Incorporating Data Center Loads in PJM Long-Term Load Forecast

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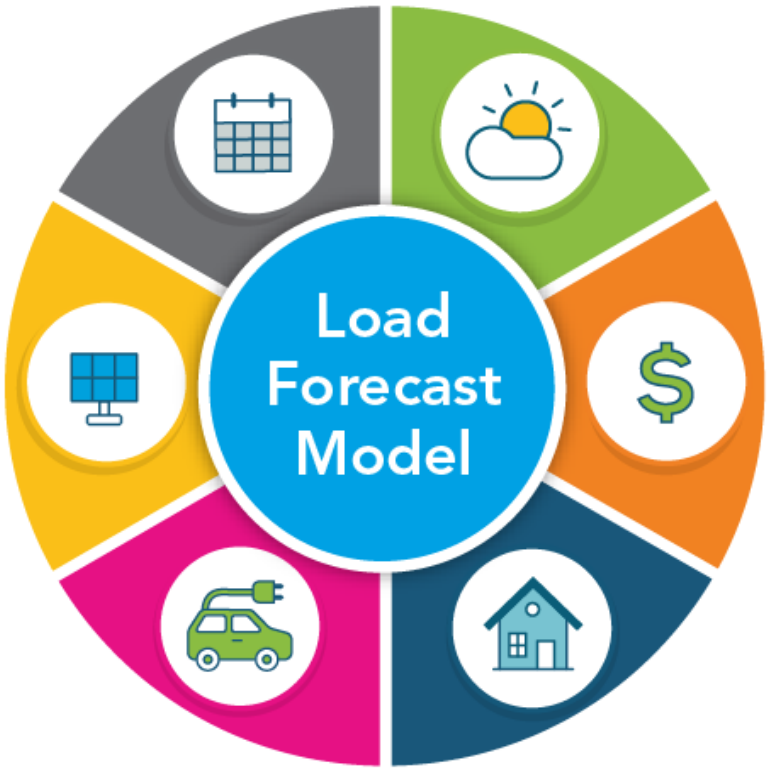
PJM Load Forecasting



Weather Conditions

- Weighted-average temperature, humidity and wind speed
- Cooling and heating degree days
- 30+ weather stations across PJM

Energy Efficiency/End-Use Characteristics

- Cooling equipment saturation and efficiency
- Heating equipment saturation and efficiency
- Other equipment saturation and efficiency

Economic

- Real personal income
- Households
- Employment
- Working-age population
- Real industrial output

Calendar/Solar Data & Electric Vehicles

- Day of week
- Month
- Weekends/ Holidays
- Distributed solar generation
- Plug-in electric vehicles

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Electric Distribution Companies (EDCs) and Load Serving Entities (LSEs) are encouraged to provide PJM with information about large changes that may not be captured in the forecast process.

The Process

Manual 19: **Attachment B**	Provides guidelines to ensure that any adjustments made to PJM's load forecast model are properly identified, estimated, and reviewed prior to incorporation into the forecast.

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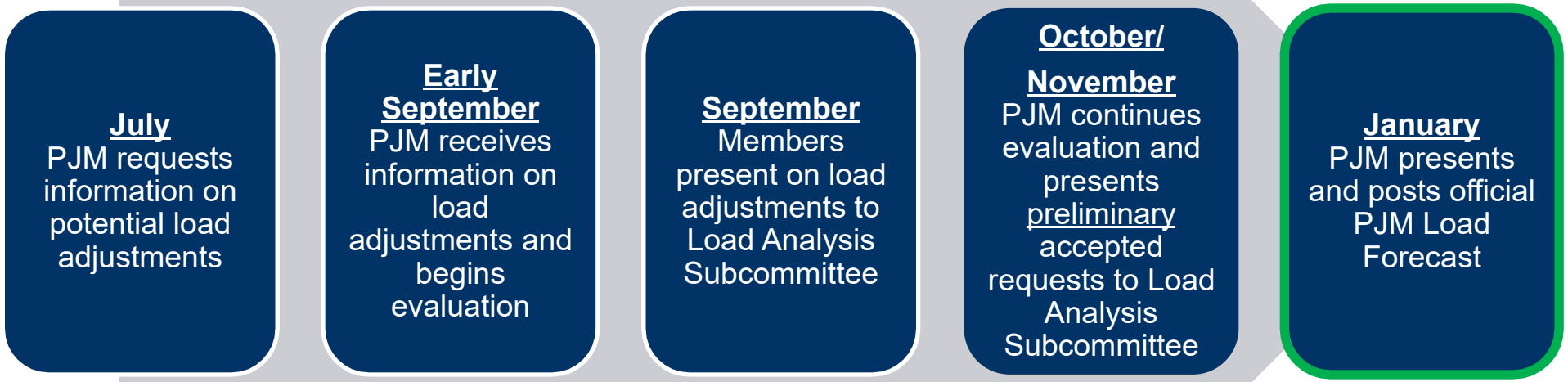
Timeline for Large Load Adjustments

