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HOUSE MAJORITY POLICY COMMITTEE

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMONWEALTH of PENNSYLVANIA

House Democratic Policy Committee Hearing

Energy & Manufacturing in Southwest PA

Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025 | 10 a.m.

Representative Emily Kinkead | Representative John Inglis

10 a.m. Welcome and member introductions

PANEL ONE

10:10 p.m. Matt Smith, Chief Growth Officer

Allegheny Conference

Q & A with Legislators

PANEL TWO

10:45 a.m. Kevin Hennessy, Senior Director, Policy

Mainspring Energy

Q & A with Legislators

PANEL THREE

11:20 a.m. Meghan Cox, Vice President of Corporate and Government Relations

Allegheny County Airport Authority

Q & A with Legislators



Written Testimony

Before House Majority Policy Committee Hearing: Energy & Manufacturing in Southwest Pennsylvania

September 4, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Matt Smith, Chief Growth Officer, Allegheny Conference on Community Development

Thank you to Chairman Bizarro, Rep. Kinkaid and members of the Majority Policy Committee for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Matt Smith, and I serve as chief growth officer for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. The Conference represents a coalition of employers, civic leaders, and institutions across southwestern Pennsylvania united by one goal: building a more competitive and resilient economy where there is opportunity for all people across the region.

This year alone, our region has seen significant investment across the energy and manufacturing sectors. We have tracked more than \$15.7 billion in announced capital investment to date, contributing to a total impact of more than 15,000 jobs created and/or retained and supporting the growth of our regional economy. Much of this is located at the nexus of energy and manufacturing.

The investment secured is the result of the work of many partners and your work at the state level to create healthy host conditions. To note just a few examples, Pennsylvania's corporate net income (CNI) tax rate reduction, permitting reforms, and site development investment through the Pennsylvania Strategic Investments to Enhance Sites Program (PA SITES) have cultivated a more business-friendly environment, enabling us to bring businesses to the region and keep them here.

There is a unique opportunity for rapid growth across our region by building on this progress and ensuring investments and policies support our businesses. With continued support and partnership, we can deliver an effective economic development toolbox that will catalyze further investments and make Pennsylvania competitive with peer states.

And a big part of our opportunity lies in our energy sector – driven by how we address significant challenges and take advantage of immense possibilities for our communities and competitiveness. The PJM region, which includes our commonwealth, is projected to face a **40-gigawatt shortfall in net generation capacity by 2030**. This looming gap threatens grid reliability, economic competitiveness, and the growth



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potential of our manufacturing sector and other energy-intensive industries. Market reforms alone will not address this problem. If we fail to act, Pennsylvania risks both near-term reliability crises and long-term missed opportunities to lead in the next generation of energy innovation.

The Allegheny Conference's Energy Policy Committee — which includes leaders from utilities, manufacturing, energy production, and innovation sectors — has charted a path we call **"Build Now and For the Future."**

This balanced strategy includes:

- **Near-term action:** bringing new generation online quickly, particularly through our abundant natural gas resources developed with robust environmental safeguards.
- **Long-term investment:** laying the groundwork today for natural gas, advanced nuclear, hydrogen, carbon capture, storage, grid modernization, and efficiency programs.
- **Economic growth:** linking energy development to site readiness, workforce development, and R&D investment to ensure Pennsylvania attracts capital and jobs.

As highlighted earlier, we appreciate the General Assembly and the administration's ongoing efforts and investments to foster a business-friendly environment in the commonwealth. Initiatives such as permitting and tax reforms, along with transformational programs such as PA SITES, are critical in addressing some of the regulatory hurdles that impede economic growth. These steps help reduce red tape, streamline processes, and create the conditions necessary for businesses to invest, expand, and drive long-term prosperity.

Policy Actions Still Needed: To fully address our energy issues and spur economic growth, we recommend three key areas for legislative focus:

1. Permitting and Siting Reform

- Streamline state permitting for both generation and transmission projects.
- Establish a single authority or commission with the authority to expedite approvals.
- Develop clear rules for siting energy-intensive facilities, like data centers, with an emphasis on regional benefit.



