

US Extends More Funding for Nuclear Power Expansion

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The US Department of Energy (DOE) has extended a conditional loan of \$4.2 billion to Irving, Texas-based power generation firm [Vistra Corp.](#) to increase the capacity of three of its nuclear power plants to meet rapidly rising demand from data centers.

When it is finalized, the funds will enable Vistra to expand the capacity of its 894 gigawatt Dave-Besse and 1,312 GW Perry nuclear power plants in Ohio and the 1,847 megawatt Beaver Valley facility in Pennsylvania by a combined 4 GW.

In January, Vistra agreed to provide 4.4 GW of nuclear power to US tech giant Meta under a [20-year power purchase agreement](#) (PPA).

Jake Kincer, senior program manager for nuclear energy at conservative clean energy advocacy ClearPath, told Energy Intelligence that the loan will work to lower borrowing costs for major projects and equipment upgrades, helping Vistra maintain and extend the operations of its nuclear fleet as electricity demand from data centers and other large loads grows.

"The DOE loan is particularly attractive because it offers lower interest rates than utilities typically can obtain in the commercial market," Kincer said.

The DOE said Vistra's planned "uprates" — increasing the maximum output a nuclear plant is licensed and designed to safely generate — will not only increase electricity generation from its existing plants "without requiring new transmission corridors or equivalent new generation resources" but will also enable the company to finance potential future uprates at its Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant in north Texas.

The DOE and Vistra did not offer details on the planned uprates at each plant.

"Given that the loan is not closed yet, we can't share much more about the terms under discussion or specifics on potential projects at Comanche Peak, other than what is in the news release from the DOE," Vistra spokeswoman Meranda Cohn told Energy Intelligence in an email. "We'll look forward to sharing additional details on the loan when it closes, targeting later this year or Q1 2027."

Building Momentum

The DOE's announcement comes as US tech companies building power-hungry data center campuses are increasingly investing in new generation capacity at existing nuclear plants.

On Tuesday, US tech giant Google and nuclear energy provider Constellation Energy signed a 20-year PPA that will add some 890 MW of nuclear generating capacity to 11 of Constellation's reactors across the PJM interconnection grid in the central and eastern US.

"Preserving the existing fleet through extending their licenses and uprating them to get more power out of them is the best way to put clean energy on the grid," Kincer told Energy Intelligence.

In February, the DOE's Office of Energy Dominance Financing closed a \$26.5 billion financing package for two subsidiaries of Southern Co. that will add some 6 GW of nuclear capacity via uprates and license renewals at existing reactors. The loans align with the [executive order](#) issued by US President Donald Trump in May 2025 to "facilitate 5 GW of power uprates to existing nuclear reactors and have 10 large new reactors with complete designs under construction by 2030."

John Kotek, senior vice president of policy and public affairs at Washington-based trade group Nuclear Energy Institute, welcomed Monday's announcement of the DOE's conditional loan for Vistra.

"Uprates are an important opportunity to get even more value from our existing nuclear plants, adding reliable, 24/7/365 clean energy to the grid while supporting growing electricity demand," Kotek told Energy Intelligence in an email. "Continued investment in the existing fleet will be critical to maintaining and expanding nuclear energy's role in America's energy future."

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