Chart of the Week #2026-05
Power Generation During Winter Storm Fern – The View From New England

Max Pyziur
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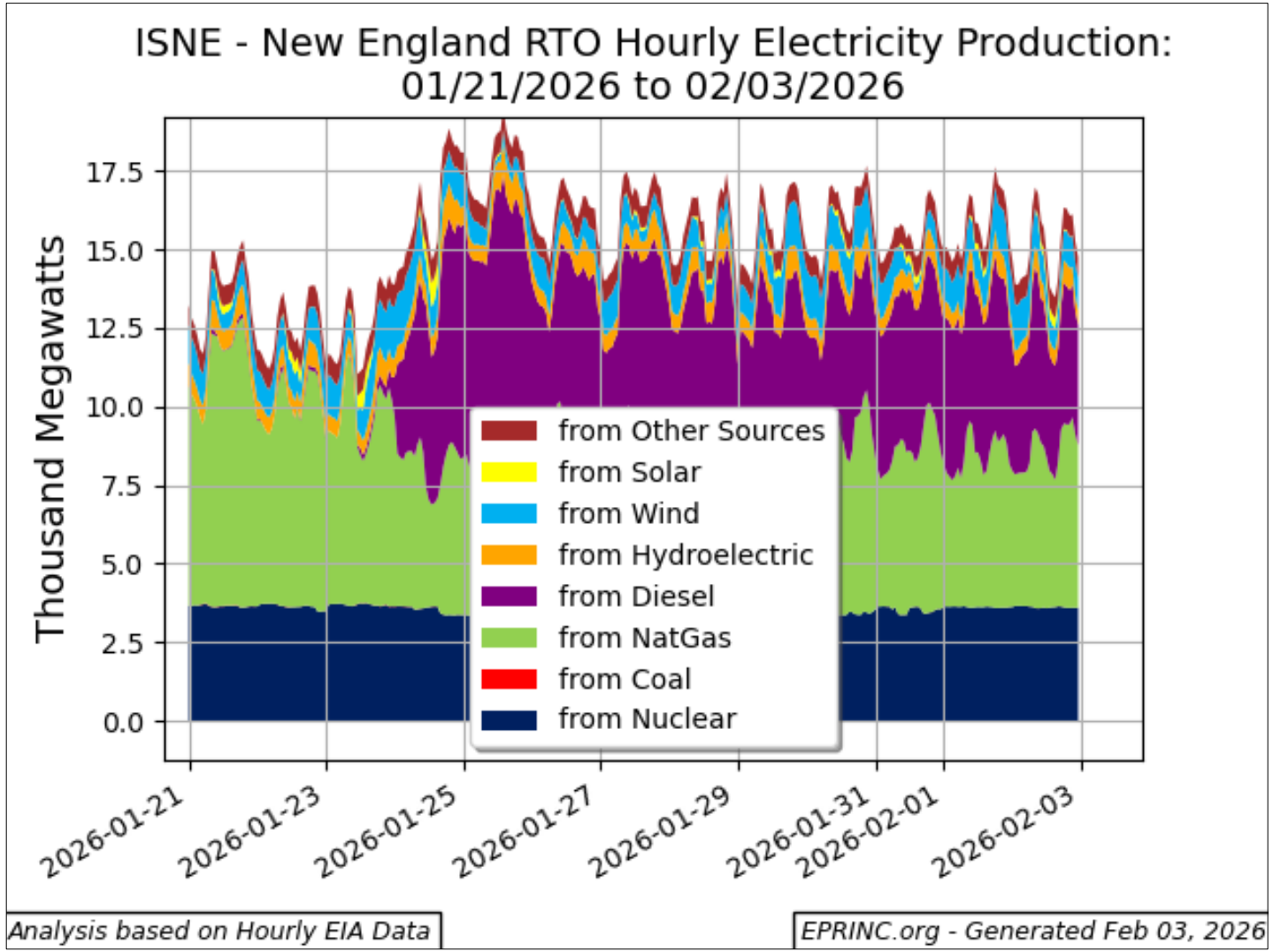

Winter Storm Fern began on January 21, 2026 in the Mid-Continent. It arrived in New England on January 24th. Fern's arctic temperatures are continuing into mid-February even though the snowstorm abated in late January.

By the Numbers

ISNE is the grid operator for the six New England states. ISNE's average load since Fern's arrival has been 16 gigawatts (GWs) with spikes to 20 GWs. Dispatchable generation has provided an average of 93% of generation while weather-dependent power (primarily wind) provided the balance (an average of 1 GW).

