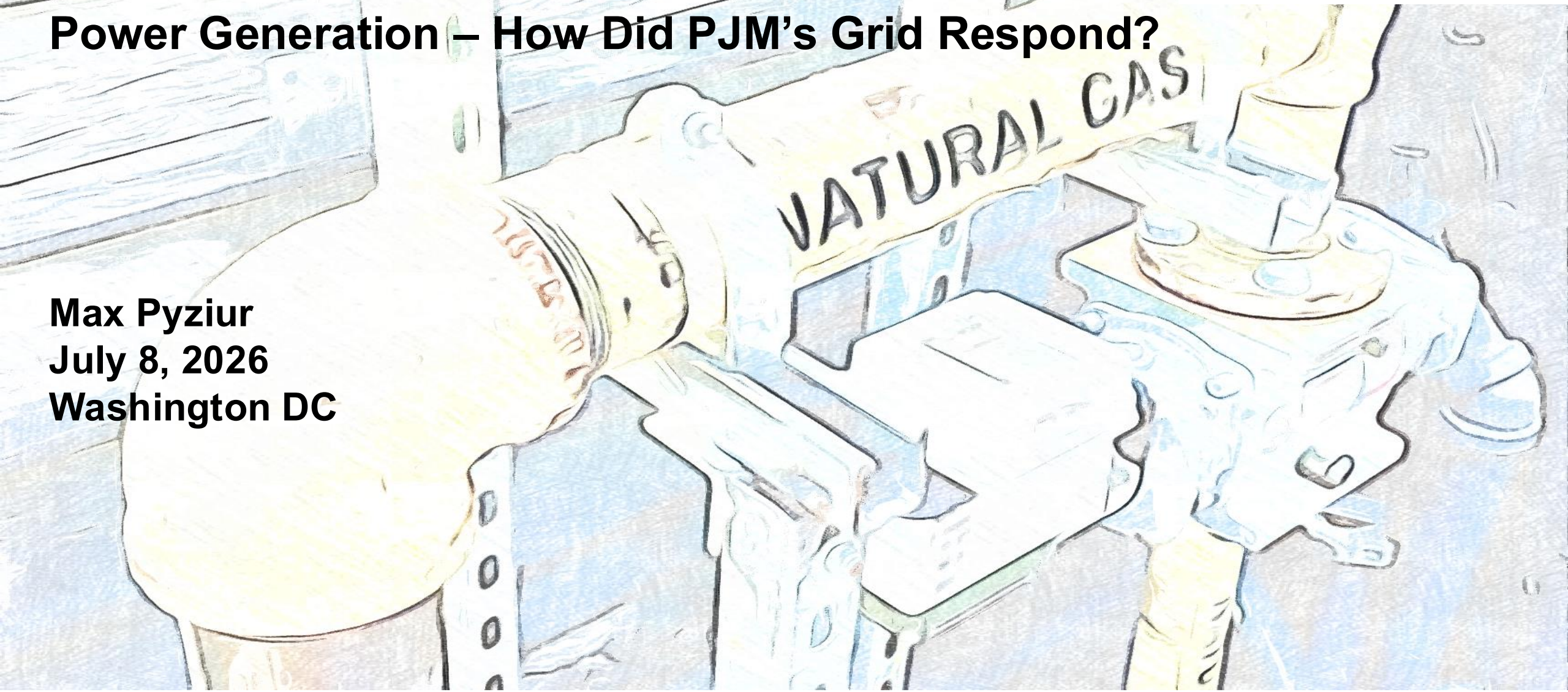
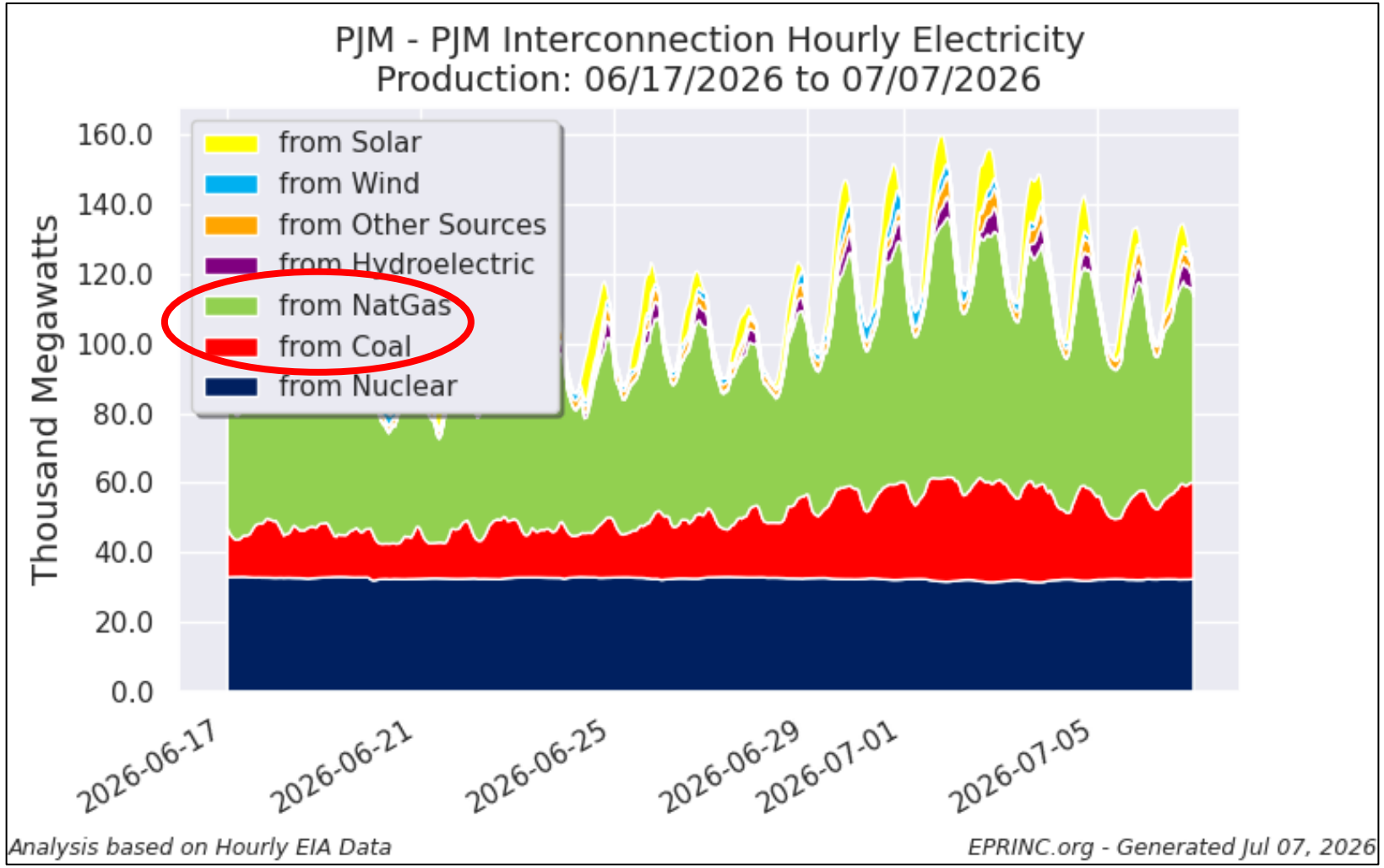
Chart of the Week #2026-24
First U.S. Summer 2026 Heat Wave and Power Generation – How Did PJM's Grid Respond?



Max Pyziur
July 8, 2026
Washington DC

First U.S. Summer 2026 Heat Wave and Power Generation – How Did PJM's Grid Respond?

Energy Policy Research Foundation



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- The first U.S. 2026 summer heat wave arrived in the week that straddled the last days of June and the beginning of July. A heat dome settled dome settled across the Central and Eastern U.S. stretching from Illinois to the Mid-Atlantic and part of the Northeastern states. As the July 4th holiday approached, temperatures peaked above 100° F regularly.
- Much of this territory is serviced by the PJM (Pennsylvania-Jersey-Maryland) Grid Operator. Hourly load at midday requirements peaked close to 160 gigawatts (GWs). The bulk of this, an hourly average of 111.5 GWs (88% of total), was delivered by dispatchable generation -- nuclear, coal, and natural gas -- at average rates of 32.4, 24.2, and 55 GWs, respectively. In the case of coal and natural generation, this was up from 14.3 and 43.6 GWs in the prior week.
- Solar and wind accounted for an hourly average of 7.5 GWs of generation both during the heat wave and in the prior week.

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