county. This grant required a 25% match on a \$45,000 project. Partnerships with surrounding cities, additional foundation dollars, and local sponsorships help expand our effort into our school districts, culminating remote-control airplane kits for every eighth-grade student in the county and a history lesson about our most well-known county resident, Clyde Cessna. The project quickly became a draw for residents and visitors.

While we continue to pursue local projects, regional collaboration remains essential. By securing grants and partnerships across Kansas, we can build stronger, more resilient communities where families want to live, businesses can thrive, and opportunities continue to grow.



## USDA Updates Policy on Solar Projects and Farmland

### UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR PROJECTS TO NO LONGER QUALIFY FOR GUARANTEED LOANS

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced new rules affecting how solar projects are funded in rural America. The goal of the policy change as stated by USDA is to balance renewable energy growth with farmland preservation and domestic supply chain priorities.

USDA will no longer provide financial support for large-scale solar projects located on productive farmland, and it will prohibit the use of solar panels manufactured by foreign adversaries in USDA-supported projects.

USDA noted that solar development has grown rapidly in rural areas, with many projects sited on farmland. While these projects have added renewable capacity and new income for landowners, USDA noted they can drive up land prices and reduce farmland availability. In Tennessee alone, more than 1.2 million acres of farmland have been lost in the past 30 years, with another 800,000 acres projected to disappear by 2027. Nationwide, farmland hosting solar has increased nearly 50% since 2012.

Effective immediately:

- **Business & Industry (B & I) Guaranteed Loan Program:** Wind and solar projects are no longer eligible.
- **REAP Guaranteed Loans:** Only right-sized projects remain eligible. Ground-mount PV systems larger than 50kW—or those without historical energy use data—will not qualify. Oversized projects will also lose priority points.

USDA emphasized that these steps are not a rejection of renewable energy, but a shift toward supporting appropriately scaled systems that directly serve farms and businesses while protecting agricultural land.

For municipal utilities, co-ops, and rural energy providers, the new rules narrow the types of projects that qualify for USDA support. Small-scale solar designed to offset on-site consumption remains eligible, while utility-scale farmland projects will no longer be backed by USDA financing. The agency also reinforced that future projects must use American-made equipment.

USDA reiterated its broader commitment to rural development in areas such as broadband, housing, and energy infrastructure, while clarifying that renewable energy incentives must align with farmland preservation.

For details on USDA Rural Development programs, visit [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov)





# NERC Board Accepts 2025 ERO Reliability Risk Priorities Report

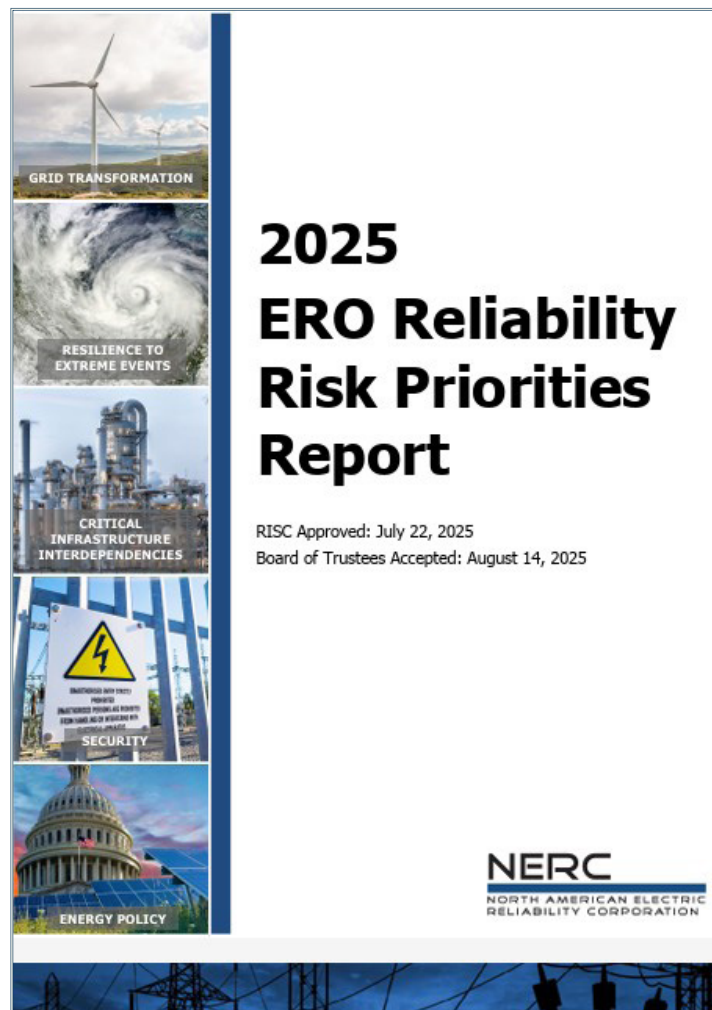
LEGISLATION FUNDAMENTALLY REDEFINES U.S. ENERGY POLICY

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Board of Trustees has formally accepted the 2025 ERO Reliability Risk Priorities Report, developed by the Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC). Issued every two years, this report provides a forward-looking view of the most significant risks that could affect the reliability and security of the North American bulk power system (BPS) and outlines recommendations for industry and policymakers.

## Key Risk Themes

The 2025 report highlights six primary areas of concern and notes that substantive simultaneous change in all system dimensions (resource, grid & load), along with increasing complexity in the interactions between them, requires rethinking traditional system planning and operating approaches.

