NORTH AMERICA

Rain Lily

A Brighter Tomorrow Starts Today

Solar Farm & Battery Storage Project Newsletter | **January 2026**

Welcome to the Rain Lily Solar & Storage Project Newsletter!

We're thrilled to have you join us as we continue advancing the Rain Lily Solar & Storage Project. At EE North America, we're not just generating clean energy; we're building critical infrastructure that strengthens the reliability and resilience of Texas's electric grid.

In this issue, we'll share how battery energy storage systems work alongside solar generation to provide flexible, dispatchable power when Texans need it most. Our focus is on grid flexibility and stability: how the Rain Lily project will balance electricity supply and demand in real time, support energy security, and provide ready dispatchable power during peak demand periods or when solar and wind generation aren't available.

Whether you're following the project as a neighbor, a community partner, or someone interested in how modern energy infrastructure keeps the lights on, we're glad to keep you informed and engaged.

About Rain Lily Solar & Storage Project

Located on County Road 326, near Cleburne in Hood County, Texas, the Rain Lily Solar and Storage project is one of EE North America's key projects in ERCOT.

Development is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2026. Construction is scheduled to start in 2027 with the first power being produced at the end of 2028.

At-a-glance

191 MWdc PV / 210 MWh BESS
installed capacity

377 GWh / year
annual production capacity

810 acres
of land

34,000+ Homes
powered each year

200,000+
metric tons of carbon emissions saved

2028
expected grid connection

24/7 Monitoring
of the energy storage system allows for rapid response, if needed

Meets or exceeds national safety codes and standards
rigorous testing ensures the project also meets multiple international safety certifications

Safety is of the utmost priority
from advanced system design to third-party validation to site layout, safety is built into the project

"The Rain Lily project combines solar generation with 210 MWh of battery storage to deliver dispatchable clean energy—power when the grid needs it, not just when the sun is shining. By storing energy during peak solar production and releasing it during high-demand periods or grid emergencies, Rain Lily will strengthen grid reliability across Hood County and beyond while advancing Texas's clean energy future."

- Michael Klein, Head of Project Development, US, EE North America

Delivering Reliable Power to Our Community

How does battery storage improve energy security in Texas?

Battery energy storage systems like the one at Rain Lily will improve energy security at multiple levels: national, statewide, and local. Unlike traditional generation that takes hours to start up, battery storage responds instantly to grid emergencies, supply shortages, or unexpected outages by providing ready dispatchable power: electricity that can be deployed to the grid within seconds when needed.

At the national level, energy independence means reducing reliance on fuel imports and vulnerable supply chains. For Texas, this independence is even more significant because ERCOT operates its own grid, separate from the rest of the United States. This makes in-state generation and storage capabilities essential for our reliability. Some forecasts project demand could reach 218 GW by 2031 as data center development continues to accelerate across the state.[1*]

Locally, energy security means Hood County residents and businesses have reliable power when they need it most. By storing excess solar energy during the day and dispatching it during evening peak demand or supply constraints, the Rain Lily project reduces our community's vulnerability to fuel supply disruptions, pipeline constraints, or price spikes that can affect traditional power plants. Whether you're cranking up the air conditioning on a sweltering August afternoon or businesses across Hood County are ramping up operations, battery storage ensures reliable power is available right here in our community, generated and stored locally, strengthening our energy independence from the national level down to our neighborhoods.

1. [1]**ERCOT Demand Forecast:** Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Long-Term Load Forecast (2024). Peak demand projections of 138-152 GW by 2030, representing significant growth from 2023 baseline. Available at www.ercot.com/gridinfo/load/forecast
2. *ERCOT demand projections vary based on methodology and assumptions about data center and industrial load growth. Conservative estimates project 138-152 GW by 2030, while scenarios accounting for additional speculative load growth extend to 218 GW by 2031.

What is "ready dispatchable power" and why does it matter?

