

The Rundown

By: CLEARPATH
ACTION



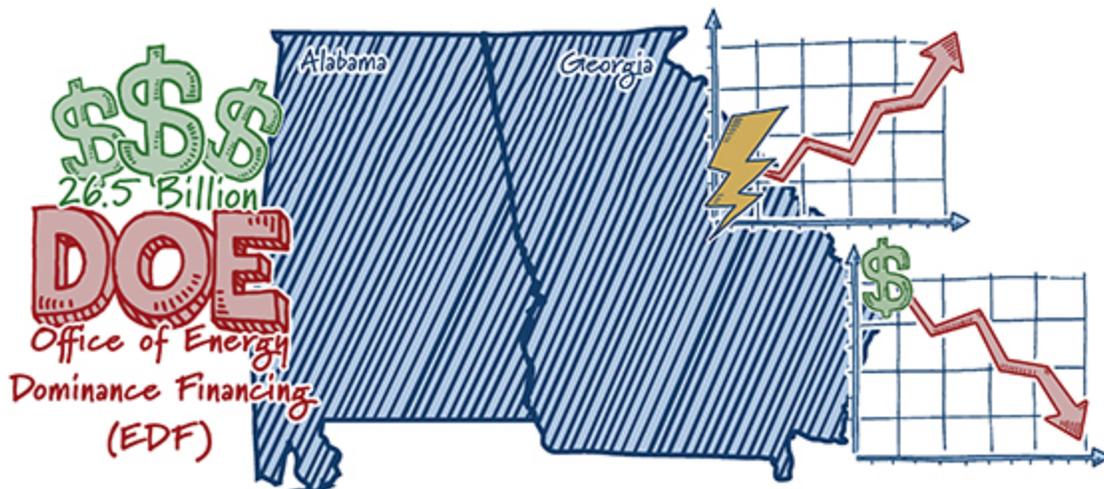
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ClearPath Action Rundown February 27th, 2026

Happy Friday!

1. Historic DOE loan to boost power, cut costs in AL and GA



One of the largest grid financing packages in U.S. history just landed. This week, Energy Secretary Chris Wright announced DOE's Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) closed a **\$26.5 billion loan package** projected to deliver over \$7 billion in electricity cost savings for Alabama and Georgia.

The package finances:

- 5 GW of new gas generation, 6 GW of nuclear uprates and license renewals, hydropower modernization and battery storage;
- Over 1,300 miles of transmission and grid enhancement projects; and
- Loans to two Southern Company subsidiaries, which are estimated to reduce interest expenses by over \$300 million per year.

"The DOE Office of Energy Dominance Financing is open for business, and it's flexing its muscle in a big way to finance clean energy technology, including nuclear, natural gas, hydropower, long-duration storage and transmission. This is the type of bold action needed to meet the rapidly growing demand, strengthen the grid, and keep America leading the world in energy production." – Jeremy Harrell, CEO, ClearPath

Plug in: Check out CNBC's exclusive [interview](#) with EDF Director Greg Beard on the office's new priorities.

Dive deeper: Read ClearPath's [Energy Dominance Financing 101: Accelerating American Innovation](#) to learn more about how EDF works and its role in scaling the next generation of American energy technologies.

2. DOE announced major geothermal funding opportunity



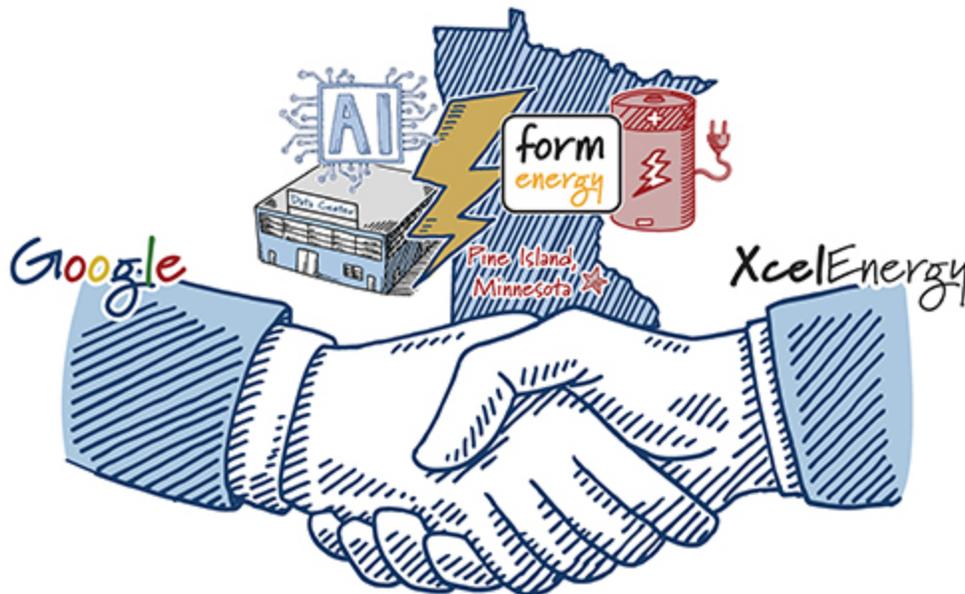
In a clear sign that the Trump administration's energy dominance agenda includes clean, reliable power, the DOE's Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office announced a major **funding opportunity** for next-generation geothermal power.

