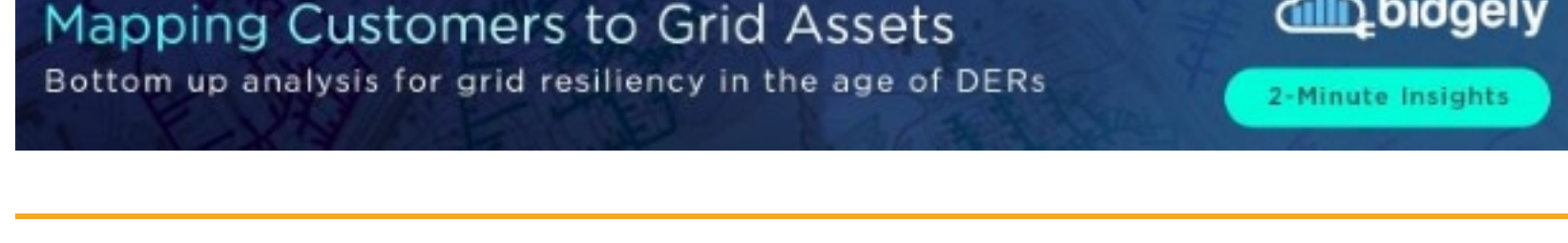


Energy Talk **In Depth**

Focus on: **Energy Grid Resilience**



TOP STORY

America's Electric Companies: Making Significant Investments in AHR

EEl's member companies have faced no shortage of grid reliability and resilience challenges in recent years. These include a growing number of extreme weather events and related resource adequacy concerns; cyber and physical security threats; and ongoing disruptions in global energy supply chains.

These events reinforce the continued need for strategic and responsible investments in adaptation, hardening, and resilience (AHR). Over the past decade, EEl's member companies have invested more than \$1 trillion in critical energy infrastructure. And, in 2022 alone, nearly \$30 billion was invested in AHR initiatives to strengthen the nation's transmission and distribution infrastructure.

While investments in AHR have increased significantly over the past decade, more investments are needed to meet the challenges of climate change and to enhance the overall reliability and resilience of the energy grid. The benefits of smart investments in AHR are clear and allow electric companies, communities, and customers to be better equipped to operate through challenging conditions.

Last year in Florida, for example, the state's hardened energy infrastructure largely withstood a direct hit by Hurricane Ian. Moreover, the investments made in smarter energy infrastructure at the distribution level helped to avoid hundreds of thousands of customer outages—and significantly sped restoration times for customers who were impacted.

While we now are operating in a higher-cost, inflationary environment, it is critical that electric companies are able to continue to make needed investments today that will help them to deliver a resilient clean energy future tomorrow.

Read on to learn more about new industry-government partnerships and member company initiatives that aim to enhance resilience.



Back row, left to right: El Paso Electric President and CEO Kelly Tomblin, Fortis Inc. President and CEO David Hutchens, UNS Energy Corporation President and CEO Susan Gray, Dominion Energy Virginia President Ed Baine, Hawaiian Electric President and CEO Sheela Kimura, Hawaiian Electric Industries President and CEO Scott Seu. Table: EEl President Tom Kuhn and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment Rachel Jacobson

