



Keeping the Lights On

We're sometimes called air traffic controllers of the power grid. PJM monitors and coordinates more than 1,376 electric generators and 62,566 miles of high-voltage transmission lines. Just like air traffic controllers, we don't own the equipment we direct. Others own the power lines and power plants.

Power generators, utilities and power marketers coordinate their operations through PJM. Doing so makes major electric outages less likely to occur and reduces power costs.

PJM Interconnection coordinates the movement of electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia. We work quietly behind the scenes. Our job is to ensure there is enough electricity for the 61 million people in our region.

Key Statistics	PJM Today
Millions of people served	61
Miles of transmission lines	62,556
2012 generation capacity in MW	183,604
Square miles of territory	243,417
Area served	13 states + D.C.





High Technology

Our operations are based on skilled knowledge workers and banks of powerful computers. Expert staff constantly monitor the grid at PJM's high-tech data, communication and control centers. As usage of electricity shifts up and down throughout the day, PJM balances supply and demand by telling power producers how much energy to supply.

Our engineers and information technology experts study hundreds of "what if" scenarios. They prepare to deal with virtually any event – from extreme weather conditions, emergencies and equipment failures, to the more easily anticipated cycles of days, weeks and seasons. For example, one software application processes 142,275 data points every 10 seconds and evaluates almost 6,300 potential problems every minute.

Power Markets

PJM administers competitive wholesale markets for large blocks of electricity – similar to the way the stock market works. Our markets are Internet based. Utilities and other electricity suppliers use them to make short-term purchases of power for their customers. Our markets attract alternative power sources, such as wind, to the region.

We administer demand response programs that help keep electricity prices as low as possible. Demand response allows customers to be paid for reducing their electricity usage during periods of higher power prices.

Planning

Managing the future needs of the electric system is an integral part of PJM Interconnection's role as a regional transmission organization. PJM conducts a long-range Regional Transmission Expansion Planning process that identifies what changes and additions to the grid are needed to ensure reliability and the successful operation of the wholesale markets. PJM's open and extensive review process ensures that all interested parties, including state regulatory agencies, have an active role in planning for future electricity supply and reliability needs.

A Long History

Founded in 1927, PJM Interconnection is an independent, federally regulated organization headquartered at Valley Forge, Pa.



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