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ClearPath Action Rundown
May 1st, 2026

Happy Friday!

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1. Energy Security Pacts Act introduced in the Senate

The world needs more energy to power the industries of the future, and the nation that builds the next generation of energy technologies, finances the infrastructure and secures the supply chains will win in those global markets and wield long-term strategic leverage. Sens. Pete Ricketts (R-NE) and Chris Coons (D-DE) introduced the **Energy Security Pacts Act** (S. 4392), which **ClearPath Action endorsed**, to do just that. This bill would authorize the Secretary of State to establish multiyear Energy Security Pacts, up to 10 years, with partner countries to enhance U.S. and allied energy security.

The bill would:

- Serve as the Senate companion to a title of the **DOMINANCE Act**, introduced by Reps. Young Kim (R-CA) and Ami Bera (D-CA), building on bipartisan efforts to strengthen energy security and economic resilience;
- Create a new Office of Energy Security Pacts at the State Department to administer and coordinate implementation; and
- Establish an interagency Energy Security Pacts Council, chaired by the Secretary of State, to coordinate across key federal agencies, including DOE, DOD, EXIM and DFC.

What's clear: "The U.S. has an opportunity to leverage a more agile foreign policy strategy to compete effectively and advance American energy leadership. This legislation sends a strong signal that the U.S. is serious about outcompeting China and establishing American energy dominance worldwide," said **Jeremy Harrell**, CEO of ClearPath Action.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's **blog** on why Energy Security Pacts are central to U.S. foreign policy and reducing global emissions.

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2. PASSED: House advances 2026 Farm Bill

American agriculture innovation is central to U.S. competitiveness and lowering global emissions. **The House passed** the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of

2026 with bipartisan support, restoring agricultural R&D and scaling technologies like precision agriculture and next-generation fertilizers. The bill focuses on practical conservation and getting innovations out of the lab and into the field.

This bill will:

- Restore agricultural R&D to keep U.S. farmers competitive;
- Modernize conservation programs that work for producers; and
- Scale precision agriculture and fertilizer innovation.

What's clear: "American farmers can lead the world in implementing agricultural innovations, improving soil health and stewarding America's natural resources," **said ClearPath Action CEO Jeremy Harrell.** "This legislation is a step in the right direction to foster American agricultural R&D and compete against China's investments."

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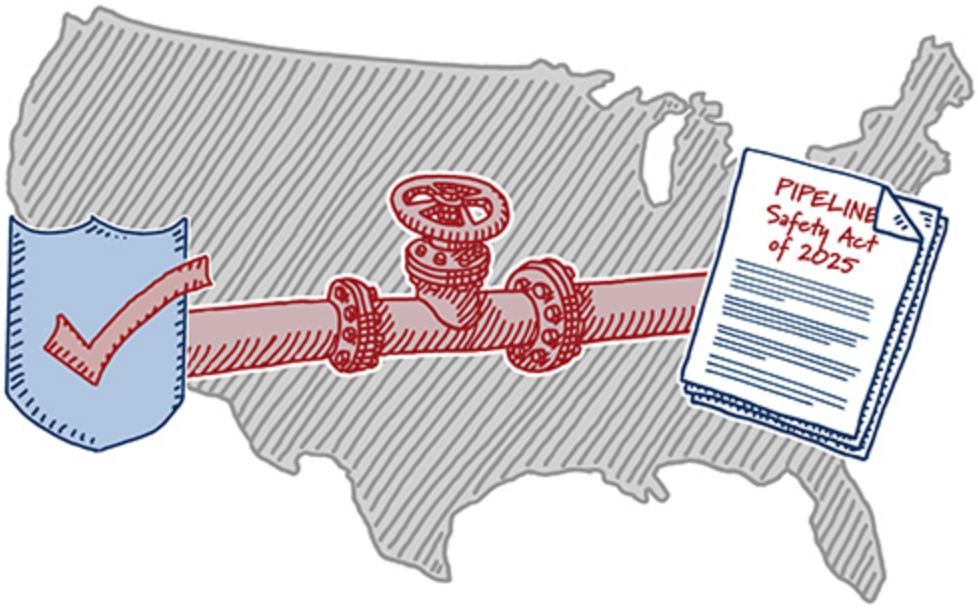
3. PASSED: Senate advances pipeline safety legislation



America needs modern infrastructure to deliver affordable, reliable, clean energy. **The Senate passed** the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025, which reauthorizes the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and modernizes America's pipeline safety framework through 2030.

