

Then, in December 2025, the PSC approved Georgia Power’s request to add 10,000 megawatts of energy in five years. For context, that would equal construction of four natural gas plants like Plant McDonough along the Chattahoochee River in metro Atlanta.¹³ A recent report showed that Georgia Power’s anticipated infrastructure demands have a 1 in 400 chance of occurring, which suggests data center energy demand and the unprecedented energy system build-out will put undue pressures on our water supply for phantom electrical demand.¹⁴

For additional context about the scale of data centers’ unprecedented energy system demands: The five data centers listed in the table above would require a total of 2,224 megawatts of energy at full build-out, or about the same generation capacity of two nuclear reactors at Georgia Power’s Plant Vogtle. That is the same amount of energy that can power 1,000,000 homes for a year. However, Plant Vogtle’s two newest reactors were seven years behind schedule and \$17 billion over budget. The company has already raised customer rates multiples times to pay off the new reactors.¹⁵

Based on the current approved generation expansion, customers’ bills may rise by \$20 a month or more, according to PSC staff analysis.¹⁶

Challenge #3: Community & Cryptocurrency

A handful of communities have pushed back against cryptocurrency operations across Georgia, in Forsyth (Monroe County), Fayetteville (Fayette) and Tifton (Tift). The concerns are so broad, the Southern Georgia Regional Commission developed a model ordinance for local adoption to specifically address crypto and bitcoin mines.¹⁷

In South Georgia, the City of Adel’s residents were subjected to excessive noise from one crypto mine beginning in 2019. In 2023, the City of Adel’s council placed a moratorium on new cryptocurrency facilities while considering changes to local zoning, noise and other ordinances.

In North Georgia, the Gilmer County Citizens Against Crypto Mining successfully defeated a proposed rezoning that would have enabled a crypto mine to operate. And the Fannin County Commission has banned crypto mines.¹⁸

Challenge #4: Dirty Streams

Land disturbing activities and construction of massive data center campuses can have negative impact on streams, amenity ponds, reservoirs, and rivers. Beginning in 2024, Flint Riverkeeper documented significant, repeated discharge of dirt at a massive Fayetteville data center campus

¹³ Stanley Dunlap, “Georgia Power says data center growth will cause electricity demands to triple in next decade,” *Georgia Recorder* (December 2, 2024); Zachary Hansen and Drew Kann, “A ‘tsunami’ of data centers is coming. Why that wave is hitting Georgia,” *Atlanta Journal Constitution* (October 7, 2024); Drew Kann and Zachary Hansen, “Georgia Wanted to attract more data centers. Now it needs more power,” *Atlanta Journal Constitution* (January 26, 2024); Kala Hunter, “PSC votes on Georgia Power’s controversial ask. Lawyers demand customer protection,” *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* (December 19, 2025).

¹⁴ Greenlink Analytics and Science for Georgia, *Impacts of Projected Data Center Growth and Emerging Uncertainties on Power Demand in the Southeast* (December 2025), <https://www.selc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-Greenlink-IMPACTS-OF-PROJECTED-DATA-CENTER-GROWTH-Report.pdf>

¹⁵ Jeff Amy, “Georgia nuclear rebirth arrives 7 years late, \$17B over cost,” *Associated Press* (May 25, 2023).

¹⁶ <https://www.ajc.com/news/2025/12/georgia-power-psc-staff-strike-deal-to-allow-historic-data-center-expansion/>

¹⁷ Atlanta Regional Commission, *The Effects of Cryptocurrency Mining on the Atlanta Region* (July 20, 2022); Southern Georgia Regional Commission, *Model Ordinance for Cryptocurrency and Data Mining*; “Bitcoin miners descend on Georgia to mint new currency,” *Atlanta Journal Constitution* (April 12, 2022).

¹⁸ Dave Williams, “Cryptocurrency mining stirs concerns across rural Georgia,” *Capitol Beat News Service* (May 31, 2024).