

METHODOLOGY FACT SHEET · 05 July 2026

How the reality index is computed

A public, recomputable measure of how much announced AI-infrastructure capacity is actually firm versus phantom — region by region, every number linked to a receipt.

The score

Each U.S. region is scored 0–100 on the Reality Index, two equally-weighted halves:

Reality Index = 0.5 × Announcement Credibility + 0.5 × Outcome Materialization

Announcement Credibility — do independent signals corroborate the announcement? **Outcome**

Materialization — has anything actually been built? A region only clears the **Real** bar when both halves hold.

Thresholds (fixed, public): **Real** ≥ 68 · **Mixed** 45–67 · **Phantom** < 45. Each score carries an uncertainty band; low coverage = wide band, stated out loud.

The sources

The signals we cross-reference — all public or officially filed:

- **Interconnection queues** (PJM, ERCOT, CAISO, MISO, SPP and others) — the large-load requests.
- **SEC filings** (EDGAR full-text) — capex commitments.
- **Permits & zoning** — physical construction signals.
- **Energy contracts & hiring** — corroboration the project is moving.

The de-duplication rule

A single project filed with several utilities across several states inflates the queue. We count a request as **committed** only on independent corroboration — a stricter standard than a project's official interconnection status. "Uncommitted" is a **risk signal, not a confirmed phantom**: it may be genuinely early-stage, or simply uncovered by our sources.

The national number (de-rate)

U.S. large-load queues list about **876.5 GW** requested; by our corroboration standard, about **17.4 GW** is firm — a ~50× gap. Requested is not built; a queue position is the start of a long, graduated process, not the finish.

Why you can check it, not trust it

- Every regional score links to its **primary source**.
- Every prediction is **sealed by SHA-256**, chained to the previous hash, and its root is anchored to independent **OpenTimestamps** calendars — so nothing can be back-dated.
- Anyone can **recompute** a sealed prediction's hash via the public ledger endpoint.

Descriptive today, not a forecast

These scores describe what is **corroborated today**, not a promise of future accuracy. LOADSTAR's dated, sealed predictions begin returning verifiable verdicts around **December 2026**; until then we show the map, the method, and the receipts — not a validated forecast.

Live index: loadstar.energy/map · Full methodology: loadstar.energy/metodologia · Cite as: "LOADSTAR — the reality index for AI infrastructure."