

FY27 Appropriations: Support Transmission Facilitation Program

Investments in interregional transmission is the highest-value investment the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) can make to connect power grids, enhance grid reliability, accelerate the integration of new generation capacity, and reduce transmission congestion — enabling access to cheaper generation to save consumers billions of dollars. The Transmission Facilitation Program (TFP) is a set of financing tools through which the DOE can borrow up to \$2.5 billion to support these major transmission projects.

Interregional transmission lines allow regions to share more generation capacity, improving overall system reliability and helping moderate energy prices, especially during shortages caused by equipment failures, extreme weather, or rapid demand growth from large new loads, such as AI data centers and manufacturing facilities. Interregional transmission avoids the pitfalls of incremental, siloed grid upgrades. Current planning is often fragmented and ignores broader economic benefits. Small, piecemeal transmission builds fail to capture economies of scale, whereas interregional projects can deliver more capacity at a lower per-unit cost.

In 2024, the DOE selected four large-scale power lines, representing over \$2 billion in contract support through the TFP. If completed, the four lines would amount to nearly 1,000 miles of new transmission development and accommodate more than 7 gigawatts of new generation capacity throughout Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Given the critical affordability and reliability benefits of these projects, the DOE should ensure the TFP has the staffing resources needed to carry out the contracts as well as future proposals. The DOE has existing authority that it can use to add new transmission to the grid. Congress should direct the department to provide a comprehensive update on TFP and its plans for future obligations.

1. **Proposed Report Language:** “The Committee directs the Department to provide a briefing on the already awarded capacity contracts under the Transmission Facilitation Program (TFP); the plan for future selections, including priorities for new obligations and the selection process; and the plan to provide adequate staffing to the program to continue oversight and project management.”

TFP moved from the Grid Deployment Office to the Energy Dominance Finance Office in the new DOE structure. Congress should ensure that the program remains fully staffed.

2. **Proposed Report Language:** “It is the sense of Congress that in allocating the appropriated funding for the Energy Dominance Financing Office, the Department should account for additional staffing capacity needed to manage and execute the TFP under the Energy Dominance Financing Office.”

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