



# Economic Development

Embracing a unique energy environment for sustainable, reliable and equitable business growth.

EBMI Energy Seminar – Impact of Data Centers – May 7, 2026



# Corporate Overview - Illinois



Illinois' second largest regulated energy company



Only utility in Illinois delivering both natural gas and electricity



1.2 million electric customers and 0.8 million gas customers



Electric and gas distribution regulated by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC)

## Ameren Illinois Economic Development

### Key Areas of Focus

- Business Attraction
- Business Retention & Expansion
- Community Development



Customer-  
focused,  
tailored solutions



Experienced  
Economic  
Development  
team



Partnerships



White glove  
service



Embracing a unique energy  
environment for strategic, sustainable  
business growth



## Why Data Centers Matter Today



Data centers are the physical buildings that run the internet. They are fundamental pillars of the modern digital economy.



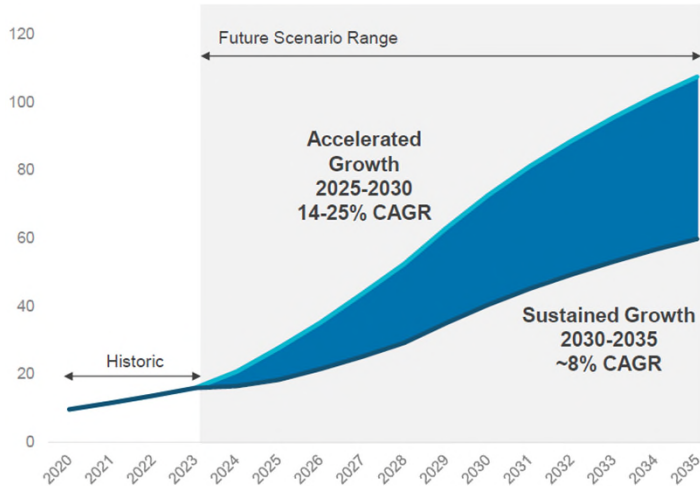
Operational Backbone: powering essential services such as healthcare, telecommunications, banking, and emergency services vital to our daily lives and safety.



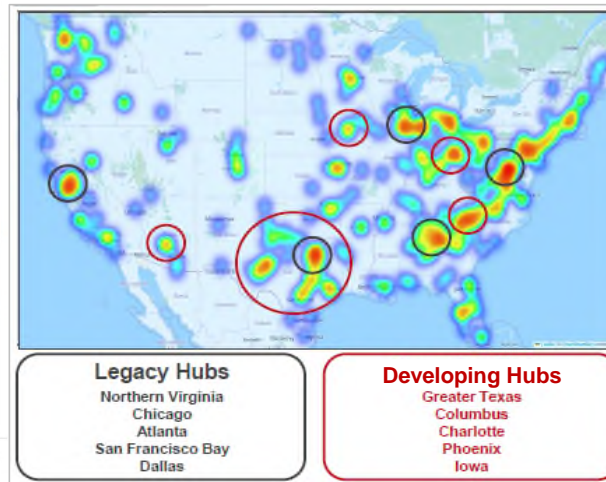
Modern technologies like AI and cloud services require far more computing power than older systems.

# U.S. DATA CENTER MARKET OVERVIEW

## Total U.S. Data Center Electricity Demand (GW)\*



## Heat Map by Number of Data Centers\*



## Data Center Siting Factors

- Power availability
- Access to transmission and fiber
- Competitive power rates
- Constructive regulatory environment
- Low-carbon power access
- Access to water for cooling
- Suitable and affordable land
- State and local incentives
- Availability of a skilled workforce

- Data center demand is surging primarily due to the explosive growth in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the ongoing expansion of cloud computing.
- With traditional hubs reaching capacity, developers are considering other locations based on how quickly and reliably they can secure massive amounts of electricity.
- Community acceptance has become a major consideration that can determine a project's viability.

\* Source: Charles River Associates (CRA)



# The Utility's Role

## Ensuring Reliability and Safety

Utilities maintain reliable, affordable, and safe energy services for residential, commercial, and industrial customers alike.

## Infrastructure Assessment

Utilities perform engineering studies and grid analyses to plan infrastructure needs and cost allocations for data centers.

## Community Communication

Utilities collaborate with local governments and organizations to inform communities about technical and economic impacts.

## Supporting Sustainable Development

Utilities ensure growth aligns with community priorities and long-term infrastructure planning without advocating land use.



A perspective view of a long, brightly lit aisle in a data center. The aisle is flanked by rows of server racks on both sides. The racks are illuminated with numerous small, glowing blue lights, creating a rhythmic pattern of light and shadow. The floor is a light-colored, perforated metal grating. The ceiling is visible, showing overhead lighting fixtures and structural elements. The overall atmosphere is clean, modern, and high-tech.

