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# MGA MID-GRID 2035 2.0 Quarterly Meeting

## September 27-28, 2023 | Little Rock, Arkansas

### Southwest Power Pool Headquarters | 201 Worthen Drive

#### Agenda

*This quarterly MID GRID meeting will begin our deeper dive into the first two priority topics: interregional transmission and resource planning & state coordination. Divided into two parts, each day will feature a framing keynote and panel discussions to identify critical opportunities for MGA and state collaboration.*

#### **Day 1 - Wednesday, September 27 (Interregional Transmission Focus)**

**10:30 am**    **Optional SPP Headquarters Tours Starting** [pre-registration required]

**12:00 pm**    **Lunch and Registration Opens**  
[Please note that registration with building security can take some time]

**1:00 pm**    **Welcome and Introductions**

- [Jesse Heier](#), Executive Director, Midwestern Governors Association

**1:10 pm**    **Welcoming Remarks**

- [Mike Ross](#), Senior Vice President, External Affairs and Stakeholder Relations, Southwest Power Pool

**1:30 pm**    **Keynote Address**

- [Kris Zadlo](#), Chief Commercial & Technology Officer, Grid United

**2:15 pm**    **Panel Discussion: Affordability and Resilience – How to Appropriately Value Interregional Transfer Capacity**  
Through the first part of MID GRID 2035 2.0, state participants have largely agreed on the resilience value, or insurance value, interregional transmission can provide. However, little consensus exists within the industry and amongst MID GRID participants as to how best to measure interregional transfer capability and subsequently how to set a target for transfer capability that delivers resilience value while also delivering other benefits in an affordable manner.

- [Lauren Azar](#), Founder, Azar Law LLC
- [Stacey Burbure](#), Vice President, FERC & RTO Policy, American Electric Power (AEP)
- [Ryan Deyoe](#), Power Markets Specialist, Telos Energy
- [Natasha Henderson](#), Director of System Planning, Southwest Power Pool
- [Hannes Pfeifenberger](#), Principal, Brattle Group
- **Moderator:** [Matt Prorok](#), Senior Policy Manager, Great Plains Institute

**3:45 pm Break**

**4:00 pm Panel Discussion: Highlighting State Efforts to Leverage Federal Funding**

In a time of unprecedented federal support for energy and transmission projects, states in the Midwest are doing all they can to attract dollars from the federal government programs like the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). In this panel we'll hear from several states about their approach to going after funding, what types of projects they are supporting, and the impact of these projects on the grid. We'll also hear a national perspective from NASEO on federal funding.

- [Melissa Birchard](#), Senior Policy Advisor, Grid Deployment Office, Transmission Division, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- [Catherine Reed](#), Senior Program Director, National Association of State Energy Offices (NASEO)
- [Lynn Retz](#), Energy Division Director, Kansas Corporation Commission
- [Claire Vigesaa](#), Executive Director, North Dakota Transmission Authority
- **Moderator:** [Matt Prorok](#), Senior Policy Manager, Great Plains Institute

**5:15 pm Day 1 Wrap-Up/Preview of Day 2**

- [Matt Prorok](#), Senior Policy Manager, Great Plains Institute

**5:15 pm Reception [SPP Café]**

**Day 2 – Thursday, September 28 (Resource Planning and Coordination Focus)**

**7:30 am Continental Breakfast and Registration**

**8:10 am Day 2 Preview**

**8:15 am Keynote Address: NERC Review of Evolving Grid Reliability Needs**

- [John Moura](#), Director, Reliability Assessment and System Analysis, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)

**9:00 am Panel Discussion: Taking Stock of Coordination Happening Today Across Utilities, Across States, and Across Regions for both Resource Adequacy and other Reliability Needs**

MISO, SPP and PJM have been sounding the reliability alarm in recent public comments and in some ways are looking for the states for help ensuring resource adequacy and reliability as the generation fleets across the country change. Panelists will identify gaps in the current processes and practices today between utilities, RTOs, and states, and identify specific information and communication needs that are emerging or increasing in importance now and in the near future.

- [Marcus Hawkins](#), Executive Director, Organization of MISO States (OMS)
- [Kate McCormick](#), Assistant Director, Policy Division, Illinois Commerce Commission
- [Kim O'Guinn](#), Director of Regulatory Policy, Southwest Power Pool (SPP)
- **Moderator:** [Simon Mahan](#), Executive Director, Southern Renewable Energy Association

10:15 am Break

10:30 am **Panel Discussion: Generation Fleet Change – Timing, Magnitude, and Grid Impacts**

Realized and further planned retirements of power plants across the country and specifically in the Midwest has become the focus of a national grid reliability conversation. Meanwhile, interconnection queues across the country are congested and experiencing delays. Panelists from across the Midwest and the industry will discuss “what is regional resource sufficiency”, how can we balance regional efficiency and self-sufficiency? Who’s responsibility is RA and coordination across states? What tools are available and what else is needed to manage reliability, cost, emissions, social outcomes, and other factors that weigh into resource planning and retirement decisions?

- [Maria Redmond](#), Director, Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy
- [Aidan Tuohy](#), Senior Program Manager, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
- [John Weeda](#), Director, North Dakota Transmission Authority
- **Moderator:** [Matt Prorok](#), Senior Policy Manager, Great Plains Institute

12:00 pm Meeting Wrap-Up

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