

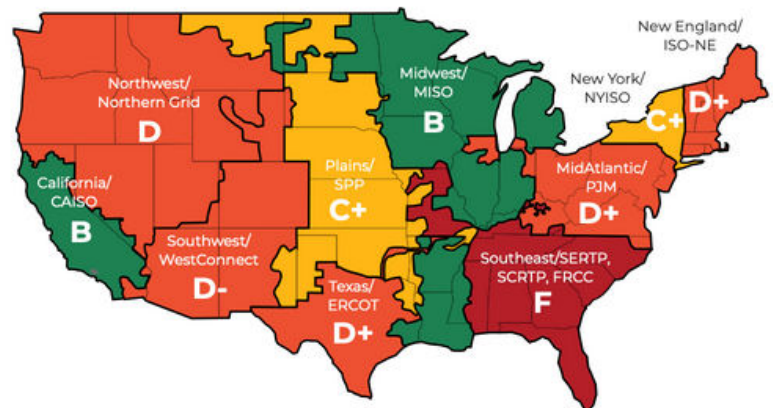
TRANSMISSION PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL REPORT CARD

Americans for a Clean Energy Grid evaluated transmission planning and development efforts across the country. While no region earned an A – and many have a long way to go – there is growing recognition of the need to proactively and holistically plan new transmission that will facilitate America’s energy transition, safeguard the grid against extreme weather, and lower electricity costs for consumers.

Building transmission incrementally is inefficient and expensive. By contrast, an analysis within the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) found its long-term, comprehensive transmission plan would result in benefits more than twice as large as costs.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is now considering a rule that would improve regional transmission planning, but it has been pending since April 2022. All regions—and the transmission owners and operators within them—can act immediately to improve their planning methods. In fact, every region in this report has adopted innovative practices in at least one category that others can replicate to make progress.

REGIONAL GRADES



METHODOLOGY

65% Use of best practices for proactive transmission planning

- Proactively plan for future generation and load.
- Use a holistic Multi-Value Planning process.
- Address high-stress grid conditions through Scenario-Based Planning.
- Assess projects as a portfolio, not line-by-line.
- Jointly plan interregional transmission across neighboring systems.
- Conduct robust stakeholder engagement.
- Consider all transmission business models.
- Allow for balanced governance of the regional planning process.

20% Miles of transmission built and planned

7.5% Transmission capacity available for new resources

7.5% Congestion



SCORE DETAILS: MID-ATLANTIC

OVERALL SCORE : 67.5%

RANKING : 7 / 10

Who plans transmission in the Mid-Atlantic? The regional transmission organization PJM plans transmission through its Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (RTEP), while the states and utilities within its borders also plan and develop transmission.

PLANNING METHODS

GRADE: D

- PJM does very little proactive and holistic transmission planning, instead largely focusing on reactive reliability transmission upgrades.
- PJM conducts reliability, economic, and public policy transmission planning separately. Though it does have an option to consider projects with multiple benefits, it is rarely used. PJM has, however, recently begun studying improvements to its planning methods.
- In 2022, PJM began collaborating with the New Jersey government to plan – and have New Jersey pay for – transmission needed for offshore wind under the "State Agreement Approach."

MILES BUILT & PLANNED

GRADE: D

- From 2019-2021, the Mid-Atlantic built 7% of the new high-capacity transmission compared to the best recent period of high-capacity transmission build-out.
- The Mid-Atlantic has little proactive transmission planned. The region does have a few major merchant lines in the works, including SOO Green and Grain Belt Express, but the projects have experienced significant delays.

CAPACITY AVAILABLE FOR NEW RESOURCES

GRADE: C+

- PJM had a relatively large interconnection queue in 2021 but has paused its review of new requests until at least 2025. It has also been revising its interconnection process.
- Not all of PJM's queue challenges can be attributed to transmission capacity, but better proactive planning and development would likely help improve this score.

CONGESTION

GRADE: B

- The Mid-Atlantic has the second lowest congestion costs of the regions ACEG evaluated, likely due to its pre-existing 765 kV grid backbone.