The legislation:

- Supports the operation and expansion of U.S. energy infrastructure;
- Modernizes CO_2 pipeline safety regulations; and
- Directs PHMSA to engage the National Laboratories on a study of blending hydrogen into existing natural gas systems.

What's clear: "America's pipeline network is the backbone of our energy and industrial sectors," said ClearPath Action CEO **Jeremy Harrell.** "Unanimous Senate passage sends a clear signal that Congress is ready to let America build."

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4. Carbon Utilization: From emissions to opportunity

Carbon dioxide (CO2) is a resource to be harnessed. ClearPath published a **Carbon Utilization 101**, breaking down how captured CO2 can create value across the U.S. economy, from energy production and agriculture to construction and national defense.

Key existing and emerging applications include:

- Enhanced oil recovery (EOR), which enables the recovery of 245,000 barrels of domestic oil per day, and with next-generation EOR techniques, could unlock more than 60 billion additional barrels;
- Enhanced mineral recovery, which uses CO2 to extract critical minerals from rock formations and industrial byproducts, strengthening domestic supply chains; and
- Construction and fuels, where CO2 can be injected into concrete to produce stronger building materials or converted into synthetic fuels to power our military and aviation industry.

What's clear: The global market for CO2-derived products is projected to exceed $1 trillion by 2040. The U.S. has the innovation ecosystem and existing capabilities to lead, but must act with urgency to scale carbon utilization technologies at home.

Plug in: Check out ClearPath's Carbon Utilization 101 **here**.

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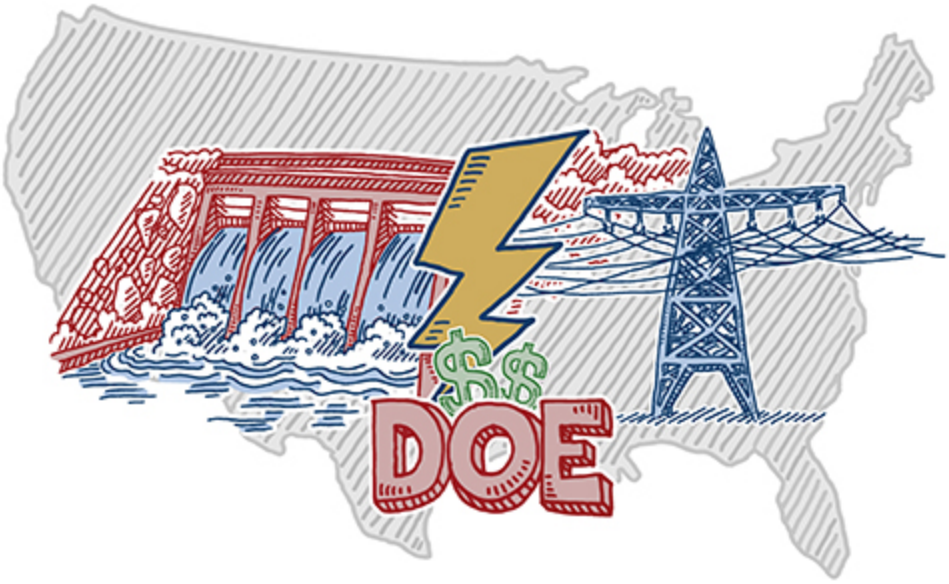
5. $430 million to modernize U.S. hydropower



The DOE is moving to strengthen America's hydropower fleet. This week, DOE **announced** it will resume negotiations to issue nearly $430 million in payments to 212 hydropower facilities across 33 states through its Hydropower and Hydrokinetic Office.

These investments will:

- Modernize aging infrastructure, including turbines, generators and dam systems;
- Improve grid reliability and resilience by enhancing flexible, dispatchable power; and
- Catalyze $2.8 billion in total public-private investment across 293 projects.