Official request sent July 1



EDC/LSE presentations from the 9.16.2025 LAS meeting and PJM presentation from the 11.24.2025 are here:
https://www.pjm.com/committees-and-groups/subcommittees/las

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Incorporating Data Center into Load Forecast

Historical Loads

−

Existing Data Center Load History

=

Net Forecast (excluding data center history)

Net Forecast (excluding data center history)

+

Total Data Center Load (history and forecast)

=

Final Forecast Load

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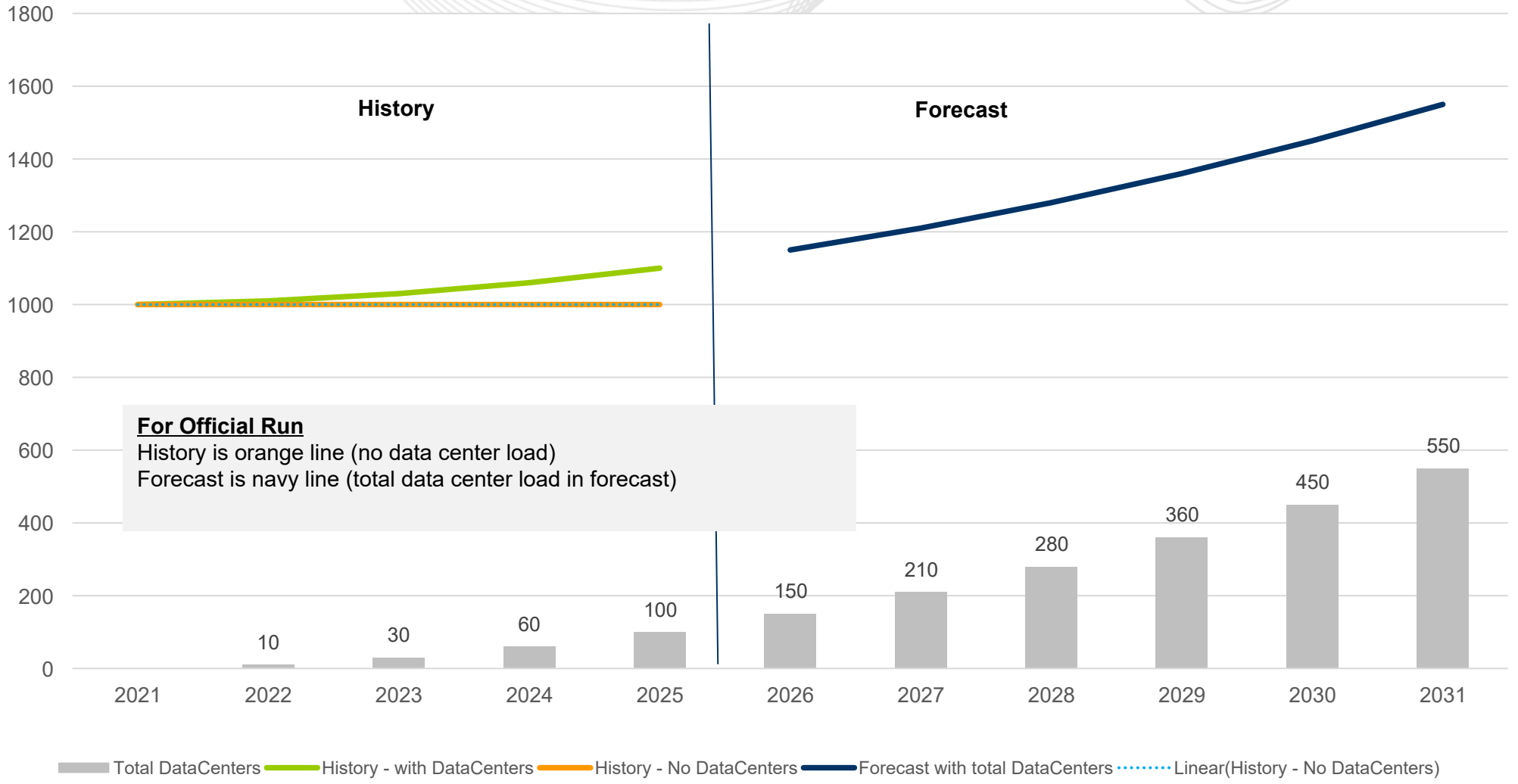
Example – Official Forecast