What to know:

- The opportunity is more than double the funding industry received under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), demonstrating strong bipartisan support for this technology;
- DOE announced up to 10 competitive projects for EGS field tests up to a total of \$100 million; and
- As many as 18 next-generation projects totaling up to \$71.5 million will be supported.

Plug in: No technology has done more with less federal financing than geothermal power. Learn more about the tremendous growth potential of this reliable, affordable and secure power source in ClearPath's **geothermal whiteboard video**.

3. World's largest battery project: Google + Xcel Energy



Rapid data center growth is reshaping electricity demand across the country. Google's new Minnesota **data center** agreement with Xcel Energy includes the largest battery project by gigawatt-hour energy capacity **ever announced** in the world.

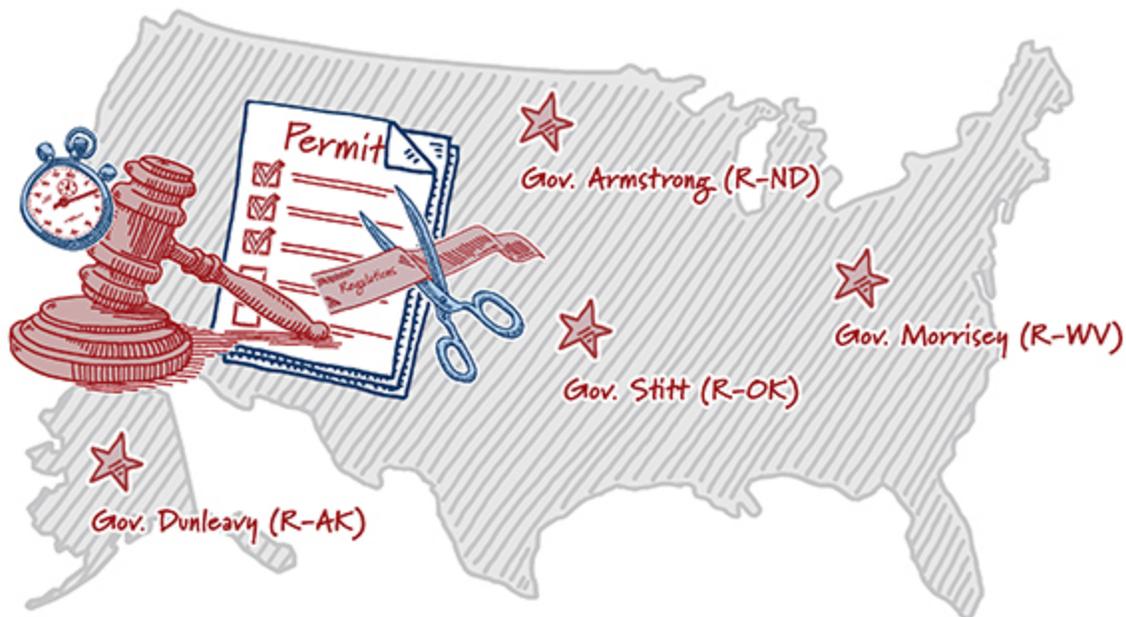
Details of the deal:

- The agreement includes 300 MW of long-duration iron-air battery storage from Form Energy; and
- Google will invest \$50 million in Xcel's **Capacity*Connect** proposal to expand distributed battery resources and improve grid resilience.

What's clear: Surging power demand from data centers requires reliable energy at scale. This agreement shows how private investment and market solutions, not mandates, can strengthen the grid, protect ratepayers and deliver affordable, reliable, clean energy.

Plug in: Learn more about the iron-air technology behind this deal in ClearPath's [Form Energy video](#).

4. Governors to Congress: Codify permitting reform



Investors and developers need certainty, and governors are weighing in on permitting. At the National Governors Association's [winter meeting](#), Republican governors made it clear they want Congress to modernize energy permitting with a new law.

Who said what:

- Gov. Armstrong (R-ND) called for energy-agnostic reform, warning that projects “all take longer to build than four or eight years.”
- Gov. Dunleavy (R-AK) stressed that investors need “long-term certainty” that the “next election won’t whipsaw back.”
- Gov. Morrisey (R-WV) said “everybody craves predictability and certainty.”
- Gov. Stitt (R-OK), who chairs NGA, spoke about energy projects in an [NPR interview](#), “We [America] cannot be a pendulum swing where we are going back and forth and we’re killing different projects based on our political views.”

What's clear: Long-term certainty is what attracts investment and keeps America competitive. Locking permitting reform into law is a commonsense, bipartisan step toward faster energy deployment and a stronger, more reliable grid while leading the world in innovation over regulation.