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2. Dedicated Incentives and Investment Tools

- Create competitive, fuel-agnostic incentives such as tax credits, grants, and loans for energy projects across the value chain.
- Support R&D, pilot projects, and workforce development to reinforce our advanced energy and manufacturing leadership.
- Ensure Pennsylvania keeps pace with neighboring states in attracting new investment.

3. Regulatory Review and Alignment

 Work with the Public Utility Commission to modernize demand-side management, grid operations, and market design.

Energy is the foundation of Pennsylvania's economy. Manufacturers, technology firms, universities, and communities cannot thrive without reliable, affordable power. At the same time, energy is a growth sector in its own right. Our region is already pioneering technologies such as linear generators, advanced nuclear reactors, power generation and digital infrastructure equipment, long duration storage, remediated mine gas, and sustainable fuels such as SAF and hydrogen. Companies such as Mainspring Energy, who you will hear from later, have made decisions to invest here. By acting now, Pennsylvania can both secure its energy future and lead in the global race for advanced energy manufacturing.

Members of the committee, the Allegheny Conference and our partners stand ready to work with you to ensure Pennsylvania is both an energy leader and an economic growth leader. If we act with urgency — building now while planning for the future — we can secure reliable energy, create thousands of family-sustaining jobs, and position southwestern Pennsylvania at the forefront of America's energy and manufacturing renaissance.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.



The Pittsburgh Region Welcomes Mainspring Energy's Linear Generator Manufacturing Plant: A New Source of Abundant Clean Electricity for the World

BY THE NUMBERS



\$175 million total investment

million pending from the US Department of Energy

\$6.2 million from Pennsylvania

million from Allegheny County



292,000 square foot facility

291+ construction jobs

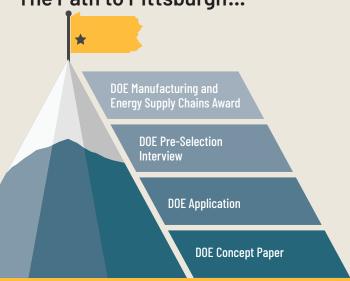
new permanent jobs



"The things that excited us most about Pittsburgh are its history of energy and manufacturing combined...its incredible, impressive workforce...its history of innovation. Pittsburgh feels like a sister city [with Menlo Park] with its focus on innovation, manufacturing, and technology."

- Shannon Miller, CEO Mainspring Energy

The Path to Pittsburgh...



... And How We Helped

- Introduced 120+ stakeholders from business, academic, and non-profit organizations
- Organized site tours in conjunction with local agents
- Provided content for the DOE application
- Connected government incentive providers
- Linked workforce development resources
- Enhanced public relations and media coverage
- Facilitated relations with local, state, and federal government officials



We can help you change the world from Pittsburgh. Find out more at PittsburghRegion.org





Submitted Testimony Kevin Hennessy, Senior Director of Policy Mainspring Energy, Inc. Pennsylvania House Democratic Policy Committee September 4, 2025

Members of the Pennsylvania House Democratic Policy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide a written statement about Mainspring Energy, its novel Linear Generator technology, our investment plans in Pennsylvania and our support of HB501 and SB699.

About Mainspring Energy and Linear Generators

Mainspring Energy, Inc. ("Mainspring") is a U.S.-headquartered manufacturer of dispatchable, fuel-flexible, and scalable linear generators. Born out of a lab at Stanford University, Mainspring was founded in 2010. Its first commercial units were deployed in 2020.

Driven by its vision of reliable, affordable, and cleaner energy, Mainspring is a leader in converting fuel to electricity through its linear generator technology that delivers scalable, permittable, fast-ramping capacity that combines the best characteristics of fuel cells, traditional thermal generation and battery storage systems. Linear generators share the high efficiency and low emissions of fuel cells, the dispatchability and load following robustness of traditional thermal power generation, and the fast-ramping and modular scalability of battery energy storage systems, without duration limitations.

