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How ComEd is Addressing Data Center Growth in Northern Illinois

Data centers are a critical component of an increasingly digital world that people and businesses live, play and work in. However, data centers have been **widely cited** as a significant contributor to the unprecedented growth in U.S. electricity demand. In Illinois, demand growth is being driven by multiple factors, including data centers, growing electrification, and overall economic development projects. ComEd has a statutory obligation to serve all customers who request electric service and continues to plan and operate the system to meet the needs of all our customers safely, reliably and affordably.

Data Center Growth

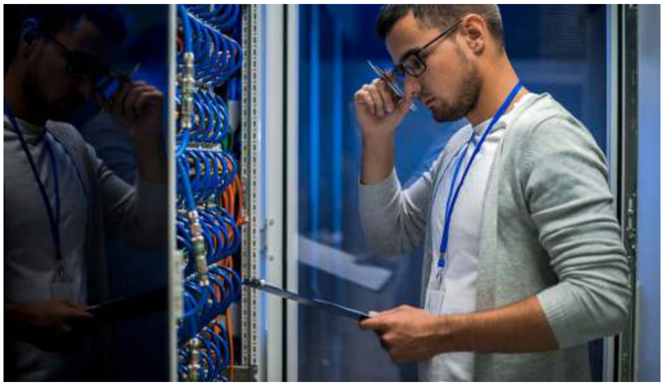
Today, there are more than **80 operating data centers in northern Illinois.** Data centers continue to expand here, drawn by the region's strong fiber-optic infrastructure, favorable climate and stable weather conditions, tax incentives, and **the nation's most reliable electric grid,** historically fueled by clean energy sources. These projects deliver significant tax revenues and construction jobs for the communities where they are built.

Data Center Load

30,000 MW = **60,000**

data center load requests over three years

big box stores each year



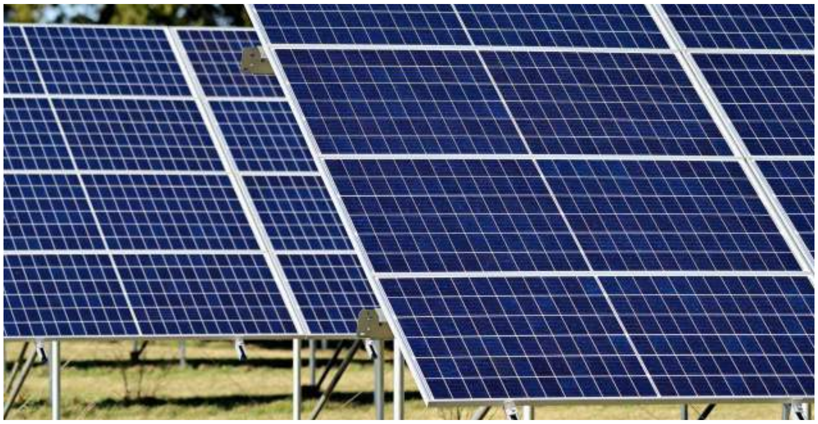
Is the grid ready to meet demand?

As data centers increase, ComEd works to ensure that power needs of new customers are met without compromising reliability for our current customers. All projects undergo an engineering process to ensure new infrastructure is planned in a way that is both cost effective and efficient, compliant with ICC regulations, and that ensures reliability levels are not impacted for the surrounding community as new projects come online.

The grid is well prepared to serve the needs of the region today, however demand from large load projects continues to surge. Requests over the last three years alone total **30,000 MW,** which is almost entirely data center driven, and is the equivalent to the amount of power needed to serve roughly **60,000 big box stores each year.** For context, ComEd's all-time system peak was just under 24,000 MW, which means that delivering power for the full pipeline of proposed data centers would require **more than doubling** the grid's current peak capacity.

Who pays to connect these customers?

Distribution costs are covered by the customer and generally contained in the business rate class. Supply costs on the other hand are informed by the competitive market, and passed through to customers without markup or profit to ComEd. Last year supply costs rose as a result of **PJM capacity auctions,** which are being driven by predicted future demand. The auctions reflect broader market challenges – limited new supply coming online to meet rising demand.



ComEd, along with its stakeholders, have acknowledged the supply constraints that are driving upward pressure on customer bills, with a **recent Illinois Power Agency study** **warning of potential power shortages by 2029.**

Taking action for customers

ComEd is taking steps to protect customers from absorbing the costs of data centers. New measures introduced in 2025 will ensure all new large load customers—those that place greater demand on the system—pay their fair share to connect to and use transmission services on the grid. The eight signed **Transmission Security Agreement (TSAs)** represent more than **$2 billion in revenue security.** New TSAs, along with a proposal before the Illinois Commerce Commission to amend large load tariffs, will require higher upfront deposits and in turn serve to help screen out speculative projects. Rightsizing the pipeline of new projects will help ComEd ensure the correct investments are needed to serve projects and to maintain its reliability. These measures also mean that if a project is delayed, downsized, or fails to fully materialize, those costs will not be passed on to other ComEd customers.

Transmission Security Agreement (TSAs)

$2 billion

in revenue security represented from TSAs

On the distribution side, **ComEd's Rider DE tariff** requires customers requesting major line extensions to provide an upfront deposit, ensuring they bear the direct costs of their projects rather than shifting those costs to other customers.

ComEd continues to work closely with the data center industry, regional and statewide partners, and energy stakeholders to plan the infrastructure needed to support all customers and the local economy. As we advocate for expanded supply, flexible-load solutions, and customer protections to manage large load growth, we will keep customers and the public informed through updates on **ComEd.com** and our social channels.