THE POWER BUILDOUT / COST ALLOCATION

Who pays for the AI power buildout?

What three utility filings tell us about who carries the risk when a data center reserves power but never opens.

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THE FINDING

A minimum bill is not a cancellation payment. A cancellation payment is not a promise that households are protected from every shared grid cost.

THE COMPARISON / WHAT THE DOCUMENTS DO

01 / VIRGINIA

Minimum bills

Dominion GS-5 uses separate minimum-demand bases for transmission and distribution (85%) and generation (60%) for covered customers.

Approved; starts Jan. 1, 2027

02 / OHIO

Buildout reimbursement

AEP Ohio says its letter of agreement requires reimbursement of buildout costs for a qualifying cancellation or delay before energization.

Tariff effective July 23, 2025

03 / GEORGIA

No recovery sought

Georgia Power agreed not to seek a defined revenue shortfall from smaller customers during the remaining term after an early termination of a covered contract.

Joint filing; Aug. 26, 2026

Different protections at different stages. This chart does not rank states, predict retail bills, or equate a joint filing with a final rate-case ruling.

Open the public comparison and change log

DECISION TEST / A PROJECT THAT NEVER OPENS

Follow the obligation.

Illustrative case: A developer plans a 100 MW data center. The utility makes project-specific investments. The developer then cancels before energization. The outcome depends on which agreements were signed, when they applied, and which costs they cover.

01 / CHECK THE SIGNED AGREEMENT

Ohio provides the clearest public pre-energization example here. Under AEP Ohio’s letter of agreement, an applicable cancellation can require reimbursement of 100% of covered buildout costs. It is not a statement about every regional investment.

02 / DO NOT CONFUSE A BILLING FLOOR WITH AN EXIT FEE

For Virginia, 100 MW of contracted demand would imply 85 MW and 60 MW as separate illustrative billing bases if the cited floors apply. The minimums alone do not tell us the amount due on a cancellation before service.

03 / ASK WHO CAN BE CHARGED FOR THE REMAINDER

Georgia’s joint filing addresses early termination of approved contracts. It says Georgia Power won’t seek a defined residual shortfall from non-large-load customers during the unfulfilled term. It does not quantify every unrecovered cost or assign every residual dollar.

Ask for the remaining exposure after termination payments, avoided spending, and replacement demand. If no public document quantifies it, mark it unknown.

PRIMARY DOCUMENTS

Virginia SCC: order summary and rate class

Virginia SCC: minimum obligations and collateral

AEP Ohio: Schedule DCT and customer agreements

Georgia PSC docket 44280: joint filing, Aug. 26, 2026

Georgia PSC: September 2026 data center fact sheet

Press and speaking inquiries