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Electric Transmission and GIS at the Esri UC

by [Esri UC](#) on [June 26, 2015](#)

Where were you on August 14, 2003, at 4 p.m. Eastern Time? That's when much of the northeastern United States was blacked out. No power. Sweaty office workers got stuck in elevators from Manhattan to Cleveland. Traffic signals died everywhere. Tons of food spoiled. At the time, people were still wary from 9/11.

The culprit for disaster this time? Well there many.

But two of them were rather skinny ailanthus trees that had become a little too big for their britches. They grew too close to the heavily loaded Stuart-Atlanta 345kV transmission line. And when transmission lines carry a lot of power their conductors sag. So as fate would have it, at the

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