



## Broadband

The Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) does not have regulatory authority over internet services or internet service providers, and therefore has no role in the deployment of broadband facilities. Broadband deployment largely falls under the jurisdiction of federal agencies. Among federal agencies, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) provide the most current publically available broadband maps. The [FCC maps](#) focus on the number of providers and households covered by various technologies and carriers, while the [RUS maps](#) focus on areas where carriers have been awarded grants and loans by the USDA.

Multiple FCC maps rely on FCC Form 477 data, which is reported using 2010 Census blocks. Providers may not offer service to every home in every block in which they report service. The calculations used to create the graphs treat every location as having service, and may therefore over-estimate broadband coverage, particularly in areas with large census blocks.

To improve the accuracy and reliability of these maps, the FCC on August 1, 2019, adopted a [Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) that seeks to develop more granular broadband deployment data by collecting more geospatial data from providers as well as from state, local, and Tribal governments. [The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018](#) also directs the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to develop a National Broadband Availability Map to address this issue. NTIA [announced](#) that it is working with an initial group of eight states, California, Massachusetts, Maine, Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Utah on a pilot version of the map, a geographic information system platform that would allow for the visualization of federal, state, and commercially available data sets. This map will be made available exclusively to state and federal partners, as it includes non-public data that may be business sensitive or have licensing restrictions.

## Power/Energy Distribution

Certain new proposed power plants and transmission facilities require certification under the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act, Sections 403.501 through 403.518, F.S., or the Florida Electric Transmission Line Siting Act, Sections 403.52 through 403.5365, F.S. The Siting Acts

require multi-agency reviews, led by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The Siting Acts provide for a process whereby new power plants and transmission lines meeting certain criteria are reviewed prior to construction. Ultimate site certification is granted by the Siting Board, which is made up of the Governor and the Cabinet. Within the Siting Acts, the FPSC is the exclusive forum for determination of need for electrical power plants, pursuant to Section 403.519, F.S., and for transmission lines, pursuant to Section 403.537, F.S. While the FPSC determines the need for a transmission line at its origination and termination points, the FDEP reviews the actual route the transmission line will take between those two points.

The Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC) is a not-for-profit company incorporated in the State of Florida. FRCC is a Reliability Coordinator and Planning Authority serving peninsular Florida east of the Apalachicola River. The FRCC's mission is to identify, prioritize, and assure effective and cost-efficient mitigation of risks to the reliability and security of the peninsular Florida bulk power system. Each year, the FRCC publishes a [Regional Load and Resource Plan](#), which contains historic and forecast data on demand and energy, capacity and reserves, and proposed new generating units and transmission line additions. The FPSC incorporates the FRCC Resource Plan when conducting its annual [Review of Electric Utility Ten-year Site Plans](#). FRCC planning staff may request and compile information about the location of transmission facilities in Florida, but that information is held confidential. Maps depicting the general locations of electric power plants and natural gas pipelines are available in the FPSC's annual [Statistics of the Florida Electric Utility Industry](#).