IN THE NEWS

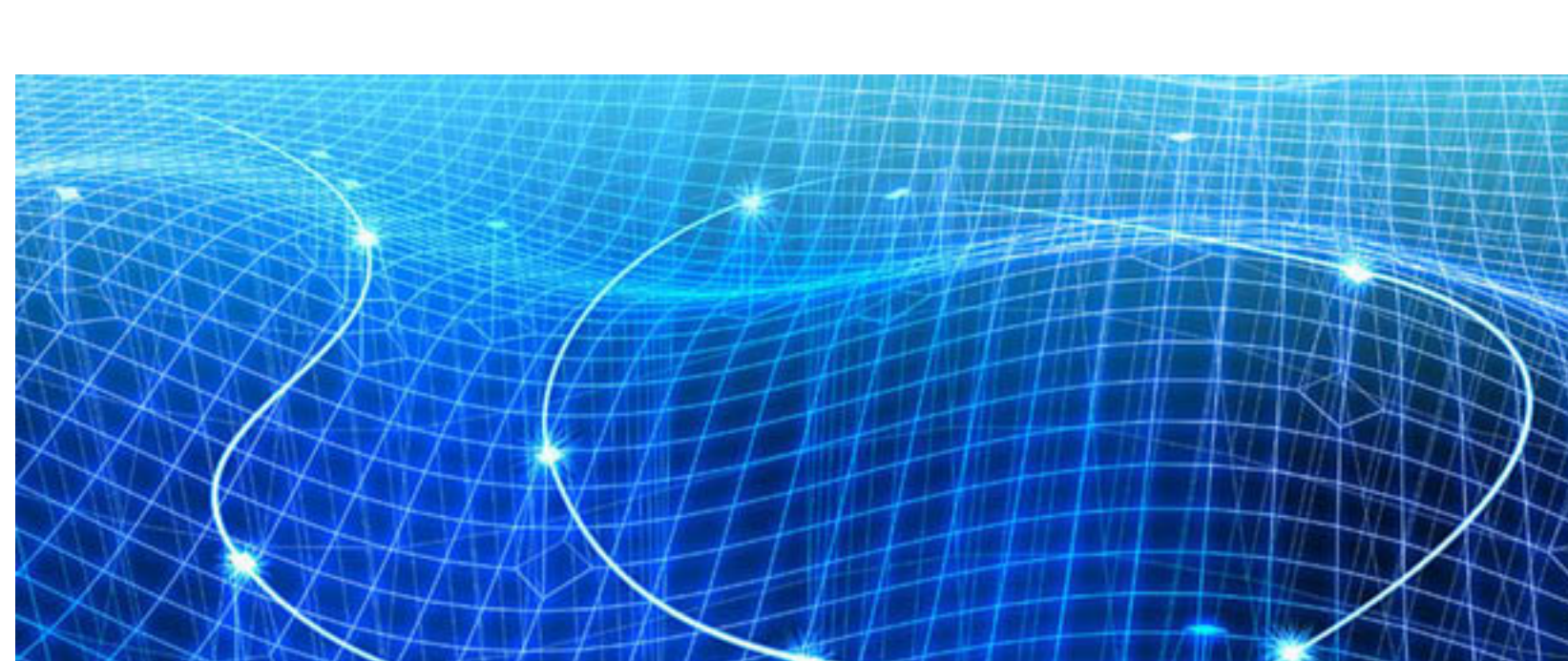
EEl and the U.S. Army Partner On Resilience

EEl President Tom Kuhn and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment Rachel Jacobson last week signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate continued exploration of best practices for joint energy resilience planning at installations across the U.S. Army enterprise.

The MOU, signed during EEl's Spring Board of Directors and Chief Executives meeting, establishes a framework for EEl and the U.S. Army to collaborate and share information on energy security and resilience strategies with the goal of ensuring a secure and reliable energy supply for military installations and the broader community.

"EEl and our member electric companies are proud to continue working with the Army to identify new opportunities to enhance energy resilience at its installations," said Kuhn. "The information sharing and joint exercises made possible by this MOU will ensure that the industry can help meet the unique resilience and sustainability needs for each location."

[Read more.](#)



WHAT WE'RE READING

ComEd, DOE Study Examines Climate Change Impacts

ComEd's Climate Risk and Adaptation study, done in partnership with the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory's Center for Climate Resilience and Decision Science, demonstrates how assessing and identifying the risks posed by climate change and other threats can improve reliability and resilience for customers in the ComEd service territory.

The Climate Risk and Adaptation Study offered ComEd a comprehensive examination of climate change's impact on the design and performance of the company's energy grid. Argonne's first phase of analysis showed risks to ComEd's infrastructure and operations that could result from changing climate conditions, including projected energy demand growth during increasingly warm summer months.

"Severe and destructive weather caused by climate change is already impacting our area, and this study gives us a preview of what's to come," said ComEd CEO Gil Quiniones. "Using this localized climate data, we can plan the grid investments necessary to ensure we continue to deliver reliable, resilient energy to our customers, even as the grid must handle more severe weather and increased demand."

[Read more in the January/February edition of Electric Perspectives.](#)

A Unified Approach to Mitigating Wildfire Risks

Severe heat and extensive droughts have elevated the risk of wildfires to critical energy infrastructure—and have pushed mitigation and resilience efforts to the forefront. In the January/February edition of *Electric Perspectives*, U.S. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore writes about the powerful partnership between the federal government and the electric power industry to prevent and to mitigate wildfires, and to strengthen the energy grid against wildfire risks.

