Federal records list 201 data centers in Illinois, which group into 42 sites. All but four are in ComEd's territory, and seven in ten sit within 5 km of a 345-kilovolt line. Those lines carry power in from reactors 76 to 223 km from the Loop.

The next wave is bigger. A planned Yorkville campus lists 1,803 MW, about what the Dresden plant generates. Five campuses announced since the federal count would add 6,400 MW more, each within 5 km of a 345-kV line. ComEd expects to spend more than $3 billion connecting data centers.

Data centers and the grid

Federal data, Sept. 2025

39
10
1
Listings at a site (circle area)

Mostly operating

Mostly planned or under construction

Announced since, 1 GW or more (location approximate)

Transmission line, 345 kV and above

Nuclear plant, capacity

ComEd service area (generalized)

Power demand is the federal estimate as listed; many planned listings give none, so totals are floors.

Wisconsin

Michigan

ILLINOIS

Iowa

LAKE MICHIGAN

Mississippi River

Rock River

Fox River

Illinois River

Kankakee River

Rockford

Waukegan

Elgin

DeKalb

Dixon

Aurora

Chicago

Gary

Joliet

Ottawa

Kankakee

Moline

Byron
2,300 MW

MONARCH, SOUTH ROCKFORD
announced, 1,400 MW

T5 GRAYSLAKE
announced, 1,200 MW

O'HARE CORRIDOR
6 sites, 45 listings

LOOP AND
NEAR SOUTH SIDE
51 listings

SOUTH WORKS
announced, 1,000 MW

Quad Cities
1,819 MW

YORKVILLE, PLANNED
38 buildings listed, 1,803 MW
about what Dresden generates

JOLIET TECHNOLOGY CENTER
announced, 1,800 MW

TRACT, MORRIS
announced, 1,000 MW

Dresden
1,797 MW

LaSalle
2,264 MW

Braidwood
2,337 MW

Clinton 1,065 MW
63 km south of the frame

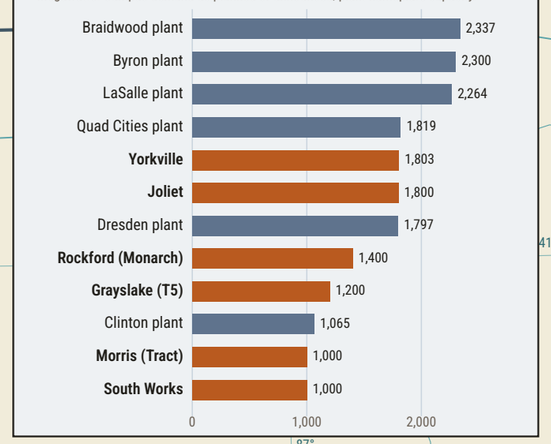
N

0
50 km
0
50 miles

90°
89°
88°
87°
42°
41°

One campus, one reactor plant

Megawatts. Campus demand as planned or announced; plant nameplate capacity.



Sources: data centers, DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory "Data Centers" layer (Sept. 2025; listed status and estimated demand); announced campuses, public reporting through Oct. 2026, placed approximately (see source list); transmission, HIFLD lines of 345 kV and above (2021, generalized); nuclear capacity, EIA-860M (Aug. 2021); ComEd area, HIFLD retail service territories (2022, generalized); base, Natural Earth 1:10m. Listings within 1.5 km form one site.
Story: Brett Chase, WBEZ / Chicago Sun-Times, 21 Oct. 2026. Albers equal-area conic, NAD83, standard parallels 41.0°N and 42.4°N, central meridian 88.7°W. Haust atlas palette. 26 October 2026.