



Figure 1 (U.S. Conditional Constraint Areas)¹⁰²

By bringing the consumer to renewable projects, however, Bitcoin’s locational flexibility, coupled with its high-electricity demand, makes it an optimal “anchor tenant” for renewable energy project development.¹⁰³ Unlike other high-electricity-consuming operations of similar size and scope,¹⁰⁴ Bitcoin mining requires relatively low personnel given its reliance on autonomous high-powered computers to conduct mining and can operate in rural locations so long as there is inexpensive electricity and internet connectivity.¹⁰⁵ By collocating Bitcoin mining operations with renewable sites, renewables project

102. See BROWN ET AL., *supra* note 99, fig. 50 (referencing U.S. DEP’T OF ENERGY, NATIONAL ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION CONGESTION STUDY (2009), https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/Congestion_Study_2009_ES.pdf).

103. Like anchor tenants for shopping centers that often receive lower rental rates per square foot to commit to a particular center, Bitcoin datacenters could commit to renewable energy projects for a competitive electricity rate. Brandon Carter, *What Is an “Anchor Tenant?”*, SQUARE FOOT (Feb. 25, 2020), <https://www.squarefoot.com/leasopedia/what-is-an-anchor-tenant>. Where an anchor tenant for a shopping center might draw other tenants through its reputation, Bitcoin’s placement would draw transmission lines by solving the chicken-egg dilemma, therefore giving renewable projects eventual access to more customers. *Id.*

104. See *Data Center Power Design and Features*, DIGITAL REALTY, <https://www.digitalrealty.com/data-center-power> (last visited Nov. 14, 2021) (detailing the large amounts of electricity required “to keep data centers running continuously and without interruption”); see also Gina Warren, *Hotboxing the Polar Bear: The Energy and Climate Impacts of Indoor Marijuana Cultivation*, 101 B.U. L. REV. 979, 985–86 (2021) (equating the high electricity consumption of indoor marijuana cultivation to that of Internet datacenters while also explaining the “twenty-four-hour firm (continuous) energy demand” that indoor marijuana cultivation requires).

105. Pia Sigh, *Bitcoin Miners Flocked to an Upstate New York Town for Cheap Energy—Then It Got Complicated*, CNBC (June 24, 2021, 6:50 PM), <https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/24/bitcoin-miners-flocked-to-upstate-new-york-for-cheap-energy-then-it-got-complicated.html> (noting that the city of Plattsburgh, New York, with one of the “biggest bitcoin operators in the world . . . generated only a handful of jobs”); see *supra* Section II.B for the locational considerations of siting a Bitcoin mining facility; *How Much Internet Speed Do You Need to Mine Bitcoin?*, INTERNET ADVISOR, <https://www.internetadvisor.com/how-much-internet-speed-do-you-need-to-mine-bitcoin> (last visited Oct. 28, 2021) (“[T]here have been instances in which systems have mined Bitcoins successfully with as low as ~500 Kbps, which is nothing—dial-up speeds.”).