US Data Center Daily Briefing

January 11, 2026

KEY THEMES

- $1bn OpenAI/SoftBank investment into SB Energy for renewable-powered AI data centres
- 1.2 GW Milam County (Texas) data centre tied to Stargate program
- Meta agreements for >6.5 GW nuclear-linked carbon-free power (TerraPower/Oklo/Vistra)
- Georgia Power procurement plan up to 10 GW by 2031 faces reconsideration push; bill impacts flagged
- Indiana legislative package on data centre water permitting, transparency, and expanded tax credits
- Reliance Jio IPO plan (2026) and $20–30bn Jamnagar data centre ambition
- US federal environmental policy rollback risk affecting energy project pipeline (wind/solar)
- Taiwan–Matsu subsea cable damage incident underscores network physical risk

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Global data centres & digital infrastructure briefing (UTC 2026-01-11)

Audience: Institutional asset managers and infrastructure fund managers focused on data centres, power, and grid infrastructure.

Top news (3 developments that matter most)

1. **Big-ticket capital targeting renewable AI data centres in the US**: OpenAI and SoftBank invest $1B in renewable AI data centers via a **$1.0bn** joint investment into **SB Energy** (OpenAI **$500m**, SoftBank **$500m**) tied to the **Stargate program**, including a **1.2 GW** facility in **Milam County, Texas**.
2. **Large-scale firming/power procurement shifts toward nuclear for hyperscale load**: Meta secures over 6.5 GW of nuclear power for US operations through a mix of advanced reactor development and long-term PPAs (TerraPower, Oklo, Vistra), with delivery windows spanning **late 2026 through 2034**, and advanced reactor timelines out to **~2030–2032+**.
3. **Regulatory and customer-cost pushback on utility procurement linked to data centre growth**: Environmental groups ask Georgia PSC to reconsider data center plan seeks reconsideration of Georgia Power's plan to procure **up to 10 GW by 2031**; PSC staff estimated potential impacts of **~$20/month** to customer bills and **~$50–60bn** cost to ratepayers over **50 years**.

Key deals & projects (capex, financing, scale)

United States

- **AI / renewables-backed buildout capital**: OpenAI and SoftBank invest $1B in renewable AI data centers
  - Structure: **$1.0bn** into **SB Energy** (50/50 split between OpenAI and SoftBank).
  - Flagship: **1.2 GW** data centre in **Milam County, Texas**.
  - Stated ambition: support plan to deploy **up to 10 GW of compute in the U.S. by 2029**.
- **Nuclear-linked power strategy for hyperscale operations**: Meta secures over 6.5 GW of nuclear power for US operations
  - Aggregate: **>6.5 GW** "carbon-free electricity" secured through agreements with **TerraPower, Oklo and Vistra**.
  - TerraPower: up to **2.8 GW** (noted as **4 GW with storage**) from **Natrium** reactors, "as early as **2032**".
  - Oklo: targets **1.2 GW** campus; phase one targeted **~2030**.
  - Vistra: PPAs covering **>2,600 MW** starting **late 2026** with additional capacity through **2034**.

India

- **IPO funding plus mega-scale data centre ambition**: Mukesh Ambani plans Jio IPO in 2026, data centre build
  - Reported IPO plan: **Reliance Jio Infocomm** IPO in **2026**, targeting **$4.5bn–$6.5bn** raise.
  - Reported valuation range: **$112bn–$180bn**.
  - Ownership: Jio Platforms majority-owned by Reliance Industries (**66.5%**).
  - Data centre: plan to build "the world's largest data centre" in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**, estimated cost **$20–30bn**.

Power, grid & interconnection highlights (load growth, procurement, bottlenecks)

US Southeast: procurement scale and ratepayer scrutiny

- Environmental groups ask Georgia PSC to reconsider data center plan
  - Motion filed by **Sierra Club, SELC and SACE**.
  - Georgia Power RFP: procurement of **up to 10 GW by 2031**.

    - Fossil build enabled: includes new gas plants, including the **757-MW Plant McIntosh**.
    - Cost signal: PSC staff estimate of **~$20/month** bill impact and **~$50–60bn** over **50 years**.

US: nuclear as a long-dated but large-capacity pathway

- Meta secures over 6.5 GW of nuclear power for US operations
    - Mix of near-term PPAs (Vistra starting **late 2026**) and longer-dated advanced reactor delivery (**~2030–2032+**).

Policy & regulation (data centre permitting, transparency, environmental rules)

United States — state-level: water use and transparency

- Data centers come to Indiana raise environmental and resource concerns
    - Siting focus: Meta and other tech firms targeting multiple Indiana sites; includes a proposed **1,500-acre Meta data center in Lebanon (Indiana)**.
    - Legislative agenda (Indiana):
        - **House Bill 1043**: water consumption permitting.
        - **Senate Bill 79**: data centre transparency.
        - **House Bill 1405**: expanded tax credits.

United States — federal: environmental regulatory direction

- Trump administration dismantles environmental protections and endangers climate rules
    - Reported actions: rescinding environmental justice orders, halting IRA grants, relaxing pollution limits, and moving to withdraw from UNFCCC.
    - EPA direction: Administrator **Lee Zeldin** expected to seek repeal of EPA “endangerment finding” in **January 2026**.
    - Energy project implications noted: administration has halted **five** major offshore wind projects (including one ~**80%** complete, **Revolution Farm**) and blocked solar development on public lands.

Network resilience & physical infrastructure incidents

Taiwan / cross-strait: subsea cable damage event

- Chinese captain deported after damaging Taiwan undersea cable

- Incident: negligent damage to **Taiwan–Matsu No. 2 undersea cable** on **Oct. 7, 2025**.
- Outcome: Chinese fishing captain deported after court ruling; paid **NT$250,000** compensation to **Chunghwa Telecom** and **>NT$90,000** to commute a three-month prison sentence.

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Market attention is increasingly concentrating on *how* power is contracted and paid for (utility procurement, long-dated nuclear pathways, and renewables-backed builds). Regulatory friction around water, transparency, and environmental rules remains a key swing factor for delivery timelines.