



RELIABILITY IMPERATIVE

MARKET REDEFINITION + OPERATIONS OF THE FUTURE
TRANSMISSION EVOLUTION + SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

FEBRUARY 2026

Coordinated action is required to sustain reliability in a rapidly changing grid

The MISO region has long benefited from a highly reliable, regionally coordinated power system. But today, the conditions that supported that performance are changing faster than at any point in recent history.

Demand is rising at levels not seen in decades, driven by large, energy-intensive loads such as data centers, manufacturing growth and electrification. At the same time, the generation mix is becoming more weather-dependent, reliability risk is shifting across seasons and hours, and constraints are emerging in specific locations across the footprint.

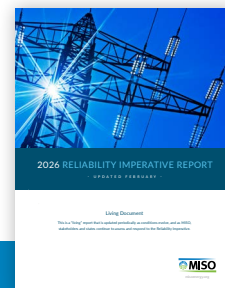
These changes mean reliability can no longer be planned around predictable peaks or managed using approaches designed for past conditions. It must be managed as a **year-round, system-wide challenge** that requires faster coordination, updated tools, and aligned decision-making across MISO, its members, and states.

Call to action: Reliability is a shared responsibility and requires action now

In the MISO region, responsibility for reliability is shared among electricity providers, states, and MISO. Through the **Reliability Imperative**, MISO calls on the region to act with urgency. This includes maintaining existing resources during tight conditions and accelerating approved projects to ensure reliability-critical capacity is not lost to timing gaps.

- **Advance timely resource development** by maintaining existing reliability-critical resources and accelerating new generation to service without delay.
- **Coordinate large-load planning earlier and more transparently** to avoid localized reliability risks and system constraints.
- **Align decisions and timelines** across markets, operations, transmission planning, and state resource plans.
- **Move faster, together**, recognizing that speed and coordination are now as critical as scale.

Reliability cannot be delivered by any single entity acting alone.



► For more information, visit misoenergy.org and read the full 2026 Reliability Imperative Report.



The Reliability Imperative Framework

The Reliability Imperative organizes MISO's work into four interconnected pillars that align near- and long-term actions to sustain reliability for the 45 million people MISO serves.



These efforts are reinforced by planning, queue, and operational reforms designed to reduce timelines and move critical resources and transmission to service faster.

Why This Matters

The grid is operating closer to its limits. Operational risk is already increasing as variability, outage duration and localized constraints place new pressure on both planning and real-time operations. Risk is shifting. Growth is accelerating. And external support during stressed conditions is less certain than it has been in the past. Reliability is no longer assured by legacy tools, assumptions or timelines.

It must be built through urgency, alignment, and action.



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