

Press Coverage | August 6, 2026

Texas Audit Could Delay 49.8 GW of Data Center Load, Cost Projects Up to \$15 Billion, BNEF Warns

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Troutman Pepper Locke's [John Arnold](#), [Brandon Lobb](#), and [Rachael Beavers](#)'s article, "[Texas Hits Pause on Data Center Grid Connections Amid Growing Oversight Push](#)," was quoted in the August 6, 2026, *Power Magazine* article, "[Texas Audit Could Delay 49.8 GW of Data Center Load, Cost Projects Up to \\$15 Billion, BNEF Warns](#)."

Troutman Pepper Locke's energy team, in an [Aug. 4 client alert](#) by John K. Arnold, Brandon Lobb, and Rachael Beavers, directed clients to review contract exposure. "Real estate investors and developers with land under contract, option agreements, or purchase commitments tied to data center development schedules should review those agreements carefully, with particular attention to change in law, force majeure provisions, milestone extension rights, and termination triggers," the firm wrote. "Whether a regulatory moratorium of this nature qualifies as a change in law or force majeure event will depend on the specific language of each agreement."

The firm also flagged the January 2027 convening of the 90th Texas Legislature as the next opportunity for statutory changes to data center regulation, noting that "the PUCT has indicated it will seek expanded statutory authority to regulate the data center industry, and the governor's sustained engagement with this issue over recent months suggests strong support for that effort."

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