A key component of the industry-government partnership is the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council's (ESCC's) Wildfire Working Group, which facilitates collaboration across the energy industry and the U.S. Forest Service to manage issues and solutions related to mitigating wildfires, like the development of new technologies to manage the risks of operating in high-threat regions.

"This effective partnership [through the ESCC] and diverse set of initiatives are crucial to strengthening our collective efforts to maintain the reliable operation of critical infrastructure, improve the health and resilience of our forests, and mobilize cross-sector coordination and mutual support of at-risk communities," said Chief Moore.

[Read more.](#)



TUNE IN

Planning and Preparing for Hurricane Season Year-Round

EEl's member companies prepare year-round for extreme weather events by making investments and upgrades to help prevent power outages and to speed up restoration. On a recent episode of the *Electric Perspectives* podcast, Florida Power and Light Executive Director of Emergency Preparedness Tom Gwaltney discussed how the company prepares for hurricanes, its proactive investments to enhance reliability for customers, its use of the FPLAir One fixed-wing drone to help assess damage after storms, and more.

[Listen now.](#)

Enhancing Industry Coordination and Building Resilience After Superstorm Sandy

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy brought severe winds and devastating flooding across 800 miles of the United States, causing 8.5 million customers to lose power—one of the biggest power outages in U.S. history. The electric power industry always has focused on strengthening its industry-government partnerships and on improving emergency response plans and processes, but Superstorm Sandy was a catalyst for rethinking how the industry organizes itself to manage major incidents. Those efforts resulted in significant investments over the past decade.

Nick Akins, American Electric Power executive chair, and Scott Aaronson, EEl senior vice president of security and preparedness, joined the *Electric Perspectives* podcast to discuss the lessons that the electric power industry learned from Superstorm Sandy, how the industry has worked with federal partners to improve emergency coordination, and more.

[Listen now.](#)



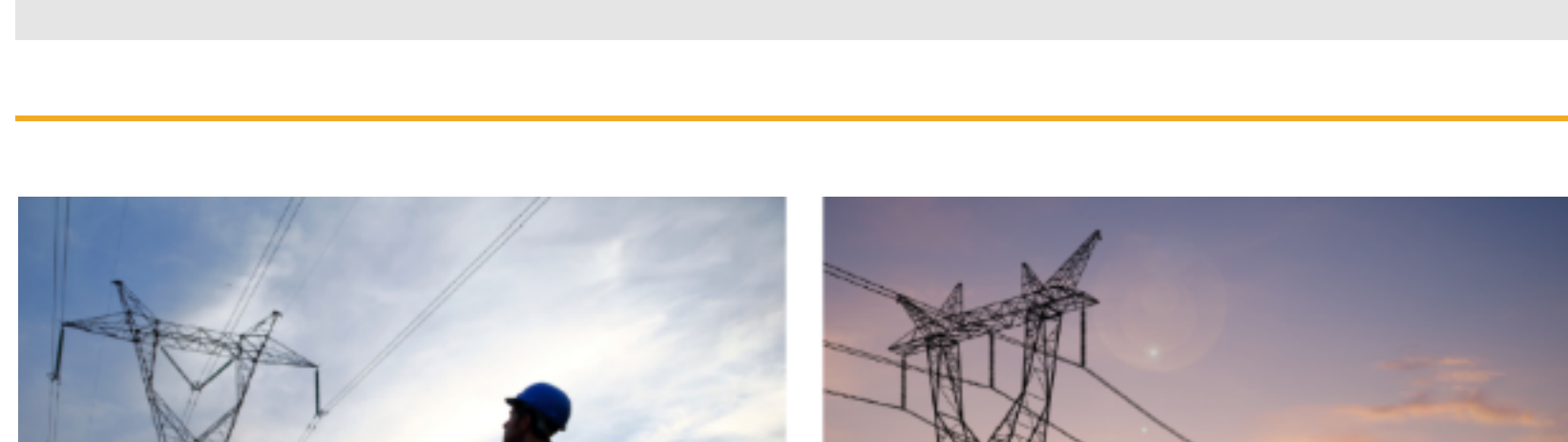
SPONSORED CONTENT

Customer and Grid Convergence: Achieving Business Transformation

As customers and energy providers enter a new era of grid collaboration, so do customer experience and grid teams within electric companies. In both cases, meter data-derived energy intelligence is the nexus between customers and the grid.