What's clear: Hydropower accounts for nearly 6% of total U.S. utility-scale generation and 88% of all utility-scale energy storage. Upgrading and modernizing existing assets is one of the fastest, most cost-effective ways to strengthen grid reliability, expand energy storage and maintain affordable domestic energy generation without passing costs on to ratepayers.

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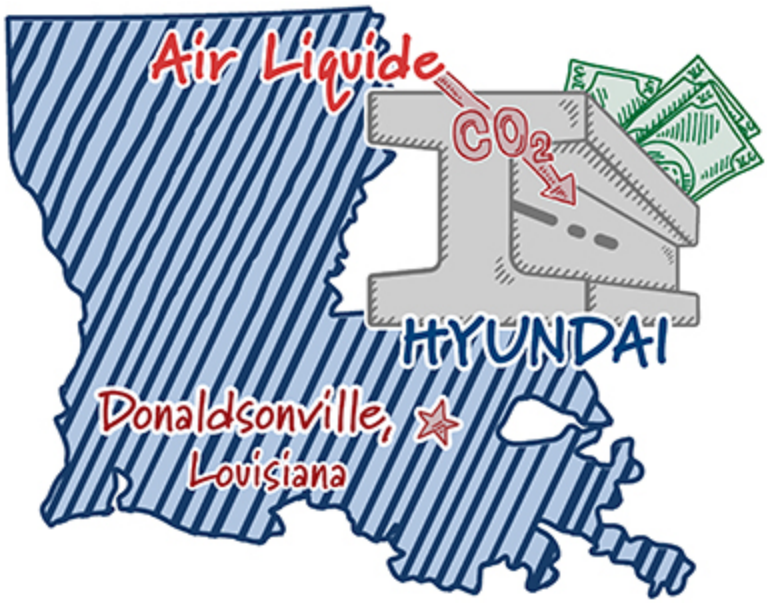
6. Louisiana scales low-carbon steel



Industrial investment is accelerating the production of low-carbon steel in Louisiana. Air Liquide, a global leader in industrial gas production, **announced** a $350 million air separation unit that will supply Hyundai's $5.8 billion steel plant in Donaldsonville. Gas production is expected to begin by 2028, with the steel plant operational by 2030.

The project will:

- Supply oxygen, nitrogen and argon to Hyundai's steel plant, enabling flexible and reliable low-carbon steel production;
- Support increased methanol production - a building block for fertilizers, fuels and chemicals - at the adjacent Koch facility, strengthening existing industrial output; and
- Expand integrated industrial infrastructure along the Mississippi River, linking energy, chemicals and steel production more efficiently.

What's clear: This is not a single asset investment. It reflects how private sector partnerships are rebuilding and modernizing America's industrial base, connecting chemicals, energy and manufacturing to strengthen domestic supply chains and scale low-carbon production.

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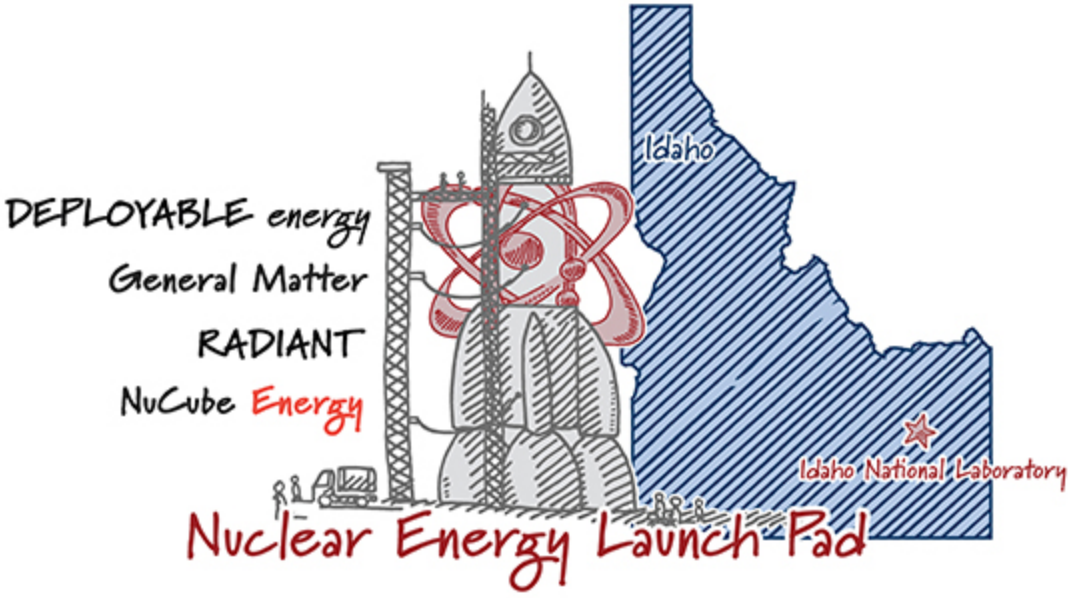
7. First projects selected for Nuclear Energy Launch Pad



