

Kansas is where a \$21.6B capital plan meets record wind and the biggest transmission line in U.S. history.

Evergy has signed a run of large-customer load agreements, a \$4 billion battery megaplant is drawing power near De Soto, and the Grain Belt Express is set to move 5,000 MW across the state — all while coal retires and wind already supplies nearly half of Kansas's electricity. Each of those forces reshuffles the projects on your list. Invizion helps electric utilities re-sequence a capital portfolio in a click — and defend every decision.

\$21.6B¹ Evergy capital plan for 2026–2030, raised as large-load customers line up.	5,000 MW² Capacity of the Grain Belt Express HVDC line — billed as the biggest transmission project in U.S. history.	\$4B³ Panasonic EV-battery megaplant near De Soto — the largest single development in Kansas history.	8%+⁴ Evergy's raised annual earnings-growth outlook for 2028–2030, driven by new large-load demand.
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THE KANSAS LANDSCAPE

Four forces are moving your project list at once

None of these is theoretical, and none of them waits for your next budget cycle. Together they mean the capital plan you approved last year may already be the wrong plan.

DEMAND — LOAD GROWTH

Large loads are stacking up fast

Evergy has signed five large-customer electric service agreements by early 2026 and raised its long-term earnings-growth target to above 8% for 2028–2030 on the strength of that new demand.¹ The \$4 billion Panasonic battery megaplant near De Soto — the largest development in state history — is only the anchor tenant.³

Data centers and industrial load are pushing SPP-wide peak demand up about 1.35% a year in NERC's outlook,⁴ and the Grain Belt Express is being built to deliver another 5,000 MW across the state.² Every large new customer is a capacity commitment competing for the same capital.

RELIABILITY — SPP & WINTER RISK

Thinner margins, and a shift to winter

Kansas sits entirely inside the Southwest Power Pool, a 17-state RTO coordinating roughly 60,000 miles of transmission.⁵ NERC rates the SPP region at **elevated risk**, with anticipated reserve margins thinning from about 19.5% in 2026 to 16.0% by 2028 and resource-adequacy pressure shifting from summer to winter.⁴

The same assessment warns that more than 8 GW of coal- and gas-fired capacity across SPP could retire this decade — so the reliability margin depends on new resources landing on schedule.⁴

GENERATION — THE TRANSITION

Wind leads, coal retires, gas and nuclear anchor

Wind is already Kansas's single largest electricity source — about 47% of in-state generation in 2022 — second only to Iowa by share.^{6,7} Wolf Creek's 1,200 MW reactor near Burlington supplies steady baseload,⁸ and Evergy has begun building a 710 MW combined-cycle gas plant in Sumner County.⁹

Against that, Evergy's fleet still leans on the La Cygne and Jeffrey Energy Center coal stations within roughly 16,000 MW of capacity.¹⁰ Retiring coal while adding firm capacity for new load is a capital problem before it is anything else.

CAPITAL — GRID & TRANSMISSION

Build the wires and connect the load

Evergy plans \$21.6 billion of capital over 2026–2030 for generation, grid, and large-load connections.¹ On top of that, the Grain Belt Express represents about \$11 billion of private transmission investment crossing Kansas.²

Western Kansas is building too: Sunflower Electric is developing the Holcomb–Sidney 345-kV line to move wind out of the state's windiest corner.¹¹ New obligations don't replace the backlog — they stack on top of it, and something on the list has to move.

WHO RUNS KANSAS'S GRID

One dominant investor-owned utility, plus strong cooperatives and municipals

Kansas's grid is carried by Evergy's two KCC-regulated operating companies, generation-and-transmission cooperatives, and municipal utilities. The pressures are shared; the accountability path differs.

Investor-owned utilities

Rates & capital recovery regulated by the KCC

Evergy Kansas Central	Central & eastern Kansas (former Westar Energy) ¹⁰
Evergy Metro (KCP&L)	Kansas City metro (former Kansas City Power & Light) ¹⁰
Liberty / Empire District	Small service area in southeast Kansas

Evergy serves more than 1.7 million customers across Kansas and Missouri and plans \$21.6 billion of capital over 2026–2030.¹⁰¹

Public power & cooperatives

Governed by boards & members, not KCC rates

Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo)	Wholesale G&T; 6% owner of Wolf Creek ⁸
Sunflower Electric Power Corp	G&T for western Kansas; building the Holcomb–Sidney 345-kV line ¹¹
Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU)	Municipal utility, Kansas City, Kansas
Kansas Power Pool & municipals	City-owned distribution utilities statewide

Wolf Creek is co-owned by Evergy (94%) and KEPCo (6%), so its capital calls land on both an investor-owned and a cooperative balance sheet.⁸

Every capital dollar has to be defensible

Whether you answer to the Kansas Corporation Commission or a cooperative or city board, the question is the same: why this project, why now, why at this cost?

Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) regulates rates, capital recovery, and Integrated Resource Plans for investor-owned utilities such as Evergy and Liberty/Empire¹²

Large-load tariffs. Evergy has moved to put new large-load power-service tariffs in place in Kansas so that data-center and industrial demand pays its own way and does not shift cost onto existing customers.¹

Integrated Resource Planning. Evergy files its resource plan with the KCC, and the \$21.6 billion capital program depends on cost recovery being approved — approvals are not a formality¹²¹

Public power & coops — KEPCo, Sunflower, BPU and municipal utilities set their own rates through boards and members, making capital decisions in front of the people who pay for them⁸

The money is moving — can your plan absorb it?

Kansas utilities have more grid and generation capital in motion than they've had in a generation. The constraint is readiness: which projects qualify, which are shovel-ready, and how the timing lines up.

Grain Belt Express: ~\$11B private transmission investment.

Invenergy's 5,000 MW HVDC line crossing Kansas is billed as the largest transmission project in U.S. history²

Evergy: \$21.6B capital plan, 2026–2030. Generation, grid modernization, and large-load interconnection across the Kansas–Missouri footprint¹

DOE GRIP: \$7.6B nationally. The Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships program has selected 105 projects across all 50 states — a pool Kansas utilities can compete in for resilience capital¹³

Cooperative transmission. Sunflower Electric's Holcomb–Sidney 345-kV project is a live example of coop capital opening up western-Kansas wind.¹¹

IRA clean-energy tax credits — production and investment credits, with direct-pay for public power and coops, keep Kansas wind and storage economic as the fleet turns over.

KANSAS'S GRID, IN BRIEF

Questions Kansas utility leaders are asking

Short, sourced answers — the same facts we dig into with utilities looking at their capital programs.

How fast is Kansas's electricity demand growing?

Evergy has signed five large-customer electric service agreements by early 2026 and raised its earnings-growth outlook above 8% for 2028–2030 on that demand; NERC sees SPP-wide peak demand rising about 1.35% a year, and the \$4 billion Panasonic battery plant near De Soto is one of the anchors³⁴³

What is the Grain Belt Express?

It is a 5,000 MW high-voltage direct-current transmission line, developed by Invenergy at roughly \$11 billion, that crosses Kansas and is billed as the largest transmission project in U.S. history — connecting the state's wind resource to markets to the east²

Where does Kansas's electricity come from?

Wind is the largest source — about 47% of in-state generation in 2022 — alongside the 1,200 MW Wolf Creek nuclear plant, coal at La Cygne and Jeffrey Energy Center, and a new 710 MW combined-cycle gas plant now under construction in Sumner County⁶⁸⁹

Is the grid reliable as coal retires?

NERC rates the SPP region at elevated risk, with reserve margins thinning toward 16.0% by 2028 and resource-adequacy pressure shifting to winter; more than 8 GW of coal and gas across SPP could retire this decade, so keeping firm capacity ahead of load is the central planning challenge⁶⁴

Who regulates Kansas electric utilities?

The Kansas Corporation Commission sets rates and reviews resource plans for investor-owned utilities such as Evergy and Liberty/Empire. Cooperatives like KEPCo and Sunflower and municipal utilities such as the Kansas City BPU are governed by their own boards and members³²

How does Invizion help Kansas electric utilities plan capital?

Invizion is scenario-based capital portfolio optimization for utilities. It lets you model how a large-load agreement, a Grain Belt interconnection, a coal retirement, or a delayed grant reshuffles your whole project list, re-sequence the portfolio automatically, and keep a defensible record of every decision for the KCC or your board.

REFERENCES

Sources

Every figure in this briefing is tied to a primary or authoritative source.

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ABOUT INVIZION

Capital program optimization for utilities

Invizion is a purpose-built capital lifecycle management platform for utilities. It integrates budgeting, CIP, scenario analysis, and funding-source tracking in one system — so utilities can re-sequence a capital portfolio in a click and demonstrate audit-ready, defensible decisions to regulators, boards, and rating agencies.

See how utilities keep capital plans current and defensible with Invizion.

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