TRANSMISSION POSSIBLE

Illinois

A more reliable grid. New jobs. Affordable power. Transmission makes it possible.

Every day, millions of people in Illinois rely on the energy grid to power our modern way of life. Thanks to a network of transmission lines that carry energy from where it's generated to where it's used, we're able to heat and cool our homes, keep the lights on at our businesses, get online for work and school, and even charge our vehicles. We rarely think twice about it — until the power goes out. Unfortunately, many lines are older than their intended 50-year lifespan, and Illinois' transmission operators are concerned about aging infrastructure.

Transmission Means Affordability.

Electricity savings for homes and businesses

By introducing more room for low-cost electrons to flow onto the regional grid via new transmission, Illinois residents would see energy cost savings. Expanding interregional transmission infrastructure could net **$2 billion in transmission cost savings annually** for customers in MISO and PJM, the two grid operators that cover Illinois.[1] According to the same study, high-capacity transmission investments can create **$92 in savings annually for an average American household**.[2]

Transmission Means Reliability.

Keeping the power on when extreme weather strikes

Illinois can experience severe weather, with heavy winter storms and soaring heat waves like **that of this summer**.[3] A reliable energy grid will be a critical lifeline to keep the lights on and keep us comfortable. With the increasing frequency of extreme weather, **transmission**

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[1] *Large-scale Transmission Deployment Saves Consumers Money*, Grid Strategies, p 21. https://gridstrategiesllc.com/wp-content/uploads/GS_Transmission-Deployment-Saves-Consumers-Money_vf.pdf

[2] *Id.*, p 4.

[3] https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/chicago-area-upgraded-extreme-heat-warning/

infrastructure can help ensure energy reliability because it makes it easier for utilities to access electricity when parts of the system are stressed or go dark.[4]

Transmission Means Jobs.

Thousands of living-wage, modern energy jobs

In 2023, the Department of Energy determined the U.S. needs a **128% expansion of our transmission systems** by 2035 to meet high electricity demand growth scenarios.[5] In 2024, over **29,000 Illinois residents** were already working on building transmission and distribution infrastructure.[6] This number will grow with additional investment.

For more information, contact Doug Pietrucha at dpietrucha@advancedenergyunited.org.

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[4] https://www.ferc.gov/reliability-explainer
[5] *2023 National Transmission Needs Study,* DOE, p vii. https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/National%20Transmission%20Needs%20Study%20-%20Final_2023.12.1.pdf
[6] *Energy Employment by State 2024,* DOE, PDF p 98. https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/USEER%202024%20States%20Final.pdf