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2026 Load Forecast: Evaluating Requests

- Filtered projects
  - Worked to identify those that had ESO/CC and marked those as “Firm”. Only these projects will be allowed to impact RPM
  - All other projects were labeled “Non-Firm”
- Investigated ramp rates (how long it takes for a data center to get from online to full demand) and imposed minimum 36 month
- Investigated utilization rate (% of final capacity that is used) and imposed 70% unless otherwise supported
- Considered national projections for a top-down estimate
- Review of economic data in load forecast model to mitigate double counting load growth

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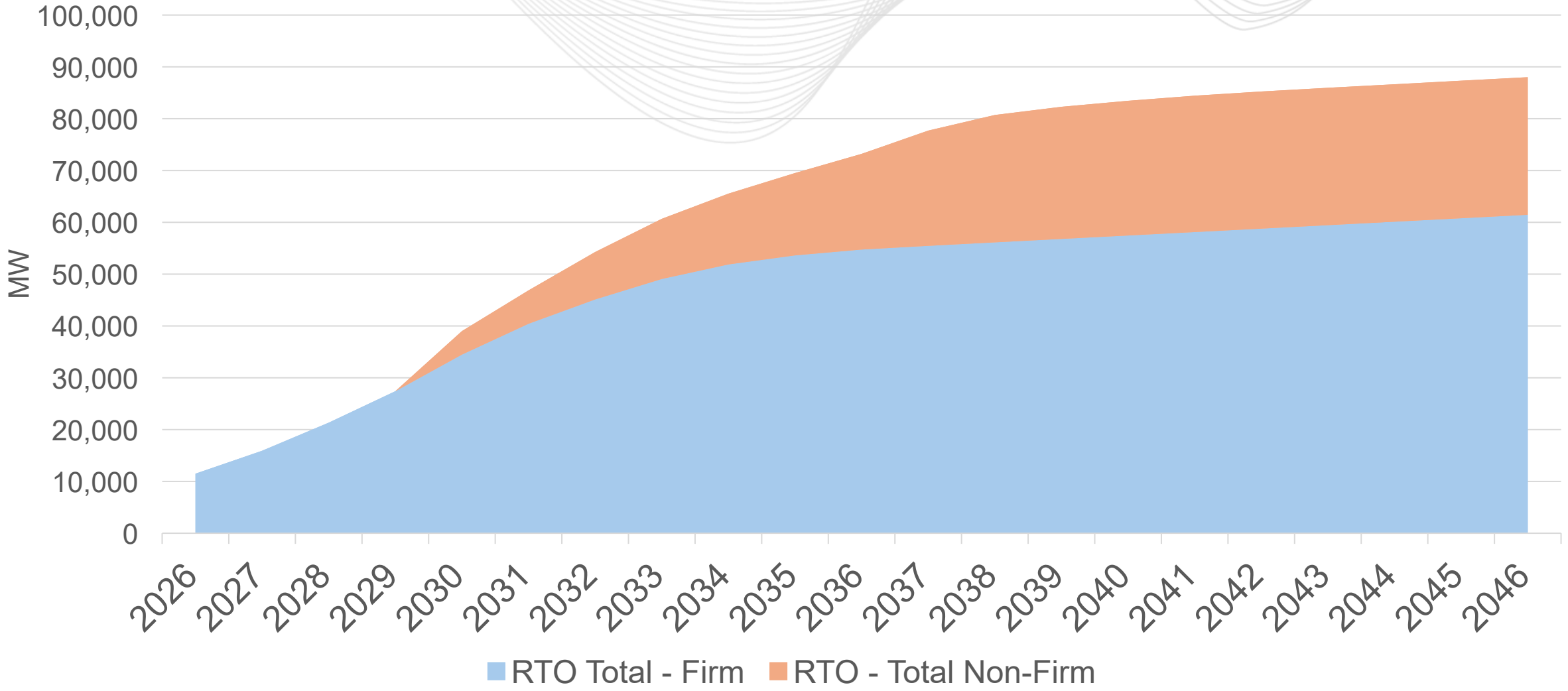
2026 Load Forecast: RTO Large Load Adjustments