- 1. New large loads plus changing resource mix:** The emergence of new large loads at unprecedented scale and speed, combined with new system operating experiences from an evolving resource mix, highlights the need to advance the traditional system reliability construct from capacity to energy based, and more detailed analysis of resources and load centers.
- 2. Larger-scale widespread events observed:** Larger-scale reliability impact events are occurring with contributions from grid transformation effects and increased incidence of large, widespread, long-term weather system scope, severity, and duration.
- 3. Natural gas interdependence:** The natural gas pipeline infrastructure (natural gas being the primary source of fuel to the dispatchable generation fleet in the next five years) must expand to meet the growing need of these new dispatchable generation units.



However, this is subject to increasing risks associated with just-in-time delivery, demonstrated reliability and security challenges, and inability to scale infrastructure quickly. Further, natural gas systems are dependent on just-in-time delivery of electricity. These mutual interdependencies creates an energy interconnection requiring coupled analysis and agreed upon protocols for planning and operations.

*(continued on page 7)*



# NERC 2025 ERO Reliability Risk Priorities Report

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4. **Cyber and physical security complexity:** The growing complexity of system equipment and operations increases security challenges and enhances the attractiveness of the grid as a target.
5. **Persistent supply chain challenges:** Persistent supply chain and workforce challenges are impacting risk mitigation and response capabilities.
6. **Volatile energy policy:** A volatile and disconnected policy landscape creates risk and further complicates the ability to mitigate risks through policy solutions.

## 2025 Recommendation Themes

To deliver ongoing system reliability in a time of increasing change and complexity, the following is required:

- More system margin to accommodate uncertainty
- More diverse resource, grid, and operating options
- More awareness of reliability implications of changes
- More comprehensive studies and assessments
- More coordination between impacting parties
- More preparation for large events and restorations
- More speed in implementing necessary measures

## KPP Involvement

KPP CEO Colin Hansen is a member of the NERC Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC) that was tasked with development of the Risk Priorities Report. In addition to participation on the RISC, he also was a member of the Critical Infrastructure Interdependencies (CII) subcommittee that focused on the important interaction between the electric and natural gas industries.

## Relevance for KPP Energy Members

While the report addresses system-wide risks across North America, the themes are directly relevant for municipal utilities. Smaller systems are not immune to large-scale weather events, supply chain challenges, or cybersecurity risks. Understanding these priorities helps local utilities prepare for regulatory changes, anticipate emerging challenges, and strengthen resilience at the community level. KPP Energy will continue to monitor NERC's risk assessments and provide updates to ensure members remain informed and equipped to adapt.



**Act Now to Modernize the Reliability Construct**  
Act now in response to the significant energy ecosystem change already underway.

**Update Criteria and Methods**  
Update the planning and operating models, analytical and operational paradigms, and reliability criteria to better match emerging system attributes. Traditional approaches do not fully address new risks being introduced through substantive simultaneous change in all system dimensions.

**Improve Resource Diversity**  
Improve the diversity of dispatchable resources and energy/fuel storage facilities and add additional on-line and responsive sources of essential reliability services.

**Enhance Mitigation and Recovery Plans**  
Enhance event response mitigation and recovery plans, as system impacting events cannot be completely avoided. Actively incorporate consideration of persistent supply chain challenges.

**Raise the Profile of Reliability in Policy**  
Policymakers and stakeholders should seek to understand and mitigate the reliability implications of policy directions in a coordinated way. The ongoing reliability and robustness of North America's critical infrastructure is an essential prerequisite for almost everything else.



## White House Names Rosner Acting Chair of FERC

### NOTABLE APPOINTMENT DUE TO POLITICAL AFFILIATION

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, the White House announced that President Trump has appointed Commissioner David Rosner as Acting Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), following the departure of Chair Mark Christie. The appointment is notable because Rosner, a Democrat, was nominated to the Commission in 2024 by President Biden.



According to administration officials, Rosner will help implement the President's energy priorities, which include supporting fossil fuel generation, expanding nuclear power, and accelerating the siting and development of infrastructure to meet growing demand from data centers and artificial intelligence. The appointment has drawn attention as an example of increased presidential influence over FERC, which has traditionally operated as an independent agency.

Two additional nominees are awaiting Senate confirmation: Laura Swett, a Republican, and David LaCerte, a Democrat. Swett previously served as a senior legal and policy adviser at FERC before moving into private practice in 2019. LaCerte currently works at the Office of Personnel Management. It is anticipated that, if confirmed, Swett may assume the Chair position on a permanent basis.

Rosner previously worked as a FERC staff member and served as an aide to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. His nomination to the Commission was approved by the Senate on a bipartisan 67–27 vote, though he faced opposition from some senators and environmental groups citing his prior support for liquefied natural gas (LNG) development.

The Senate is in recess until after Labor Day, so no action on the nominations is expected until September at the earliest. Until then, Rosner will serve as Acting Chair and oversee the Commission's ongoing work on wholesale markets, transmission policy, and reliability standards.





## Event Calendar

### 2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

**AUGUST 28, 2025**

KPP Board Meeting

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2025**

KPP Board Meeting

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2025**

KPP Energy Conference

**OCTOBER 5 - 12, 2025**

Public Power Week

**OCTOBER 23, 2025**

KPP Board Meeting

**NOVEMBER 7, 2025**

Rate Forum

**NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

KPP Board Meeting

**DECEMBER 12, 2025**

Annual Membership Meeting

## KPP Resources by Fuel Source

JULY 2025