The DOE Office of Nuclear Energy & the National Reactor Innovation Center (NRIC) at Idaho National Laboratory announced the first four companies selected as part of the Nuclear Energy Launch Pad:

- Deployable Energy;
- General Matter;
- NuCube Energy with Idaho State University; and
- Radiant Industries.

What's clear: Building here and selling globally is how America will beat our adversaries in the nuclear race. The Launch Pad will help prove out innovative technologies that will help America compete.

Plug in: To learn more about nuclear fuel, check out ClearPath's **Fuel Supply Chain blog**, **Nuclear Fuel 101** and **Advanced Nuclear Fuel 201**.

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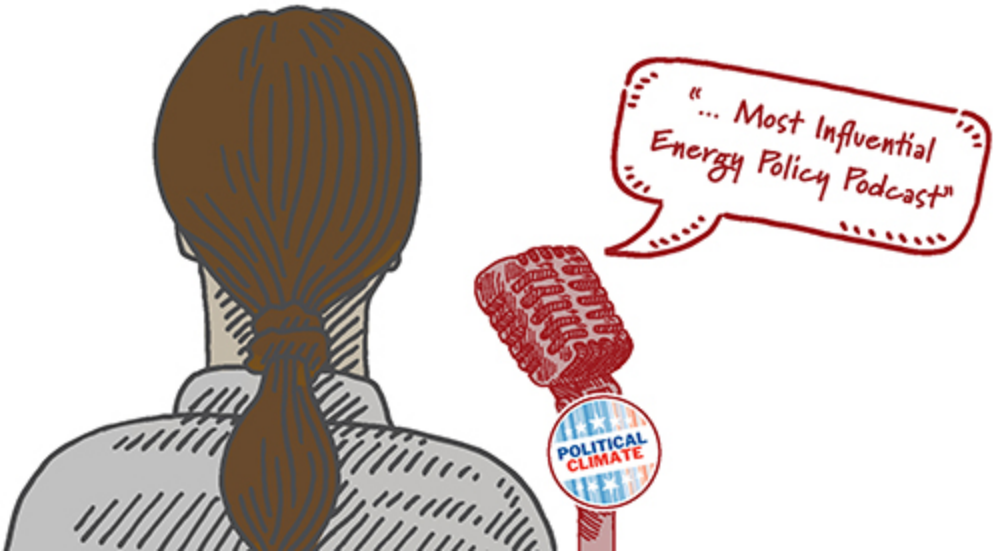
8. Political Climate: Hillary O’Brien on unlocking the grid



ClearPath has partnered with Political Climate, Washington's most influential energy policy podcast.

In the latest episode, ClearPath's **Hillary O'Brien** guest co-hosts and is joined by Ian Magruder of the Utilize Coalition to explore how grid utilization technologies and approaches paired with commonsense reforms to federal permitting processes could unlock hundreds of gigawatts of untapped grid capacity and deliver more than $100 billion in savings for the U.S. consumer.