The linear generator delivers unmatched flexibility for the grid transition, including the ability to switch between various fuels, such as natural gas, hydrogen, propane, and biogas. The linear generator uses a low-temperature reaction without a spark or flame, which results in near-zero emissions of nitrogen oxides. The linear generator can also quickly track and firm renewables with its full dispatchability.

Modular and scalable from 250 kW to 100+MWs, Mainspring's linear generators can be deployed near electric demand, either behind the meter or at utility scale. Mainspring's linear generator offers a full range of valuable grid benefits including fast and unlimited starts/stops, a wide dispatch range from minimum to maximum load, quick ramping, black-start capability and on-site fuel storage which allows linear generators to solidify the grid for short or extended

periods of time. It is an energy solution that simultaneously enhances grid reliability and resilience, is cost effective, and reduces emissions.¹

Planned Pittsburgh Manufacturing Facility

Mainspring is proud that our first planned large-scale domestic manufacturing facility is scheduled to be in Allegheny County. Allegheny County has numerous strengths that make it attractive. The region is home to a talented workforce experienced in energy, with a rich history of industrial manufacturing. It has outstanding research institutions and universities nearby. And it enjoys a collaborative and supportive relationship between state and local government and the business community, with a shared pragmatic vision of making things happen.

Mainspring has been awarded grants and incentives at the federal, state, and local levels for this manufacturing facility. This includes a US Dept. of Energy award of \$87 million (allocation pending); a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania incentive and workforce development package of \$8.6 million² and a \$1 million grant from Allegheny County.

All told, the investment in the facility will be approximately \$174 million and when operating at full capacity will employ hundreds of women and men full time in good-paying jobs.

Legislative Support

Mainspring Energy supports <u>HB501</u> and <u>SB699</u> which are different bills but would both add linear generators to the list of technologies eligible for the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS).

HB501 is part of Governor Shapiro's broader "Lightning Plan" focused on energy policy reform. It would amend and update the AEPS by creating the Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Sustainability Standards (PRESS) Act. PRESS would increase clean energy targets and adjust the technologies eligible for the various tiers. Specifically, it includes linear generators in the definition of fuel cells. This mimics what the federal government did in both the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025. Like fuel cells, linear generators do not have typical combustion. Instead of a flame or spark, linear generators use a low-temperature chemical reaction to convert fuel to electricity. They are highly efficient and have low emissions, including trace amounts of nitrogen oxides (NOx) which are associated with local air quality pollution.

¹ For additional information on technical specifications and performance benefits, visit https://www.mainspringenergy.com/technology/.

²https://dced.pa.gov/newsroom/shapiro-administration-invests-more-than-8-6-million-to-help-recruit-mainspring-energy-to-move-to-pennsylvania-creating-nearly-600-new-jobs-in-allegheny-county/

SB699 is a stand-alone bipartisan Senate bill. It does not reform the AEPS, leaving existing targets and tiers in place. Instead, it simply adds linear generators to the list of eligible technologies. Linear generators can provide reliable, affordable, and cleaner power via its low-temperature chemical reaction that does not require a flame or a spark. Additionally, adding linear generators to the technologies eligible for the AEPS will increase competition and customer choice to ensure Pennsylvania has a robust, diverse portfolio of resources that provide cleaner power to the grid and commercial and industrial customers, such as data centers or large manufacturers.

By adding linear generators to the technologies eligible for the AEPS or PRESS, Pennsylvania will allow linear generators to compete to help achieve its energy needs while maintaining reliability and affordability and reducing emissions. Ultimately, numerous technologies are necessary for Pennsylvania to meet its energy and environmental goals and the more technologies eligible to compete, the more Pennsylvania and its consumers will benefit.

We respectfully ask that members of the House Democratic Policy Committee support legislation that adds linear generators to the AEPS or PRESS. Ultimately, Mainspring wants to manufacture *and* deploy linear generators in Pennsylvania to help the Commonwealth achieve its economic development, energy, and environmental goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony. If you have follow up questions, please feel free to contact Kevin Hennessy, Senior Director of Policy at Kevin.Hennessy@mainspringenergy.com or (860) 912-5124.

