

AEIC Load Forecasting Workshop Series

Session 0: The 2026 Package

Outline and background · January to June 2026

Why this series exists

Load forecasting stopped being a settled discipline.

For most of the last thirty years the job was to project a familiar system forward against weather and economics. That job still exists. A second job appeared alongside it, arrived faster than the planning cycle was built for, and does not respond to the same methods. A single customer now asks for hundreds of megawatts on a timeline the process cannot absorb, and the forecaster is asked whether it is real.

No single utility can answer that alone, and until this cohort formed there was nowhere for the people who build the forecast to compare notes with their peers.

What this series is

A practitioner-level working group convened by the AEIC Center for Operational Excellence. The cohort is the people who build the forecast, not the people who present it. The National Laboratory of the Rockies is the research partner.

More than 100 practitioners from 38 utilities took part across five convenings between January and June 2026.

The five sessions

#	Session	Format	Date	In the room
1	Kickoff	Virtual	January 28, 2026	76 practitioners, 31 utilities
2	Austin	In person	February 11-12, 2026	13 practitioners, 10 utilities
3	Pod Work Sessions	Virtual, three pods	March 27, 2026	32 practitioners, 20 utilities
4	Pittsburgh	In person	April 14-15, 2026	12 practitioners, 10 utilities
5	Virtual Blocks	Virtual, three blocks	June 25, 2026	41 practitioners, 24 utilities

The two in-person rooms were deliberately small. They are working sessions, not conferences, and they produced the artifacts the rest of the series runs on.

What is in this package

Document	What it covers
Session 0	This outline and the background
Sessions 1 to 5	One results report per convening: who was represented, what was discussed, what came out of it, the gaps the room named, and what was done
Series Summary	The discussions and the gaps across all five, read together

Each session report stands on its own. Read in order they trace how a set of shared complaints became a scoped body of work.

Where the work lands

Two documents hold the output.

The **AEIC Load Forecasting Practitioner Workbook** is the cohort's working reference, organized around the six categories of need the room named in Austin and the three pods that formed there: methods and curves, tools and benchmarking, and data pipelines and the business case. Version 0 reached the cohort in April 2026.

The **AEIC Load Forecasting Reference Guide** is the cohort's picture of its own practice, assembled so a practitioner can see where their utility sits against the group.

How to read these reports

They state practice, not best practice. Where the cohort did not converge, they say so rather than picking a winner.

Utilities and individuals are named in the acknowledgements and in presenter credits. Everywhere else, contributions are anonymized. Survey responses are held in confidence, aggregated and anonymized. That is what allows practitioners to put unfinished work in front of the room, and it is the condition on which this series works.

Knowledge of one is the knowledge of all.

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