Ready dispatchable power refers to electricity generation that can be activated and delivered to the grid on demand, typically within seconds to minutes. Battery energy storage systems provide this critical capability by storing energy and releasing it exactly when grid operators need it most. This matters because modern grids must constantly balance electricity supply with demand. If supply falls short even briefly, it can cause voltage fluctuations or blackouts.

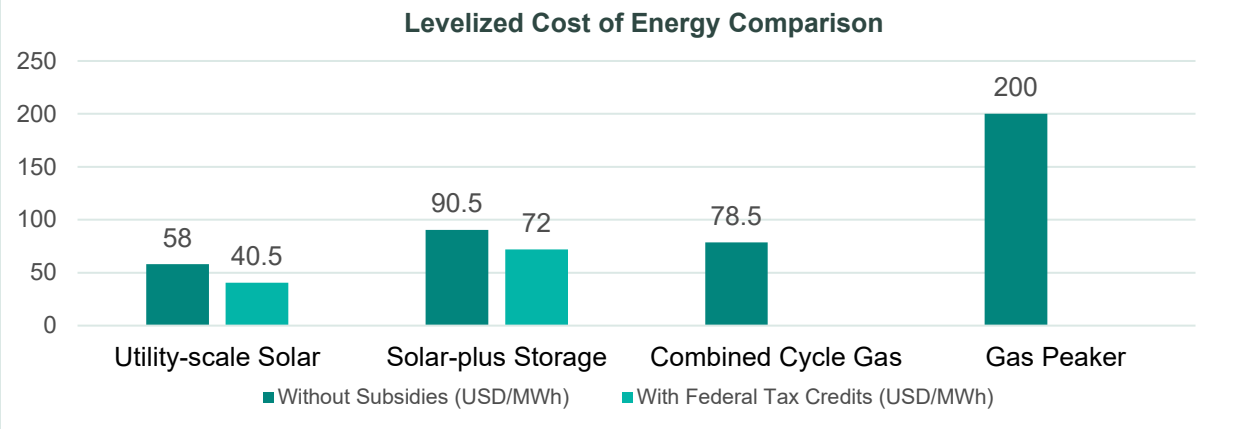
The Rain Lily project's 210 MWh battery system will inject power into the grid faster than any traditional power plant, helping ERCOT maintain stability during unexpected generation losses, transmission constraints, or sudden demand spikes. Think about Friday nights in Texas during football season when thousands of stadium lights flip on simultaneously, or Sunday mornings when churches, restaurants, and retail stores all open their doors at once. These everyday moments create sudden surges in electricity demand. This rapid response capability is becoming increasingly valuable as more intermittent renewable energy comes online across Texas and as our state's electricity needs continue growing at an unprecedented pace.

Will the Rain Lily project increase electricity costs for Hood County residents?

No. Utility-scale solar and battery storage actually help keep electricity costs low for all Texas consumers. According to Lazard's 2024 Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis, utility-scale solar without subsidies has one of the lowest costs among all sources of new power generation at $38-$78/MWh, or $24-$57/MWh with federal investment tax credits. Solar-plus-storage costs $50-$131/MWh without subsidies, or $33-$111/MWh with tax credits. In comparison, new combined cycle natural gas plants cost $48-$109/MWh, while natural gas peaker plants cost $149-$251/MWh, and these higher costs get passed on to consumers during peak demand periods.[1]

Levelized Cost of Energy Comparison

Energy Source	Cost Without Subsidies (USD/MWh)	Cost With Federal Tax Credits (USD/MWh)
Utility-scale Solar	$38–$78	$24–$57
Solar-plus-Storage	$50–$131	$33–$111
Combined Cycle Natural Gas	$48–$109	N/A
Natural Gas Peaker Plants	$149–$251	N/A



Here's how it works: batteries charge when solar generation is abundant and electricity prices are low, then discharge during peak demand when prices would otherwise spike. This "buying low and selling high" service helps stabilize prices for everyone on the ERCOT grid. Research from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory shows that battery energy storage systems reduce wholesale electricity price volatility by smoothing supply-demand imbalances and providing cost-effective alternatives to expensive peaker plants during high-demand periods.[2]