Plug in: Listen to the latest episode of Political Climate **here.**

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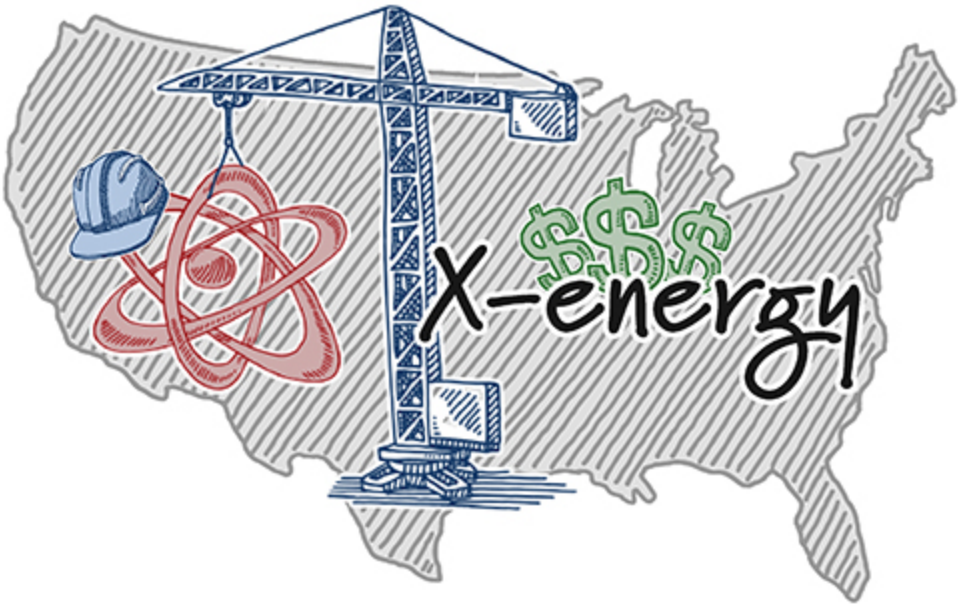
9. X-energy moves towards steel in the ground



Advanced nuclear is moving from concept to deployment, and markets are pricing it accordingly. X-energy **raised more than $1 billion** in the largest nuclear public offering to date.

The company's xe-100 reactor already has an **11+ gigawatt** order pipeline backed by Amazon, Dow and Centrica, with an NRC permit application underway for its first facility in Seadrift, Texas.

What's clear: American advanced nuclear developers continue to move towards putting steel in the ground and building the next generation of nuclear technology in the United States.

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10. Historic Artemis II mission underscores need to reauthorize NASA

President Trump **welcomed** NASA's Artemis II astronauts to the White House after their historic moon fly-by, marking another step toward returning Americans to the Moon.

What's clear: U.S. space ambitions are accelerating, but the policy framework needs an update. The last full NASA authorization was nearly a decade ago. As the U.S. approaches its 250th anniversary, reauthorizing NASA will be key to sustaining momentum, providing certainty and keeping Artemis on track.

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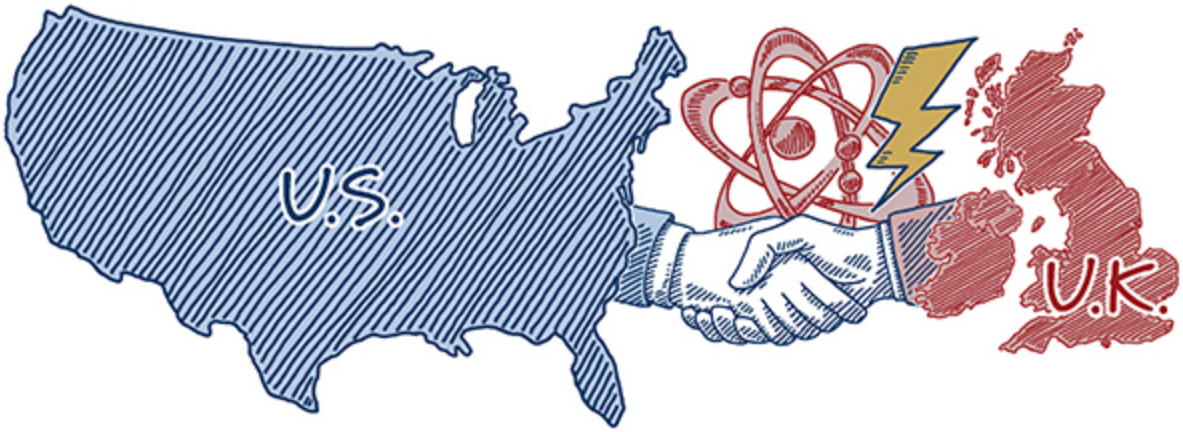
11. The U.S.-UK power play can deliver