Explore key considerations for structuring teams and data practices to foster effective collaboration across operations.

[Read more.](#)



DELIVERING THE FUTURE

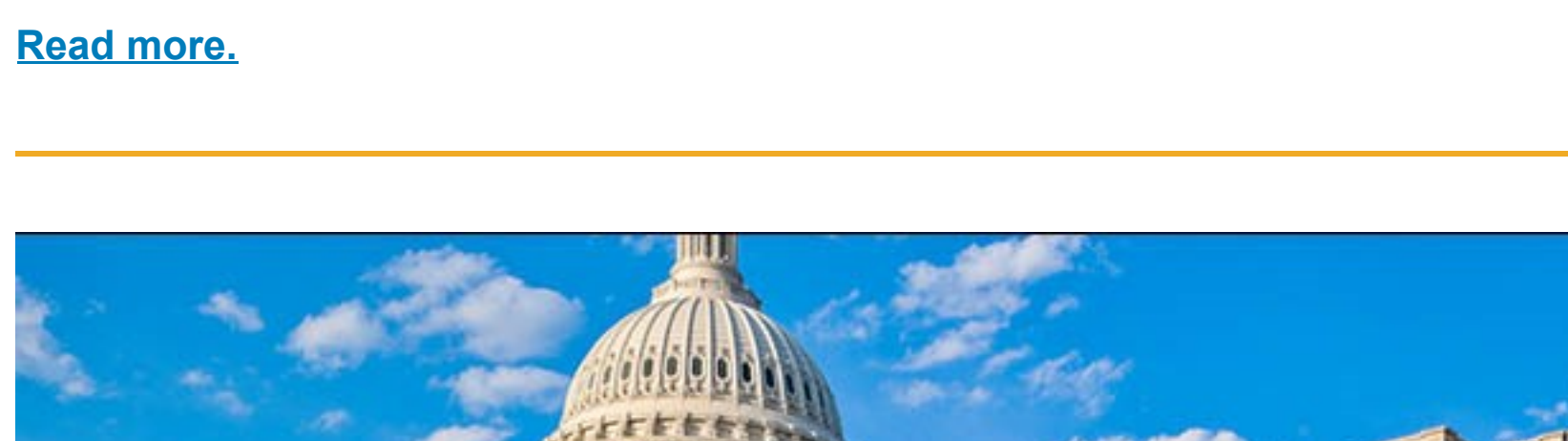
Entergy Louisiana Files Future Ready Resilience Plan

Entergy Louisiana is seeking approval from the Louisiana Public Service Commission for Phase I of its Entergy Future Ready resilience plan, a 10-year resilience plan encompassing more than 9,000 distribution and transmission projects that would strengthen powerline structures and other critical energy infrastructure.

Phase I of the resilience plan outlines the first five years and \$5 billion in proposed projects, including a comprehensive set of grid-hardening investments, enhanced vegetation management, and alternative technologies. The project's goal is to reduce the cost of restoring the energy grid following major events as well as reduce the number and duration of outages associated with those events.

"Louisiana has a chance to lead the way in terms of energy, resilience, and sustainability, but we must be ready and that's exactly what this plan intends to do," said Phillip May, Entergy Louisiana president and CEO. "Our Entergy Future Ready resilience plan is about making sure we're not only meeting the daily power needs of residents, small businesses, and industries, among many other stakeholders, but also meeting their needs in the toughest of times."

[Read more.](#)