Battery energy storage systems are especially important during extreme weather conditions like summer heat waves or winter storms, when traditional natural gas peaker plants can be expensive and drive up costs for consumers. During Winter Storm Uri in 2021, natural gas prices in Texas spiked from typical levels of $3/MMBtu to over $400/MMBtu, directly contributing to wholesale electricity price caps that cost Texas ratepayers billions.[3]

The Rain Lily project will add 191 MWdc of solar generation and 210 MWh of battery storage to the ERCOT grid, contributing to the competitive electricity market that has helped Texas maintain residential electricity rates averaging 14.6 cents/kWh, below the national average of 16.7 cents/kWh,[4] while supporting rapid economic growth.

1. **Lazard**, "Levelized Cost of Energy+," June 2025 https://www.lazard.com/media/5tlbhyla/lazards-lcoeplus-june-2025-_vf.pdf
2. **U.S. Department of Energy**, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, "Cost Projections for Utility-Scale Battery Storage: 2025 Update," June 2025 https://docs.nrel.gov/docs/fy25osti/93281.pdf
3. **Comptroller.texas.gov**, “Winter Storm Uri 2021 The Economic Impact of the Storm”, Jess Donald, October 2021 https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/archive/2021/oct/winter-storm-impact.php
4. **U.S. Energy Information Administration**, "Electric Power Monthly," Table 5.6.A, December 2024 https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/

How do solar and battery storage work together to provide power around the clock?

Solar panels generate electricity only when the sun is shining, but electricity demand doesn't follow the sun's schedule. It peaks in the evening when people return home from work. This is where battery storage transforms solar from an intermittent resource into a reliable, around-the-clock power source.

Battery storage acts as a reservoir of electricity. At Rain Lily, our 191 MWdc solar array will generate substantial electricity during daylight hours. The 210 MWh battery system stores excess solar energy produced during midday when generation exceeds local demand, then dispatches that stored energy whenever it's needed: during evening hours when demand is highest and solar production has ended, early morning before sunrise when Texans are starting their coffee makers and getting ready for work, overnight periods when hospitals and emergency services need continuous power, on cloudy days when solar output is reduced, or during grid emergencies when other power sources are unavailable.

The Rain Lily project's battery system will store enough energy to power approximately 20,000 homes for several hours. This means reliable electricity for Hood County families settling in for the evening after sunset, during those cloudy winter days when heaters are running but solar production is limited, or during severe weather events. The project essentially time-shifts clean energy from when it's generated to when it's needed most, whether that's powering Friday night lights at Granbury High School, keeping grocery stores running smoothly in Hood County, or ensuring farms have reliable electricity for irrigation, all while reducing the need to keep higher cost fossil fuel plants running as backup.

How does battery storage protect the grid against fluctuating demand?

Electricity demand fluctuates constantly. It changes from second to second as equipment cycles on and off, from hour to hour as daily activities change, and from season to season as heating and cooling needs vary. Battery storage protects against these fluctuations by providing fast, precise adjustments to power supply. The Rain Lily project can increase or decrease its output in milliseconds, far faster than traditional power plants that take minutes to hours to adjust. When demand suddenly spikes, like when thousands of air conditioners start on a scorching Texas afternoon, or when a manufacturing facility in Hood County fires up production lines after a lunch break, the battery system can immediately inject additional power to prevent voltage drops or frequency deviations that could damage equipment or cause outages. When demand suddenly drops, such as when a spring cold front moves through and everyone turns off their AC simultaneously, the battery can absorb excess energy to prevent over-frequency conditions. This second-by-second balancing, called "ancillary services," is essential for grid stability and is something battery storage performs more effectively and efficiently than conventional generation. By providing this protective layer, Rain Lily helps ensure consistent, reliable electricity for all ERCOT customers, from ranchers running irrigation pumps to families charging electric vehicles overnight.

