

Fostering Collaboration Would Help Build Needed Transmission



Rob Gramlich, Richard Doying, and Zach Zimmerman

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A new Grid Strategies report finds that collaboration has been a key element of U.S. transmission system expansion.

As the first comprehensive review of how collaborative planning drives successful transmission planning, the report urges policymakers to remove barriers to collaboration to pave the way for large-scale transmission investments that can achieve ambitious reliability, resilience, and clean energy goals.

The report's findings are based on a detailed analysis of 29 examples of major transmission expansion projects emerging from collaborative planning efforts in the U.S.

These examples demonstrate that coordination, collaboration, and open information sharing leads to real and concrete benefits for electric customers.

In fact the analysis found that the delay caused by limiting collaboration can add significant costs, in one case amounting to several billion dollars in a single region.

Additionally, the report provides:

- A novel review of the history of electric market regulation in the U.S., finding that policymakers have long viewed investments in regional transmission networks as a *facilitator* for competitive generation markets, and not themselves competitive endeavors.
- A careful examination of the types of information sharing that can lead to successful transmission planning outcomes – and identifies the types of information that often cannot be shared now in competitive transmission development environments. ■

