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## MID GRID 2035 2.0 – Priorities

Since the start of the MID-GRID 2035 effort in late 2019, the Midwest has made considerable progress toward the vision for the electric grid as outlined by the states. Regional and interregional transmission planning is taking place at a scale not before contemplated through the Midcontinent Independent System Operator's (MISO's) Long-Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) process and the joint MISO-Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Joint Targeted Interconnection Queue (JTIQ) study process, 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 inflation, and an increasing number of traditional generation retirements. As we look back at where MID-GRID 2035 began and now toward where this work will go, the nature of the challenges and opportunities ahead has shifted. Further state collaboration is needed now to maintain grid reliability and affordability during a time of rapid change in the electric industry. In collaboration with MID-GRID 2035 state participants, MGA has identified the following topics are priorities for MID-GRID 2035 2.0:

1. Interregional Transmission
2. Resource Planning and State Coordination
3. Siting, Landowners, and Community Impacts
4. State Energy and Emergency Planning Coordination

Through MID GRID 2035 2.0, the MGA will facilitate regional collaboration on these priority topics through the lenses of affordability, reliability, and technological innovation. States and other stakeholders will help steer the conversation by identifying key questions, challenges, opportunities, and barriers to be overcome as each participating state pursues its energy, economic development, and other policy goals. The MGA endeavors to enable a regional policy dialogue that helps define the vision for the energy future of the Midwest.

### **Interregional Transmission**

Recent large-scale extreme weather events have struck nearly every part of the United States. Between Winter Storms Uri and Elliot, the 2022 heat wave that hit California and the West, and Hurricane Laura, the MISO, SPP, and PJM Interconnection (PJM) regions have each seen challenging grid operations in recent years. In each of these events, interregional transmission capacity between regions played a significant role in keeping lights on and the grid intact. However, little proactive planning across Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) has occurred to date to increase interregional transfer capability to support grid resilience. MGA will explore opportunities to spur additional, comprehensive interregional transmission planning to ensure the grid is resilient against large-scale weather-related disruptions.

### **Resource Planning and State Coordination**

For much of the Midwest, utilities participate in organized wholesale electric markets run by SPP, MISO, or PJM. These markets provide investment signals to utilities and shape the overall economic and generation resource investment and retirement choices utilities make. However, these centralized markets do not dictate investments or retirements. States maintain regulatory jurisdiction over utility generation resource investments and retirements and, as a result, collectively shape the resource mix in the Midwest. Little coordination happens across the states to ensure the overall resource mix optimizes economic efficiency with reliability. Moreover, as the generation resource mix changes, the need for

specific reliability attributes to support grid reliability is emerging as a priority. Different generation and transmission technologies inherently provide varying levels of these reliability attributes. A lack of state alignment and coordination could lead to inefficiencies or reliability challenges. MGA will seek to enable information sharing and coordination amongst its state participants and develop a framework for assessing regional resource characteristics and reliability value.

### **Siting, Landowners, and Community Impacts**

With the recent passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), along with utility and state decarbonization plans, the Midwest, like the rest of the United States, is on the verge of making generational investments in new generation and transmission assets. Each of these new projects will require siting, which means navigating potential impacts to landowners and communities. Simultaneously, the need to respond to community needs and desires for siting both transmission and generation infrastructure makes the task of siting every needed project more challenging. MGA will enable state coordination and collaboration with national and regional partners to identify transmission and generation siting best practices, and enable a regional dialogue on how to deploy needed infrastructure efficiently, while minimizing societal impacts.

### **State Energy and Emergency Planning Coordination**

A reliable, affordable, and resilient electricity supply is paramount to the continued economic growth and prosperity of the Midwest. Each state has its own emergency and disaster planning and preparedness processes in place to coordinate emergency services, rescue and disaster relief teams, and other needed personnel to manage a variety of potential emergencies like floods, major ice storms, tornadoes, etc. Existing plans provide a strong foundation for consequence management, however they are not well adapted to manage a large-scale grid outage. MGA will seek to support state coordination and alignment of emergency planning and preparation for regional grid emergencies, considering factors such as critical loads like hospitals, water treatments facilities, military installations, and other emergency services. This effort will allow for a more collaborative and holistic approach to state energy security planning, utility coordination, and energy policy development.