Diesel's Critical Role

With limited natural gas pipeline capacity in the region, ISNE relies on diesel-fired generation to meet peak cold-weather power demands. Since the arctic weather began, diesel has accounted for an average of 5.1 GWs of generation (31.3% of total requirements) with peaks of 7.9 GWs (43.5% of total) .

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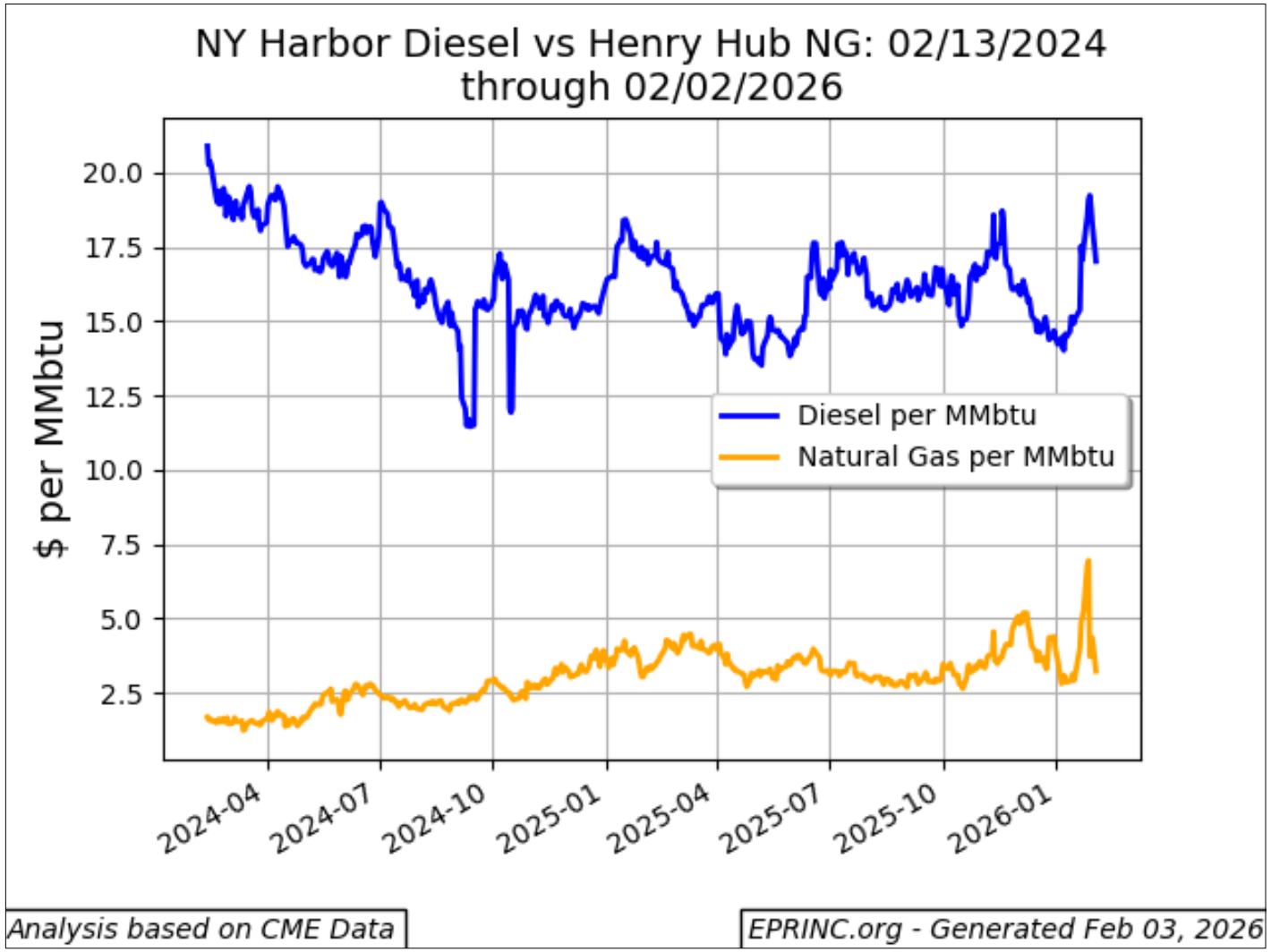

Why it matters

Imputed from NY Harbor diesel and Henry Hub natural gas prices over the last year, diesel has been costing on average 4.6 times the price of natural gas on an energy basis.

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- This slide deck is available at: https://eprinc.org/chart-of-the-week/
- For more information on these charts, please contact Max Pyziur (maxp@eprinc.org).

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