Exhibits attached

- Data/Spec sheet
- Article about hydrogen project on Long Island
- Article about company and strategic advisory board
- Fact Sheet from the Allegheny Conference



The Mainspring **Linear Generator**

Local, scalable, fuel-flexible power for commercial and industrial customers, biogas developers, utilities, municipalities, and data centers

Easy, modular installation High availability & low maintenance Up to 18 MW per acre scalability



Each package contains two linear generator cores, operated in tandem.



Breakthrough design enables an unmatched combination of features and benefits

High efficiency

Direct conversion of linear motion into electricity

Fuel flexibility

Continuous, adaptive control without mechanical constraints

Near-zero NOx

Low-temperature, non-combustion reaction without a flame or burning

Fully dispatchable

Load-tracking, fast on/off, black start, and islanding

Permitting anywhere

Meets any air permitting requirements in the US

Controllable & configurable

Integrates seamlessly with site components and requirements

Performance specifications

Model No.: MSE 3

Outputs ¹	Power (net AC) Electrical	250 kW 400/480 V, 3 Phase, 50/60 Hz
Inputs	Fuels ² Input Pressure Water Consumption	Any blend of Biogas, Natural Gas, Hydrogen, and Propane 5-20 psig (15 psig nominal) None
Efficiency ³	Electrical (LHV, net AC) Heat Rate (HHV, net AC)	46% 8,233 BTU/kWh
Emissions ⁴	NO _X Noise	< 1.5 ppm (<0.04 lb/MWh) < 70 dBA @ 3m, <65 dBA @10m
Physical	Weight Dimensions (L x W x H)	20 tonnes 20.5' x 8.5' x 9.5'

Environment	Temperature Range	-30 to 50 C	
	Humidity	0 to 100%	
Operations	Power Output Range Maximum Step Load	0 to 100% power output 300 kVA for up to 10 sec	
	Building Soft Start Capability	Yes	
Other	UL 2200 package UL 1741 SB grid-tie inverter	Remote monitoring Secure customer portal	
	Compliant with CA Rule 21	Modbus interface	

- Refer to Mainspring Fuel Specifications for details.
- ³ Measured according to ASME PTC 5O at 15 C and 1 atm on natural gas and biogas. Rated efficiency may vary by fuel type.

 4 Products comply with emissions limits in South Coast AQMD.

All data is subject to technical development and modification. R30310

About Mainspring Energy

Mainspring Energy manufactures and delivers innovative, flexible, low-emissions onsite power solutions that rapidly add new power capacity and deliver reliable, affordable, clean electric power. The Mainspring Linear Generator is fully dispatchable and scalable from 250 kW to 100+MW. It is uniquely fuel-flexible, operating on any gaseous fuel including hydrogen, biogas, natural gas, propane, and others.

3601 Haven Avenue Menlo Park, CA 94025 mainspringenergy.com



First-of-its-kind Hydrogen Trial Set for Linear Generator

Mainspring's 250-kW Non-combustion Unit to be Evaluated at National Grid Power Plant



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(//www.rtoinsider.com/113171-first-of-kind-hydrogen-trial-set-linear-generator/)

One of New York's largest fossil fuel burning power plants will host a pioneering test run by a local non-combustion hydrogen generator.

National Grid Ventures and Mainspring on Aug. 21 announced the project as the world's first commercial installation of a linear generator operating on 100% hydrogen. September 2026 is the target date to start generating electrons.

The hope is that a year of rigorous testing on the grounds of National Grid's Northport Power Plant will provide important lessons for potential larger-scale applications in commercial power generation. Along the way, its low-temperature, non-

Why This Matters

The project will provide data on commercial hydrogen-based power generation.

combustion process will produce minimal emissions and up to 250 kW of power for internal operations at the plant.

The project also could become a building block for the dispatchable emissions-free resources that are central to New York state's clean-energy strategy in the 2030s and 2040s. No DEFRs have been identified that exist in scalable form.

"We were really drawn to the technology that Mainspring has to offer," Will Hazelip, U.S. president of National Grid Ventures, told *NetZero Insider*. "This was really about seeing how that works and how it could potentially be a DEFR."

