

DEFINING WHO BENEFITS & WHO PAYS FOR HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION BUILDOUT

When we build new power lines, the rule is simple: only build when the benefits outweigh the costs and only the people who benefit pay. **Defining Benefits is not about subsidies or mandates; it's about ratepayer protection, boosting reliability, and building the economy to meet the needs of the 21st century.**

What are examples of benefits that Congress could require FERC to consider?



Avoided replacement of aging infrastructure.



Lowered production costs and deferred reliability upgrades.

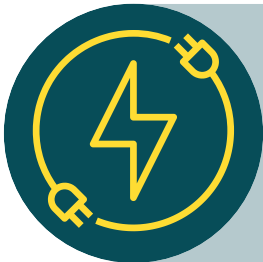


Reduced energy losses and congestion.



Improved grid performance during extreme weather.

Who pays for electric transmission lines?



Ultimately, only electricity customers, such as households and businesses, who benefit pay the costs for a transmission line. Projects are only approved if benefits exceed costs.

Did you know that very few long-distance high-capacity transmission lines are currently being built?



In 2014, the United States built 1,700 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, but in 2024, only 888 miles were built. Studies show that we need to add 5,000 miles each year to modernize our grid.

How do regulators define costs and benefits from a transmission line?



Utilities, developers, and other stakeholders collaborate to determine transmission needs, solutions, and beneficiaries.



FERC reviews transmission cost allocation proposals to ensure that they are just and reasonable, and allocate costs roughly commensurate with estimated benefits, as required by law.



FERC's defined framework ensures that all regions measure benefits consistently, making planning decisions more defensible and grounded in real customer value.

Why do we need to build more high-voltage transmission lines?



To meet today's **unprecedented energy demand**.



To access a **diverse portfolio** of homegrown generation resources.



To **keep the lights on** during extreme weather events.



To **lower electricity bills** for American homes and businesses.



To **stay ahead of China** in the race for AI and advanced manufacturing.



To **fortify America's grid** against national security threats.

Policymakers have aligned around a common set of benefits, creating more predictable, transparent, and fair processes for utilities, developers, and ratepayers alike.

Congress should clarify the benefits that FERC will consider when reviewing transmission planning and cost-benefit analyses. By affirming FERC's focus on economic and reliability benefits, Congress can support regulatory certainty, facilitating greater investment and preventing years of litigation at a moment when the US is competing on the international stage for strategic industries, such as artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing, likely to determine the trajectory of the 21st century.

The Truth About Transmission



Transmission costs are passed onto all customers, even those who receive no or trivial benefits.



Because the transmission line crosses my land/ county/ state, I am paying more for benefits that go somewhere else.



Transmission buildout only helps certain generation resources, like renewables, and makes everyone else pay.



Customers only pay if they benefit from new or upgraded transmission, and only in proportion to how much they benefit.



Only the people who benefit directly from projects pay. Landowners, and often, communities, are compensated when projects cross their land.



Transmission lines are fuel-neutral, and the buildout of transmission benefits new and existing customers.