How MISO Supports Large Energy Demand While Protecting Reliability

Large energy users — like a data centers — often seek to connect to the grid faster than new infrastructure can be built. And because they consume so much energy, the grid needs more generation and transmission infrastructure.

MISO's challenge is to support the reliable connection of large loads to the grid through efficient studies, flexible service options, clear reliability requirements and greater transparency about who pays for grid upgrades.



MISO'S RESPONSE

MISO has already collaborated with utilities, states, data center owners, environmental groups and other stakeholders to establish a framework that enables large loads. Recently, in response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Large Load Show Cause Order, MISO developed proposals that build on established planning processes and stakeholder input.

MISO's proposals address regional transmission planning, service and reliability. They also address affordability by providing states and utilities with tools and flexibility to help protect existing customers as demand grows. At the same time, MISO's framework preserves the traditional roles of federal and state regulators, with FERC overseeing wholesale rates and states retaining authority over retail rates, siting and economic development decisions.

The comprehensive large load framework reflects the collective efforts of the MISO stakeholder community

13+
Stakeholder Meetings
113 Substantive Presentations

386
Average Attendance
12 Issues Submitted

1,210
Pages of Feedback
427 Responses Over 47 Requests

12
Months of Planning
Broad Stakeholder Engagement

Read the MISO Reliability Imperative report on misoenergy.org

Delivering Solutions
Connecting Large Loads

WHAT MISO IS PROPOSING

MISO's filings are intentionally focused on FERC's direction in the Show Cause Order. Components addressing cost-shifting were filed jointly with transmission owners.

CONNECT TO THE GRID MORE QUICKLY	Expedited study options, including projects bringing new generation and demand forward together, while retaining necessary reliability reviews.
TRANSITION AND GROW WITH FLEXIBILITY	Service options that allow a large customer to begin or expand operations before all transmission upgrades are complete, provided the customer can reduce its electricity use when needed to protect grid reliability.
PROTECT NEAR- AND LONG-TERM RELIABILITY	Clear requirements for data, forecasting, real-time visibility, operating coordination and how certain large loads must perform during grid disturbances.
CREATE A CLEAR AND EFFICIENT PROCESS	A standardized application, defined study requirements and more consistent steps for evaluating large-load requests.
PROTECT CUSTOMERS AND IMPROVE COST TRANSPARENCY	Contracts and reporting that clarify cost responsibility, show upgrades driven by large loads and guard against cost shifting among wholesale transmission customers. Retail allocation and ratepayer protections remain within state jurisdiction.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

FERC is reviewing MISO's filings and determining whether the proposed Tariff changes are just and reasonable. Timely approval of proposals is critical to help keep pace with unprecedented large-load growth and ensure the infrastructure needed to serve that demand can be planned and deployed efficiently. MISO will address any required proposal modifications and work on implementation plans for Q1 2027.

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