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is contributing \$2 million to the project.

The Long Island Power Authority also supports the effort. The Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center at nearby Stony Brook University will design the framework and methodology for the testing and then evaluate the results.

National Grid Ventures, the energy business arm of the UK-based utility, is confident it can obtain enough green hydrogen for the test program.

"So what we really want to be able to do is show that it's fully capable of utilizing hydrogen as a fuel, and what that looks like in very specific generation technology terms," Hazelip said, "so that specifically New York state has a better idea of how this particular type of technology could be a part of the energy mix in the future."

The total project budget was not disclosed. mainspring's linear generator is a 250-k\text{\text{M}} modular unit the size of a shipping container.

Inverters could be sited on a single acre. It operates at slightly more or less than 46% efficiency depends on its fuel source.

The selling points are its simplicity (there are only two moving parts, and they do not need to be lubricated); its black-start and rapid-dispatch capacity; its versatility (it can switch from one fuel type to another, or use a blend, or use impure fuel); and its reduced emissions.

Nitrogen oxide emissions are near zero, because the fuel is being compressed rather than burned, and with carbon-based fuels the carbon emissions are lower than they would be in combustion systems.

Spokesperson Kevin Hennessy told *NetZero Inside*r that Mainspring has deployed dozens of megawatts of capacity in the past five years for applications such as agriculture, landfills and wastewater treatment, the majority fueled by natural gas or biogas, and has hundreds more megawatts in various stages of its pipeline.

The Northport Power Plant was built by LILCO in phases starting in the 1960s as an oil-burning facility and later was converted to dual gas-oil capability. Its four main turbine-generator units are rated at a combined 1,516 MW and once provided more than a quarter of Long Island's electricity.

National Grid has owned the facility since 2007, and while the plant is operated at a lower capacity factor than it once was, it remains an important grid asset. It recently reached its highest-ever output — 1,564 MW — during the July heat wave.

New York has had some other hydrogen firsts in the past few years, when the New York Power Authority ran the first gas-hydrogen blend in the state at a Long Island power plant.

The state presents ambitious objectives and then creates an ecosystem to support these types of new applications, Hazelip said.

Mainspring, meanwhile, hopes to take what is learned in Northport and apply it nationwide, Hennessy said: "From our perspective, New York's on the vanguard, leading the way with some thoughtful policy initiatives — certainly on the East Coast, but I think nationally — so it's a great, great market to prove it out."

NYSERDA President Doreen Harris <u>said the project</u> represents a pivotal frontier in building a resilientelectricity grid to power Long Island homes and businesses. This first-of-its kind project will demonstrate how clean hydrogen can serve as a dispatchable resource to help maintain the reliability

while supporting a more economical energy transition.



The \$2 million grant for the Northport project comes through the Advanced Fuels and Thermal Energy administered by NYSERDA. The other grants announced Aug. 21

(https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/Newsroom/2025-Announcements/2025-08-21-Governor-Hochulwere:

Announces-More-Than-11-Million-Awarded-To-Clean-Hydrogen-Projects)

- GTI Energy, over \$220,000 to evaluate New York's geological hydrogen storage potential;
- Plug Power, \$2 million to partner with Verne to co-develop new hydrogen distribution trailers with cryocompressed storage technologies;
- Stony Brook University, over \$4.9 million for a low-pressure, ambient-temperature hydrogen storage system at Northwell Health Hospital; and
- SWITCH Maritime, \$2 million to develop and demonstrate New York's first hydrogen fuel cell-electric ferry.

A spokesperson said NYSERDA hopes to gain insight from the Northport project about the technology being used: "NYSERDA will analyze the project data throughout the demonstration, assessing the technical and economic viability of linear generators. The research will inform NYSERDA's future work on clean hydrogen, and findings will be shared with the public and utilities to help determine potential pathways for broader adoption in New York state."