Meet the experts

Abhishek Rao

Owner's Engineering Manager

Abhishek Rao is a Principal Renewable Energy Consultant at Wood. With over 12 years of experience in the clean energy sector, he has supported over 8,200 MWac of solar and over 8,100 MWh of energy storage in the US and globally. In his role, he advises independent power producers, clean energy developers, electric utilities, industrial facilities, investors, lenders, and governments to develop, design, finance, construct, and operate utility-scale solar and storage plants. He holds a Master's degree in solar energy engineering, business, and policy from Arizona State University.

"Utility-scale solar and battery energy storage are the fastest growing, fastest-to-deploy, and among the most competitive sources of power capacity additions needed to fuel the rapid economic growth expected in Texas in the next half decade. Solar-plus-storage, even without subsidies, stabilize the grid by meeting rising demand while keeping electricity costs low for all consumers. In an energy strategy that embraces all viable sources of electricity, solar and energy storage are the most economical, reliable, and sensible solution for Texas."

- Abhishek Rao

A word from our partner on Texas electricity demand

Abhishek Rao, Principal Renewable Energy Consultant at Wood

Electricity demand in Texas is forecast to soar in the next half decade, after relatively little change in the last 20 years. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), the grid operator for most of the state, projects electricity demand to more than double – rising to 218 gigawatt (GW) – by 2031, compared to the current peak demand of 85.5 GW observed during 2023's record breaking heat wave. [1] The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects electricity demand in ERCOT will increase by 14% in 2026, far outpacing average nationwide growth of 0.8% between 2020 and 2024. [2]

The projected demand growth is driven mainly by data centers and advanced manufacturing facilities planned in the state. The Texas data center sector's load is expected to rise to 78 GW by 2031[1], with the state emerging as a viable location for these facilities with its availability of land and fiber optic infrastructure. However, there have been concerns that this exponential load growth could put undue strain on the ERCOT grid, and that retail electricity prices could rise if new electricity generation does not keep pace with the rapid load growth.

How solar and battery energy storage systems (BESS) help meet demand and stabilize the grid

Among all sources of electricity generation, this load growth can be most readily met by utility-scale solar generation and battery energy storage. Solar is the nation's fastest growing electricity source, accounting for over 50% of power generation capacity additions in 2025. Together, solar and battery energy storage account for 81% of total nationwide power capacity additions in 2025. [3]

Texas leads the nation in solar deployment, on track to add 12.9 GW in 2025, which is almost half of all new U.S. utility-scale solar capacity in the year. The state is also expected to add around 7 GW of battery energy storage in 2025, which is also the highest in the nation. As of

late 2025, the ERCOT interconnection queue is dominated by solar and storage, accounting for approximately 77% of all active requests in the pipeline, amounting to over 315 GW of new generation and storage capacity over the coming years, to serve the growing load.
This predominance is attributable to solar being the lowest-cost and fastest-to-deploy source of electricity. Utility-scale solar and storage plants can realistically go from conception to commissioning within 4-5 years, while lead times for natural gas turbines currently stand at 7-8 years, with timelines for nuclear power stretching even longer. Its deployment timeline makes solar the most attractive and sensible solution to meet the burgeoning demand for electricity in Texas, when other generation sources will lag behind load growth. Battery energy storage systems, whether standalone or combined with solar, provide grid reliability by matching supply and demand, charging when there is a surplus of electricity and supplying power to the grid during evening peak hours and cloudy conditions.

While the U.S. updates its energy strategy embracing all viable sources of electricity, utility-scale solar and battery energy storage is the fastest, reliable solution to fuel economic growth in Texas.

1. https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/news/ercot-electricity-demand-in-texas-set-to-soar-to-218gw-by-2031-fueled-by-data-center-growth
2. https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=65844
3. https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=64586

An invitation

Have questions or want to learn more? Reach out—we'd love to connect!
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