

MID-GRID 2035 Virtual Workshop - April 20, 2021 at 8:50 am Central Accelerating Siting and Deployment of Beneficial Transmission Solutions

MID-GRID 2035 participants will join a discussion of technological and regulatory approaches for maximizing benefits of transmission development for landowners and local communities and getting beneficial transmission projects planned, approved, and built quickly. Discussion will include opportunities to engage stakeholders upstream in the process—early and often—especially with groups that have often not been adequately represented in past decisions, including rural residents, communities of color, and sovereign Tribal Nations. Participants will also discuss opportunities for unlocking co-benefits via transmission infrastructure deployment and how transmission planning and siting process can be structured to broadly support beneficial outcomes for all stakeholders.

April 20 – All Times in Central

8:50 am Welcome and Introductions

- [Jeff Ewart](#), Deputy Director, Midwestern Governors Association

9:00 am Panel Discussion: Voices of Affected Stakeholders

This panel will examine the diverse perspectives of communities likely to host grid infrastructure as a result of transmission expansion in the Midwest. As new lines are planned and sited, panelists will discuss how the impacts are felt by their local constituencies. Panelists will identify outcomes their communities seek to maximize, and broadly share, the benefits of transmission expansion.

- [Jake Glavin](#), Executive Director, Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA)
- [Jackson Keith](#), Director, Land and Liberty Coalition
- [Cody Smith](#), Policy Associate, Center for Rural Affairs
- [Dan Wildermuth](#), District 4 Commissioner, Pipestone County, Minnesota
- **Moderator:** [Matt Prorok](#), Senior Policy Manager, Great Plains Institute

10:00 am Panel Discussion: Government Collaboration on Siting

This panel will discuss the varied government roles in planning and siting transmission lines. Panelists from local, state, and the federal government will provide insight into their respective roles and processes for siting new transmission and how they engage with local communities as projects move through the permitting process. Panelists will share best practices to managing and addressing community concerns and desires. Panelists will also reflect on how to better align review processes across state and jurisdictional boundaries to avoid delay in permitting for needed grid infrastructure.

- Charlie Sorenson, Board Member – Planning and Zoning, Mountrail County, North Dakota
- Matt Sowden, Attorney, Iowa Utilities Board
- [Curt Stokes](#), Chief Deputy Counsel, Staff Division, Missouri Public Service Commission
- [Avi Zevin](#), Deputy General Counsel for Energy Policy, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- **Moderator:** [Doug Scott](#), Vice President, Electricity and Efficiency, Great Plains Institute

11:00 am Panel Discussion: Developer/Utility Perspective on Accelerating Transmission Development

Panelists will provide the perspective of those who are building new transmission lines and discuss their processes and lessons learned in building transmission while incorporating the needs of affected communities. The panel will discuss opportunities to improve siting and permitting processes across regional, state and local processes to accelerate achieving the MID-GRID Vision for an optimized transmission system.

- [Steve Frenkel](#), Vice President, Direct Connect Development Company
- [Doug Mulvey](#), Senior Director for Project Development, LS Power
- [Laurie Spears](#), Managing Director of Siting, Outreach & Right-of-Way, AEP
- [Dusky Terry](#), President, ITC Midwest
- **Moderator:** [Tanya Paslawski](#), Director of Strategic Initiatives, Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council and Institute for Energy Innovation, Senior Consultant, 5 Lakes Energy

12:00 pm Concluding Remarks/Adjourn