HYDROGEN (//WWW.RTOINSIDER.COM/CATEGORY/NETZERO/NZ-GENERATION-FUELS/HYDROGEN/)

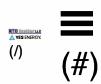
NYSERDA (//WWW.RTOINSIDER.COM/CATEGORY/NETZERO/STATE-AND-LOCAL-POLICY/NZ-NEW-YORK/NYSERDA/)

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August 24, 2025

JOHN CROPLEY (//www.rtoinsider.com/author/John-cropley/) NY Funds Long-duration Energy



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12 AUG, 2025

Mainspring taps datacenter, utility advisers in race to meet rising power demand



Five years after Mainspring Energy Inc. launched its fuel-flexible "linear generators" for commercial, industrial and utility customers, the stars may be aligning for a significant expansion.

The Menlo Park, California-based equipment supplier on Aug. 12 announced the formation of a strategic advisory board stacked with datacenter and power industry veterans to help navigate its next steps after raising \$258 million in April and emerging as one of the winners of President Donald Trump's sweeping new budget law in July.

The board's six members have amassed decades of experience as executives and engineers at tech giants Microsoft Corp. and Google LLC, and power companies NextEra Energy Inc., DTE Energy Co., Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Northern Virginia Electric Co-op.

"Each one of them brings a really unique view of the specific customer problem and often, locally, a specific solution that's going to work for a specific geographic

location," Mainspring founder and CEO Shannon Miller said in an interview. "All those folks are in the space. They have a front row seat to utility and datacenter markets."

Incubated at a Stanford University thermodynamics laboratory over a decade ago, Mainspring's linear generators can operate on any gaseous fuel, including natural gas, renewable natural gas, biogas, propane and hydrogen.

After starting with smaller projects supplied to commercial and industrial clients, the company is making a serious play to provide larger arrays to datacenter operators in need of onsite power and to utilities seeking dispatchable generation to integrate variable renewable resources and meet rising demand.

Mainspring has raised over \$800 million to advance its technology, including from Amazon.com Inc., Khosla Ventures, General Catalyst Group Management LLC and Gates Frontier LLC, the venture arm of Bill Gates.

"Part of our value proposition is rapid deployment," Miller said, pointing to typical supply timeframes of a year or less. "The fact that it's a factory-built modularized system means you don't need 100 pipefitters to build your facility. You can ship modular units and install them quickly and get up and running fast. You can start with 25 MW, 50 MW, 100 MW. So that ability to rapidly deploy ... is a huge value to many of the datacenters we're talking to."

Mainspring's generator also has "very low emissions," Miller said. By relying on a flameless reaction, temperatures remain low enough that nitrogen oxide emissions can be near zero, helping ease project permitting.

'Compelling investment'

Members of the company's new strategic advisory board touted the technology's potential.

"While Mainspring's linear generator offers efficient, on-demand power with near-zero emissions and fuel-flexibility — in itself a game-changer — what excites me most is opportunities and solutions for powering datacenters that will emerge as a result of the shift to onsite generation," Christian Belady, a member of the advisory board, said in a statement. "This will drive a more reliable, lower cost and sustainable future for digital infrastructure."

Belady retired from Microsoft in 2023 as vice president of datacenter research and development for the company's cloud infrastructure group.

"Mainspring represents a compelling investment in the future of scalable, strategically sited, flexible capacity," added John Di Donato, a former vice president at NextEra Energy Resources LLC.

Mainspring has access to long-term federal tax incentives to help support its expansion as it seeks to convert on "hundreds of megawatts in development," Miller said.

Trump's budget bill, which phases out tax credits for wind and solar over the next few years, maintained or created long-term incentives for other technologies, including battery storage, geothermal, fuel cells and Mainspring's linear generators. Starting in 2026, Mainspring's technology will qualify for Section 48E investment tax credits for the next 10 years.

Meanwhile, the company is working to scale up its manufacturing site in Monterrey, Mexico, to 325 MW per year, and it is considering a new plant near Pittsburgh, contingent on an \$87 million federal grant awarded by the Biden administration.

It was the largest of a \$428 million tranche of funding awards for cleantech manufacturing in communities whose economies were previously closely linked to coal.

"We're still waiting to find out more certainty around that grant, but our goal is to continue to expand," Miller said.