

Powering Growth
and Affordability

The Role of Transmission in Economic and National Security

SOUTHEAST (SERC + FRCC)

Rapid growth, severe weather risks, and a large military presence make transmission connectivity especially valuable in the Southeast. The biggest benefits come when the region can connect more effectively with its neighbors.

Why Transmission Matters

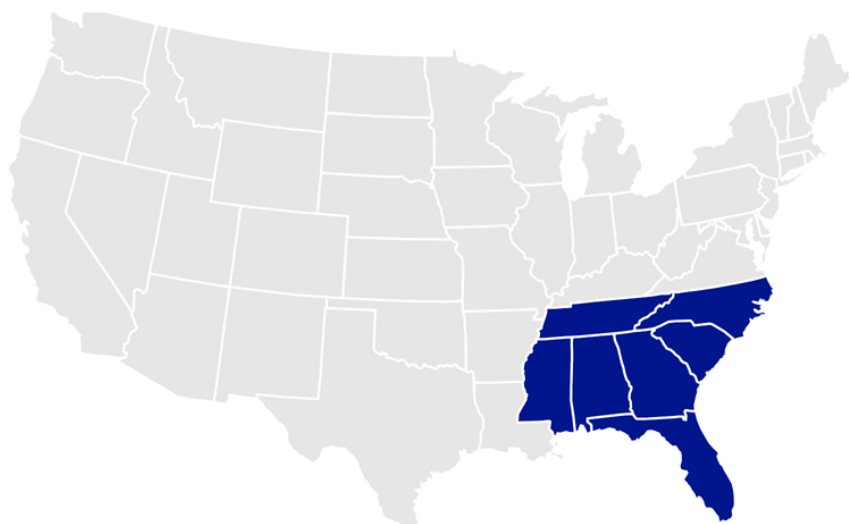
Reliability and resilience. Hurricanes, winter cold snaps, and peak summer demand can strain the Southeast's power system. Transmission expansion provides greater access to electricity from neighboring regions when local supplies are under pressure.

Congestion relief. The region benefits most when it is connected to neighboring grids. The study finds that transmission links between the Southeast and other regions reduce congestion and create customer benefits that largely disappear in scenarios where those connections are not built.

Interregional transfer. Connecting the Southeast to neighbors creates measurable value. The study identifies new transmission links between the Southeast, PJM, and TVA that improve reliability and lower costs by avoiding building less efficient local infrastructure.

Cost-effective generation. Growing communities need more power. Atlanta is a major data center hub, and Mississippi is positioned for substantial industrial and data center growth. Transmission helps ensure new electricity supplies can reach these fast-growing areas.

Within-region need. Under the study's high-demand scenario, additional transmission between the Southeast and Florida helps address growing electricity demand, improve access to lower-cost power resources, and avoid more costly local investments.



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

Region at a Glance

Grid Region: SERC + FRCC

Key Load Centers: Atlanta, Mississippi, Florida

Demand Compound Annual Growth Rate: 1.4% (SERC) / 1.1% (FRCC)

Top Drivers of Transmission Need: AI/crypto data centers, industrial growth

Key finding: Transmission expansion generates substantial value in the Southeast, returning up to \$1.84 in benefits for every \$1.00 invested. The greatest gains come from strengthening connections between the Southeast and neighboring regions.

What's At Stake

Customer savings: The benefits of transmission are greatest when the Southeast can access lower-cost resources from neighboring regions.

Reliability: Transmission provides additional flexibility during hurricanes, winter cold snaps, and periods of high summer electricity demand.

Economic growth: Atlanta and Mississippi are emerging centers for data centers, advanced manufacturing, and industrial growth that depend on reliable electricity infrastructure.

National security: The Southeast supports approximately 540,000 military personnel and more than \$55 billion in annual defense spending.

Defence & National Security

The Southeast is home to Fort Bragg's special operations forces, Redstone Arsenal's missile and space missions, major intelligence and cyber operations, and a large network of military installations. Reliable transmission helps support these missions and the communities that sustain them.

By the Numbers

\$4.1B

Maximum modeled transmission benefits in the Southeast region.

\$1.84

Returned. Benefits for every \$1.00 invested in Southeast transmission expansion.

540,000

Military personnel supported by the region's defense footprint.

\$55.2B

Annual defense contract spending supported across the region.