Plug in: For more on why permitting reform can't wait, read ClearPath's [Time to Fix America's Permitting Problems and Let America Build](#).

5. mCDR to the ReSCUE



Oceans are a vast economic resource, supporting coastal jobs, fisheries, energy production and national security. The bipartisan, bicameral [ReSCUE Oceans Act](#) strengthens marine carbon dioxide removal research and development in the U.S.

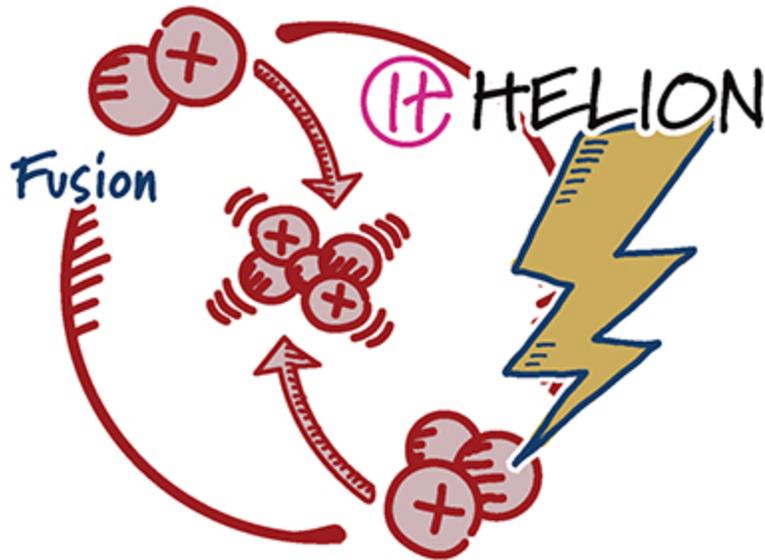
The bill introduced by Sens. Murkowski (R-AK) and Schatz (D-HI) and Reps. Carter (R-GA) and Bonamici (D-OR) would:

- Establish a research program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on marine carbon dioxide removal;
- Create a framework for research sites and coordinate science across agencies; and
- Establish an interagency working group co-chaired by NOAA and DOE to develop a research plan with monitoring goals and safeguards.

What's clear: America's oceans are an untapped resource. Marine carbon removal research can position the U.S. as the global leader in this emerging technology while leading the world in innovation over regulation.

Dive Deeper: Marine CDR is a technology that enhances the natural processes of the ocean and turns carbon dioxide into a strategic asset. Read ClearPath's report, [Charting a Course for Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal \(mCDR\): Policy Sequencing in mCDR Development](#).

6. The heat is on for fusion



Helion is making **progress** toward commercially viable fusion energy. Its Polaris prototype demonstrated deuterium-tritium (DT) fusion and simultaneously achieved record 150 million degree plasma temperatures, setting new benchmarks for a private sector fusion company.

What to know:

- Orion, Helion's – and potentially the world's – first fusion power plant is under construction in Malaga, Washington;
- Helion signed a PPA with Microsoft to deliver electricity in 2028; and
- Helion has raised over \$1 billion in total funding since it was founded in 2013.

Plug in: Learn how U.S. fusion innovation is moving from vision to reality and why advancing **commercial fusion** matters for American energy leadership.

7. The ClearPath Circuit



ClearPath hosted the Daily Caller News Foundation's Energy Reporting Task Force, where **Rep. Young Kim** (R-CA) discussed the **DOMINANCE Act**.

8. 250 years of American energy innovation



As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, ClearPath is **highlighting** America's innovation story. From the earliest discoveries in electricity and steam power to modern nuclear, natural gas, advanced grid technologies and agriculture, American innovators have consistently pushed the boundaries of what's possible.

History Lesson - Natural Gas

- **1821** - First drilled natural gas well, William Hart
- **1914** - Liquefied natural gas developed, William Franklin
- **2016** - America's first LNG export leaves the Sabine Pass LNG terminal.
- **2026** - The United States becomes the **largest exporter** of LNG

Plug In: Explore how U.S. LNG exports are setting a blueprint for **global energy leadership**, boosting jobs, strengthening energy security and paving the way for other clean technologies to compete worldwide.

9. ICYMI

- **Quaise Raise** – Geothermal startup Quaise Energy announced its intent to **raise** up to \$200 million in Series B funding to finance its first commercial power plant, Project Obsidian, in Oregon.
 - **U.S. nuclear goes global** – GE Vernova Hitachi and Poland's Orlen Synthos Green Energy signed a **design agreement** to help deploy the BWRX-300 reactor in Poland and Eastern Europe.
 - **Strengthening forest products** – The U.S. Forest Service announced **\$95 million** in grants for developing innovative wood products, like biochar, increasing usage and expanding wood energy systems.
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*ClearPath believes America must lead the world in innovation over regulation...
markets over mandates...providing affordable, reliable, clean energy.*

That's all from us. Thanks for reading and have a great weekend!

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