

US Data Center Daily Briefing

July 21, 2026

KEY THEMES

- Cleco to serve Applied Digital 430 MW Rapides Parish AI campus
- Cleco says data center reimburses power and infrastructure costs
- SECI July 2026 EOI for bulk renewable procurement in India
- PJM 50 MW backup-generator rule for BGE/PEPCO/Dominion data centers

Cleco's 430 MW Applied Digital deal: who pays for Rapides Parish power

Cleco told the public on May 26, 2026 that it will serve power to an Applied Digital AI factory campus in Rapides Parish, Louisiana. The utility says the data center — not existing customers — will reimburse the project's power-generation and infrastructure costs. Cleco's own materials put the committed campus load at [430 MW](#). Louisiana Economic Development frames the same project as a [\\$3.6 billion campus](#) in Boyce with construction begun in January 2026 and initial operations targeted for mid-2027.

- [SECI opens live EOI for bulk renewable procurement](#) – SECI's July 17, 2026 market-sounding EOI targets bulk power off-takers via REIA, captive, group-captive and JV models; responses due August 17, 2026.
- [PJM's 2026 backup-generator procedure covers 50+ MW large loads](#) – PJM's June 27, 2026 DOE filing defines covered large loads as data centers and hyperscale sites at 50 MW or more per delivery point, focused on the BGE, PEPCO and Dominion zones.
- [CHPE lifts New York imports during July heat wave](#) – EIA reported NYISO imported 52 GWh from Canada on July 3, 2026 with the 1,250 MW CHPE line fully utilized; the line went offline again July 4 for repairs.

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