When King Charles III addressed Congress this week, he delivered a pointed message: "Our alliance cannot rest on past achievements." American companies are already building and winning in allied markets. But the gains need permanent architecture to stick.

What is needed next:

- Codify mutual recognition between the NRC and the UK's Office for Nuclear Regulation;
- Reauthorize EXIM before December 31, 2026 to compete with state-backed rivals on financing; and
- Formalize a shared HALEU and critical minerals market to beat authoritarian competitors.

What's clear: The companies are on the ground. The technical groundwork is laid. There has been no better time for the U.S. and UK to put energy at the core of its special relationship to lock these gains in before Beijing fills the vacuum.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's full **blog** on why the Special Relationship's next chapter is energy.

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12. Thank you, Luke!

Luke Bolar

Yesterday was our Chief External Affairs Officer Luke Bolar's last day with ClearPath, after seven years with the organization. Luke built our external affairs function from the ground up, and his work has been instrumental in advancing conservative clean energy innovation policy across DC and beyond. We are deeply grateful for his contributions and wish him well in his next chapter. We will miss you, Luke!

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13. The circuit

ClearPath CEO **Jeremy Harrell** spoke at the U.S. Leaders' Forum on the "Common Purpose: Leadership for a Shared Future" panel, covering how America can lead in the energy space.

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14. ICYMI

- **America's first advanced nuclear plant breaks ground –** Nuclear construction has officially begun on **Kemmerer Unit 1** in Wyoming, TerraPower's flagship Natrium reactor and the first utility-scale advanced nuclear power plant in the U.S. The 345 MW sodium-cooled reactor includes an integrated energy storage system that can boost output to 500 MW at peak demand, enough to power around 400,000 homes.

- **U.S. finds massive lithium reserves in Appalachia** – A new U.S. Geological Survey **study** finds the Appalachian region holds enough untapped lithium to replace U.S. imports for centuries, with major deposits across the Carolinas, Maine and New Hampshire.
- **A new low-carbon cement is in the mix** – Cement producer Titan Cement **became** the first materials supplier to secure approvals from the Department of Transportation in Florida, Virginia and North Carolina for Type IT blended cement. This is a key milestone in the deployment of high-performance, low-carbon materials.
- **Nuclear cleanup is powering a new nuclear future** – Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN) **writes** in the Washington Times that DOE's cleanup of Cold War-era nuclear sites is unlocking land for the next generation of American nuclear energy. Oak Ridge alone is now home to Kairos, GE-Hitachi, Oklo, Radiant and others building reactors, enrichment plants and microreactor factories on remediated land.
- **U.S. and EU forge critical minerals partnership** – The U.S. and the EU agreed to a **Critical Minerals Action Plan** to strengthen transatlantic supply chains. The agreement outlines cooperation across the full value chain and signals potential coordinated trade measures to reduce reliance on foreign supply.
- **"America has finally decided to get serious about nuclear energy again."** Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) **highlights** in the Washington Times that Idaho National Laboratory is at the center of that renewed ambition. The DOME reactor test bed, a repurposed Cold War-era structure that once faced demolition, now gives American developers the ability to move new reactor concepts from design to demonstration at speed.
- **PJM receives 220 GW in new generation applications** – PJM Interconnection **received** 811 projects in the first cycle of its reformed interconnection process. Applications include 157 natural gas, 27 nuclear, and 11 hydropower projects alongside emerging technologies, including **fusion** for the first time.
- USDA issued a new **Secretarial Memorandum** directing the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service to heighten national wildfire readiness and advance President Trump's 2025 E.O on Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response. Innovative forest management and grid technologies play a significant role in wildfire readiness. Learn more about it on **our blog**.

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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