AEIC Load Forecasting Workshop Series

Session 1: Kickoff, January 28, 2026

Virtual · Workshop Results Report · Version 2, November 2026

One of seven documents in the 2026 series package. Session 0 is the series guide, not a meeting: it carries the outline, the background and how to read these reports.

The Finding

Every practitioner in the room could name what their own utility was missing. Not one could name what the industry was missing, because nobody had ever seen the aggregate.

Without a peer benchmark you cannot tell a local problem from a structural one, and the natural assumption is that the fault is yours. How many of the gaps you are carrying right now actually belong to you? The room learned its problems were shared, and that is why the series continued.

What This Session Was

The first time the cohort was in a room together, virtually, after three months of one-to-one scoping calls through the fall and winter of 2025. Those calls asked one question: what does load forecasting need right now that no single utility can build alone? The kickoff put the answers back in front of the people who gave them and surveyed the room on where the work should go.

104 registered. 76 attended. The session ran three hours and sixteen minutes, and the average practitioner stayed just over two of them, half a working day for a first meeting with no agenda they had seen before.

Who Was Represented

31 utility organizations were in the room:

AEP, Ameren, APS, Arkansas Electric Cooperative, Caribbean Utilities, Chugach Electric, ComEd, Con Edison, Dominion Energy, Duke Energy, Duquesne Light, Eversource, Exelon, Hawaiian Electric, JEA, LG&E and KU, Long Island Power Authority, MidAmerican, OGE Energy, Orange and Rockland, Orlando Utilities Commission, Pepco Holdings, PowerSouth, PSEG Long Island, Salt River Project, SDG&E, Southern Company, Tampa Electric, Tucson Electric Power, TVA, and Xcel Energy.

The National Laboratory of the Rockies attended with four researchers and presented.

What Was Discussed

Sixteen distinct discussion threads surfaced. They clustered into five areas that have governed every session since:

- **Data governance.** Who owns the data behind a forecast, and what happens at the hand-off.
- **Business case development.** How a forecasting team asks for money and gets it.
- **Uncertainty quantification.** How to express what the forecast does not know.
- **Change management.** How a method actually gets adopted inside a utility.

- **Tool comparison.** What exists, what it costs, and what it is actually good at.

Where the Session Ended

Everything. The kickoff established demand and resolved none of it, which is the right outcome for a first session. A virtual room of 104 also cannot form working groups. The energy was for work rather than talk, so the next session was in person three weeks later, not another webinar.

Actions and Where They Went

Action from This Session	Status
Convene in person to form working groups	Done. Austin, February 11-12
Turn the sixteen threads into a scoped list of needs	Done. Austin produced six categories
Establish whether the cohort would sustain	Done. The same names recur through June

Where This Feeds the Guide and the Workbook

The six categories Austin built from these five areas are the organizing spine of the **AEIC Load Forecasting Practitioner Workbook**. This session produced no workbook content directly. It produced the table of contents.

Knowledge of one is the knowledge of all.

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