

The following is an initial set of questions and topics for us to evolve on Monday's prep call:

Scaling for AI: Generation, Flexibility, and Strategic Investment

Given FERC's projection that the U.S. may need up to 150 GW of new capacity by 2030 to meet surging AI and industrial load growth - and industrial load growth accelerating due to onshoring and electrification - what specific actions is DOE taking to accelerate energy infrastructure deployment at that scale and speed?

Additional follow-up:

- What role do demand-side resources and flexible load management play in balancing AI-driven growth?

CW Added Perspective: What is Southern Company thinking specifically in the world of build new v. flex load?

Permitting Reform as a Strategic Enabler

Permitting delays remain a shared constraint across both energy and digital infrastructure. What specific permitting reforms is the DOE advancing to meaningfully accelerate deployment across generation, transmission, and interconnection of load like data centers? And how can permitting become a competitive advantage rather than a bottleneck?

Additional follow-up:

- How/can permitting reform be coordinated across federal, state, and local jurisdictions to avoid fragmentation?"

CW Added Perspective: Could AI itself be part of the solution, modernizing permitting workflows and environmental assessments?

Nuclear's Role in a Digitally Powered Grid

As AI drives demand for 24/7, high-reliability power, what role do you see for nuclear—whether today's technologies or advanced reactors—in meeting this moment? How do you see the role of small modular reactors (SMRs) and microreactors evolving in the context of AI's distributed energy needs?

Additional follow-up

What signals of progress have you seen since the White House's executive orders?

CW Added Perspective: Southern Company's experience with Vogtle offers unique insight—what lessons from that journey could inform the path forward for nuclear in the AI era?

Global Collaboration in the AI-Energy Race

With an international audience here today, it's worth asking: as countries compete to lead in AI, how can U.S. utilities and tech firms collaborate globally—on supply chains, standards, and innovation—while still maintaining a competitive edge?

Additional follow-up

What lessons can be drawn from international partnerships on AI and energy innovation?

CW Added Perspective: Thoughts on 'coopetition,' and how do you see the DOE and Southern Company shaping global engagement?

Power for AI, AI for Power, and the Ecosystem in Between

You heard Morgan outline the themes we'll explore over the next day and a half. Where do you each see the greatest challenge—or the greatest opportunity? Is it in powering AI, applying AI to the power system, or building the enabling ecosystem around both?

Wrap-up: With that, let's turn it back to Morgan.