

Accelerating 39GW of New Capacity in Indiana Using Existing Grid with \$3.3B Savings

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The Challenge

- ! **Gridlock in Interconnection Queues:** Indiana has ~24 GW of active projects in interconnection queues (MISO and PJM), with average connection timelines exceeding 6 years—over 40 months to reach interconnection agreement, plus 2+ years for construction.
- ! **Skyrocketing Capacity Prices:** Capacity market prices have surged dramatically: MISO's summer 2025/26 capacity cleared at \$666.50/MW-day (22× increase from 2024/25), while PJM's 2026/27 capacity reached the price cap at \$329.17/MW-day (11.4× increase from 2024/25).
- ! **Gas Plant Supply Chain Constraints:** New gas plants ordered today won't come online until 2030–2031 at earliest, with capital costs surging from \$1,116–1,427/kW to over \$2,000/kW for recent combined-cycle projects (GridLab 2025).
- ! **Data Center Growth Opportunity:** U.S. electricity demand is projected to increase 25% by 2030 (ICF 2025). Power availability is now the primary factor for data centers. Indiana's position in both MISO and PJM creates opportunities, but extended interconnection timelines limit competitiveness.

The Solution

- ✓ **Unlocking Idle Grid Connections:** 3.1 GW of Indiana's thermal capacity operates at less than 15% capacity factor, with 43.8% operating below 30% CF. Similarly, solar plants (13.2% CF) and wind plants (28.1% CF) severely underutilize their interconnections, leaving expensive grid infrastructure idle.
- ✓ **Bypassing the Queue:** Deployment of new generation at these existing underutilized plants can provide cost-effective energy and capacity without building new transmission infrastructure, bypassing lengthy interconnection queues.
- ✓ **Massive Clean Energy Potential:** Indiana can add 39 GW of clean energy capacity through surplus interconnection, including ~21 GW at thermal plants (20 GW solar + 1 GW wind) and ~12 GW at renewable plants enabled by ~6 GW of 6-hour battery storage.
- ✓ **Rapid Deployment:** Surplus interconnection can save \$3.3 billion in interconnection costs, equivalent to \$1,222 per Indiana household. Projects can be completed in 12–18 months compared to 4–5 years for standard queue projects.

Policy Recommendations

- ! **Integrate into Resource Planning:** Require utilities to assess Surplus Interconnection Service opportunities in Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs) and include cost-effective projects in Short-Term Action Plans. Develop procurement strategies including self-build, RFPs with Purchase and Sale Agreement structure, and renegotiation of existing offtake agreements.
- ! **Streamline Permitting:** Expand SB 425 energy production zone eligibility to include Surplus Interconnection Service projects for streamlined siting and permitting. SIS projects at existing sites have inherently lower land-use impacts and deserve expedited approval pathways.
- ! **Support Economic Development:** Incorporate SIS into IEDC site selection and incentive programs, and OED state energy planning initiatives. Highlight available grid capacity at existing interconnection points to attract data centers and industrial investment seeking speed-to-power.

Source: Miles Farmer et al., *Indiana's Surplus Interconnection Opportunity*, 2025

Key Impact Metrics

39 GW

New Clean Energy Capacity Available
Through Existing Infrastructure

12–18 mo

Accelerated Project Timeline vs. 4–5 Years
for New Interconnections

\$3.3B

Direct Cost Savings from Avoiding New
Transmission Infrastructure

Explore Interactive Data Dashboard

Explore surplus capacity potential, site development opportunities, renewable resource quality, and economic competitiveness for each Indiana plant.

[Visit Dashboard](#)