



MGA MID-GRID 2035 - Stage 2 - Quarterly Meeting 1

April 17-18, 2023

Draft Agenda

Since the start of the MID-GRID 2035 effort in late 2019, the Midwest has made considerable progress toward the [vision outlined by the states](#). Regional and interregional transmission planning is taking place at a scale not before contemplated, and new generation investments have provided economic development and other benefits. Simultaneously, the region has dealt with multiple major weather events, grid reliability challenges, increasing costs due to global economic turmoil and record inflation, and an increasing rate of generation retirements.

As we look back at where MID-GRID began and now toward where this work will go, the nature of the challenges and opportunities ahead has shifted and this event will set the stage for what we hope to tackle in Stage 2 of MID-GRID 2035.

Day 1, Monday, April 17, 2023

- 12:30 pm** **Light Refreshments Available**
- 1:00 pm** **Welcome and Introductions**
- [Jesse Heier](#), Executive Director, Midwestern Governors Association
 - [Doug Scott](#), Vice President, Great Plains Institute
- 1:10 pm** **Setting the Stage for MID GRID 2035: Stage 2**
MID-GRID 2035 staff will provide a brief overview of the topics we plan to explore through Stage 2 of the MID-GRID 2035 initiative.
- [Matt Prorok](#), Senior Policy Manager, Great Plains Institute
- 1:20 pm** **Panel Discussion: RTO Updates**
The RTOs serving customers in the MGA footprint are responding the reliability, affordability, and decarbonization demands of the states and their member utilities. This panel discussion will provide participants with a broad view of the work underway at the RTOs today to address the needs of MID-GRID state participants.
- [Aubrey Johnson](#), Vice President of Transmission Planning, MISO
 - [Lanny Nickell](#), Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Southwest Power Pool
- 2:50 pm** **Break**
- 3:10 pm** **Roundtable Discussion on Intersection of Reliability, Affordability, and Decarbonization**
MID-GRID state participants will share their thoughts on the topics teed up for Stage 2. Panelists will highlight opportunities and challenges, share learned experiences from their states, and identify opportunities for effective, meaningful collaboration for MID GRID in 2023 and beyond.
- Commissioner [Andrew French](#), Kansas Commerce Commission
 - [Brian Selinger](#), Director, Iowa Energy Office, Iowa Economic Development Authority
 - [John Weeda](#), Director, North Dakota Transmission Authority

- 4:15 pm** **National Transmission Planning (NTP) Study & Transmission Needs Study**
The U.S. Department of Energy's National Transmission Studies are intended to identify transmission that will provide broad benefits to electric customers, inform regional and interregional transmission planning, and identify interregional and national strategies to accelerate decarbonization while maintaining system reliability. Representatives from the U.S. DOE will provide participants with an update on their progress and key Midwest findings.
- [Jeff Dennis](#), Deputy Director for Transmission, Grid Deployment Office (GDO), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

- 5:15 pm** **Day 1 Wrap-up and Preview of Day 2**
- Matt Prorok, Senior Policy Manager, Great Plains Institute
 - Jesse Heier, Executive Director, Midwestern Governors Association

- 5:30 pm** **Reception**

Day 2, Tuesday, April 18, 2023

- 8:00 am** **Continental Breakfast Available**

- 8:20 am** **Welcome Back/Preview of Day 2**
- Jesse Heier, Executive Director, Midwestern Governors Association
 - Matt Prorok, Senior Policy Manager, Great Plains Institute

- 8:30 am** **Keynote Address – Grid Security and Resilience Today and Tomorrow**
A discussion of historical and emerging grid reliability and resilience threats, the role of the grid in national security, how states can support grid security and resilience.
- [Jonathon Monken](#), Principal, Converge Strategies

- 9:15 am** **Panel Discussion: Interregional Transmission**
A discussion of near-term and longer-term opportunities to unlock interregional transmission in the Midwest, the role and benefits of interregional transmission to the Midwest, Key Midwest bottlenecks and constraints.
- [Michael Skelly](#), Chief Executive Officer, Grid United

- 10:30 am** **Break**

- 10:45 am** **Panel Discussion – Stakeholder Perspectives on Reliability, Affordability, and Decarbonization**
The nature of grid reliability is changing rapidly as more power plants plan to retire and inverter-based resources take their place. A panel of experts will discuss high priority needs and opportunities for Midwestern states to bolster grid reliability and resilience, while maintaining customer affordability. The panel will explore both technological solutions, like energy storage and HVDC transmission, as well as policy and regulatory opportunities to inform the MID-GRID 2035 effort going forward.
- [Beth Sohlt](#), Executive Director, Clean Grid Alliance

- 12:15 pm** **Day 2 Wrap- Up/Next steps**
- Matt Prorok, Senior Policy Manager, Great Plains Institute
 - Jesse Heier, Executive Director, Midwestern Governors Association

- 12:20 pm** **Meeting Adjourns**