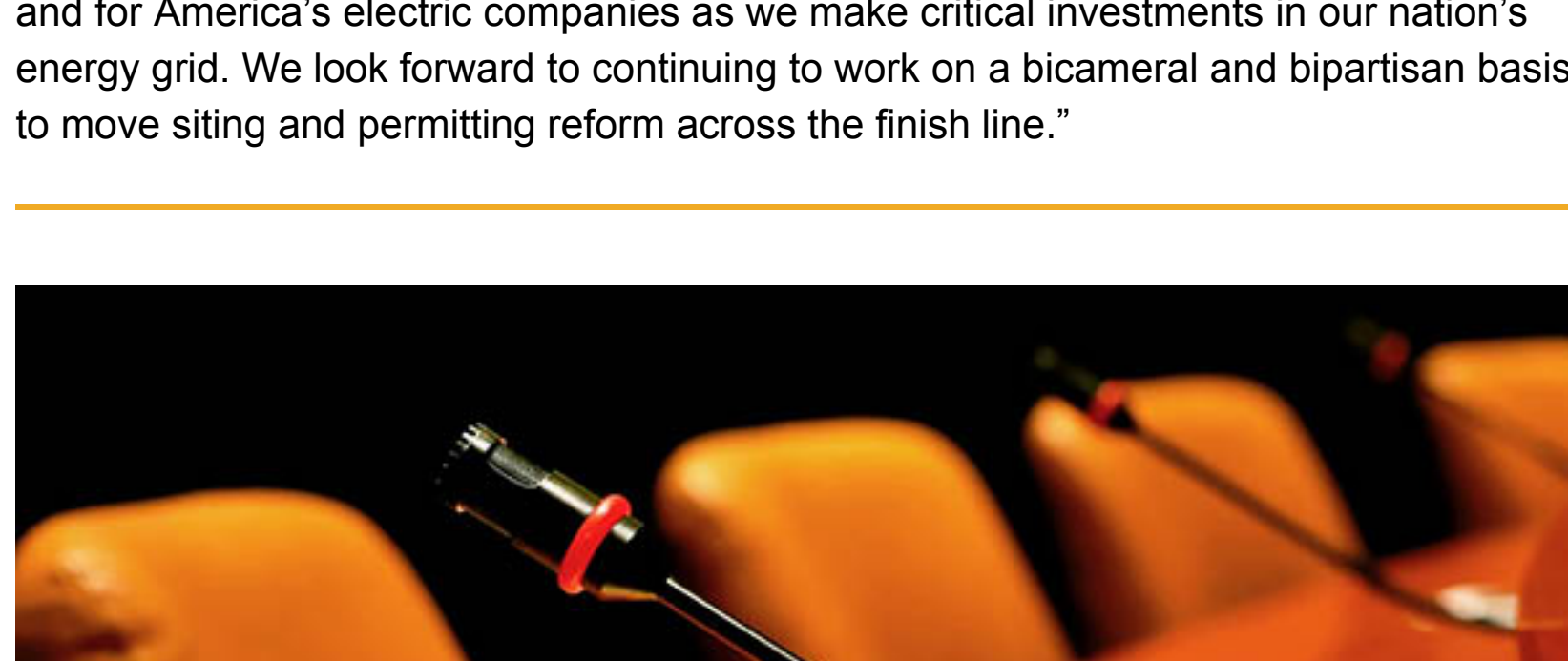


POLICY PERSPECTIVES

EEl's Statement on the Lower Energy Costs Act

Next week, Congress will vote on the Lower Energy Costs Act, or H.R. 1, which prioritizes increasing the production and export of energy from the United States and reducing the regulatory roadblocks to building energy infrastructure that will improve energy grid reliability and resilience.

EEl President Tom Kuhn issued a statement on the upcoming vote: "EEl and our member companies support permitting improvements that create a more efficient, environmentally sound, and legally durable process for deploying new energy infrastructure and energy technologies. H.R. 1 proposes important improvements to our nation's inefficient and time-consuming siting and permitting process, and we applaud Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Leader Steve Scalise, and Chairs Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Bruce Westerman, and Sam Graves for leading on these critical issues. A clear, coordinated, consistent, and efficient permitting process is essential for our industry and for America's electric companies as we make critical investments in our nation's energy grid. We look forward to continuing to work on a bicameral and bipartisan basis to move siting and permitting reform across the finish line."



