

Powering Growth and
Affordability

The Role of Transmission in Economic and National Security

NORTHEAST (ISO-NE + NYISO)

The Northeast faces some of the nation's highest electricity costs and greatest winter reliability risks. Transmission expansion can improve access to lower-cost power, strengthen reliability, and support economic and national-security priorities.

Why Transmission Matters

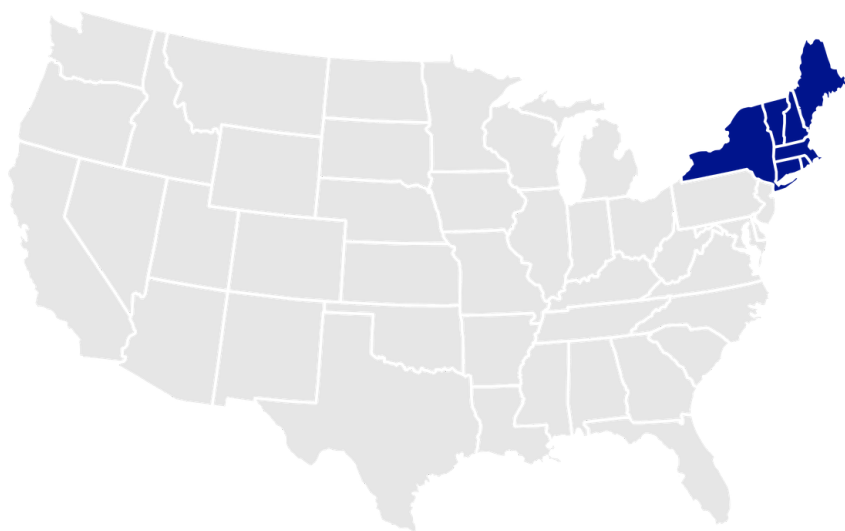
Reliability and resilience. The Northeast is especially vulnerable to winter energy shortages and price spikes when cold weather increases demand and strains fuel supplies. The study identifies the region as having the highest weather-related reliability risk among the four regions examined.

Congestion relief. The grid cannot always move lower-cost electricity where it is needed most. Transmission constraints between upstate New York and New York City limit access to lower-cost power and contribute to higher customer costs.

Interregional transfer. Connecting the Northeast to nearby power markets creates value. The study identifies new transmission links between Maine and Eastern Canada that improve access to lower-cost electricity and strengthen regional reliability.

Cost-effective generation. Lower-cost energy matters more in the Northeast than almost anywhere else. Transmission provides access to lower-cost power resources from neighboring regions and Canada, helping reduce pressure on customer bills.

Within-region need. Additional regional upgrades remain important. The study identifies continued transmission needs within New England and New York to improve reliability and deliver lower-cost electricity to major population centers.



Note: This map is an approximation of the region studied, and does not show the exact boundaries of the ISO.



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Region at a Glance

Grid Region: ISO-NE + NYISO

States: ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY

Key Load Centers: NYC (NYISO Zone J), Boston, upstate NY

Demand Compound Annual Growth Rate" (2025–35): 1.0%

Top Drivers of Transmission Need: Economic growth, electrification, defense industrial activity

Key finding: Transmission expansion delivers positive value in the Northeast while helping address some of the nation's highest electricity costs and greatest winter reliability risks. Under the study's high-demand future scenario, transmission expansion delivers up to \$1.2 billion in value.

What's At Stake

Affordability: The Northeast already has some of the highest electricity costs in the country, making access to lower-cost power especially important.

Reliability: No region studied faces greater weather-related energy security risks than the Northeast during winter conditions.

Economic growth: More affordable and reliable electricity supports manufacturing, electrification, and future investment across the region.

National security: The region supports approximately 130,000 military personnel, major naval installations, and more than \$54 billion in annual defense spending.

Defence & National Security

The Northeast supports critical naval, cyber, space-warning, submarine, and defense-industrial missions. Reliable transmission helps military installations, surrounding communities, and defense manufacturers maintain power during the winter weather events to which the region is especially exposed.

By the Numbers

\$1.2B

Maximum net value delivered by transmission expansion in the Northeast.

\$1.26

Returned. Benefits per \$1.00 invested under the study's high-demand transmission case.

130,300

Military personnel supported by the region's defense footprint.

\$54.1B

Annual defense contract spending supported across the region.