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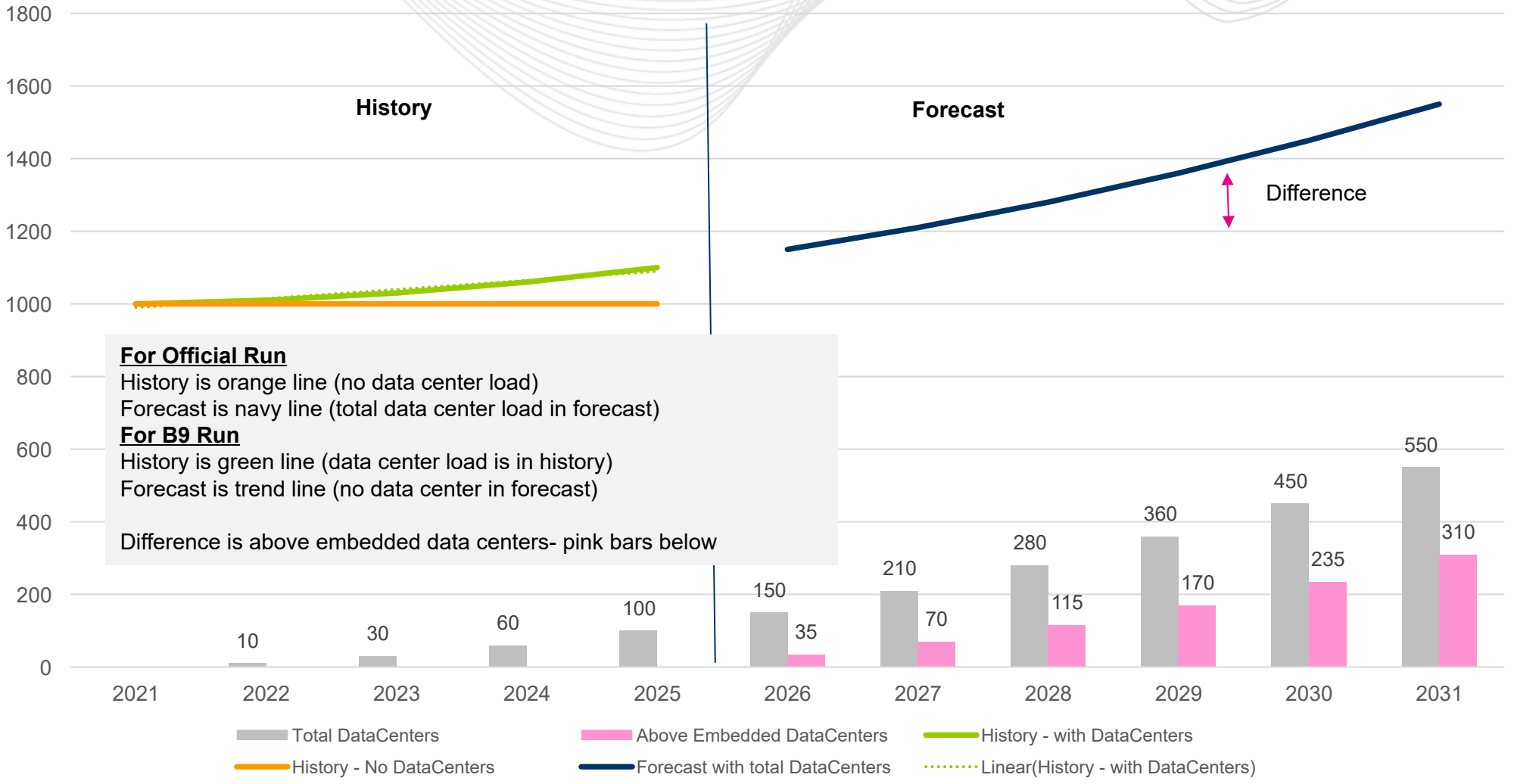
Example – Table B9 values



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