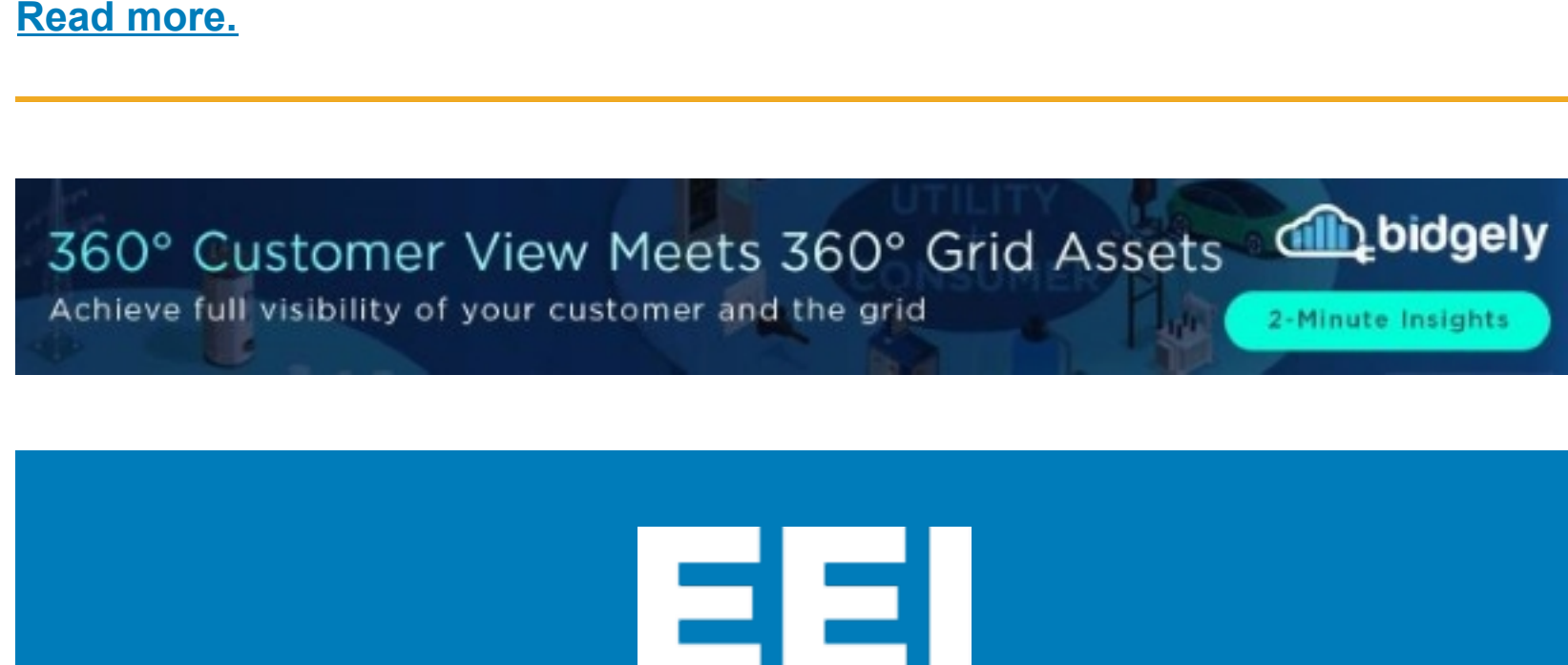
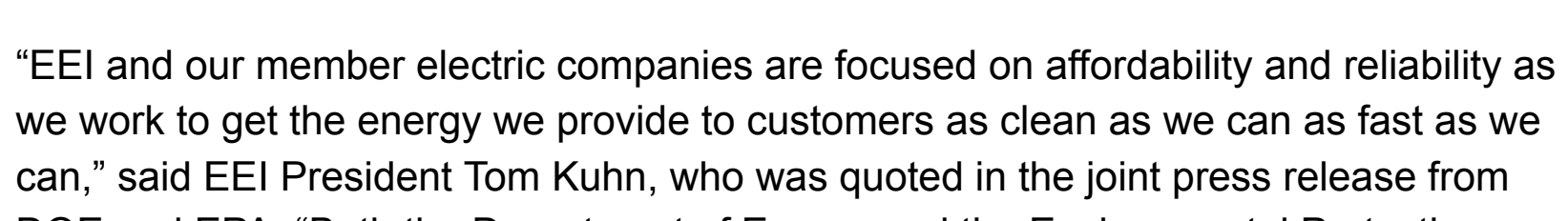
NEWS FROM THE HILL

DOE and EPA Partner to Support Reliable Electricity

Earlier this month, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide new clean energy opportunities that will support access to reliable, affordable electricity and advance the United States toward its goal of a net-zero economy by 2050. The MOU further commits DOE and EPA to routine and comprehensive communications about policies, programs, and activities regarding electric reliability. It also ensures that the agencies can continue to support the ability of the power sector to maintain reliability and seize new reliability opportunities presented by new clean energy technologies.

"EEl and our member electric companies are focused on affordability and reliability as we work to get the energy we provide to customers as clean as we can as fast as we can," said EEl President Tom Kuhn, who was quoted in the joint press release from DOE and EPA. "Both the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency are critical partners in these efforts, and we applaud increased coordination to support the ongoing clean energy transition that electric companies are leading."

[Read more.](#)



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