# Data Centers: Community Impact & Customer Considerations

# Jobs and Local Impact



## Construction Jobs

Boosting local contracting and supply industries



## Operational Roles

Higher-paying technical and engineering positions



## Indirect Economic Benefits

Stimulates job growth through multiplier impact



## Community & Economic Integration

Strengthen business ecosystems and support growth





# Tax Revenue & Community Benefits

## Property Tax Contribution

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Significant tax revenue through high assessed property taxes and extensive equipment investments

## Public Service Demand

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Minimal strain on public services

## Community Reinvestment

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Tax revenue funds schools, park, emergency services, and supports workforce and neighborhood programs

## Fiscal Stability

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Stable long-term tax revenue aids in budget planning and tax competitiveness



# Community Concern

## Local Benefit

### Community Benefit Agreements

Data centers support local priorities through negotiated agreements and partnerships with schools and nonprofits.

### Funding and Infrastructure Support

Data centers contribute funding for STEM education, job training, and improve essential infrastructure like fiber networks and roads.

### Long-term Community Planning

Collaborative engagement enables data centers to align with community goals and offer benefits beyond tax revenue.



## Community Concerns Power Usage



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Infrastructure  
Strain Concerns



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Regulatory  
Transparency



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Infrastructure  
Cost Allocation



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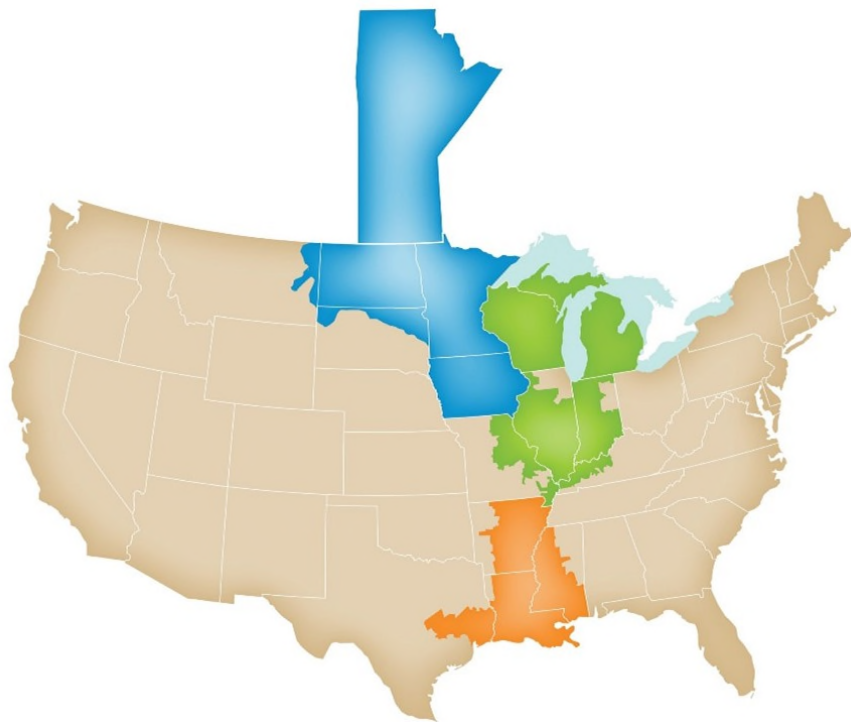
Grid  
Modernization  
Benefits

Large load customers are subject to cost-allocation rules and infrastructure planning measures to protect the public interest.

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Extensive engineering reviews, regulatory scrutiny, and long-term planning processes ensures grid reliability

# Understanding Electricity Pricing in Illinois



## Illinois' Deregulated Energy Market Separates Electricity Generation from Delivery

- The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) manages the regional grid and wholesale supply markets.
- Ameren Illinois delivers power safely and reliably.
- Power supply and capacity – the electricity that Ameren Illinois delivers – are priced based on regional supply and demand under the coordination of MISO.



## Community Concern Customer Rates

### Preventing Cost Shifting

Large loads cover their infrastructure costs, preventing subsidies from other customers.

### Customer Protections and Oversight

Regulatory oversight and transparent rate processes protect residential and small business customers from rate impacts.

### Cost Stabilization Benefits

Adding large customers helps spread fixed costs, potentially lowering overall system expenses for others.



## Closing Perspective

### **Growing Demand for Data Centers**

The need for digital infrastructure is increasing rapidly, driving demand for more data center locations nationwide.

### **Economic Opportunities**

Hosting data centers offers communities long-term economic benefits including investment, tax revenue, and improved infrastructure.

### **Informed Community Decisions**

Communities must carefully weigh benefits and concerns to decide if data centers align with their future vision.

### **Competitive Site Selection**

If one community declines, data center projects will shift to other regions ready to capture the opportunities.



**Thank You**

Alex Scharf  
Business Development Executive  
AScharf@ameren.com  
331.213.5317



**Eric Whitfield**  
Director, Economic  
Development



**Patrick Hoban**  
Manager, Economic  
Development



**Cheryl R. (Cheri) Welge**  
Manager, Economic  
Development



**Holly Klausing**  
Business Development  
Executive



**Casey Peterson**  
Sr. Business Development  
Executive



**Alex Scharf**  
Business Development  
Executive