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# MGA MID-GRID & MGA-OMS Transmission Summit

April 29-30, 2024

Treasure Island Resort | 5734 Sturgeon Lake Rd, Welch, MN 55089

## Day 1, Monday, April 29

3:00 pm

### Meeting Welcome

\*Treasure Island Resort Wacouta Room

- [Jesse Heier](#), Executive Director, Midwestern Governors Association
- **Grant Johnson**, President, Prairie Island Tribal Council

3:10 pm

### Keynote Address: Minnesota's Energy Transition and the Role of Nuclear Energy in Reliability, Resource Adequacy, and Carbon Reduction

- [Ryan Long](#), President, Xcel Energy Minnesota, North Dakota & South Dakota

3:50 pm

### Panel Discussion: State Perspectives on Grid Reliability Attributes

*As the generation fleet changes, the physical characteristics and risks to the grid change. A growing topic of discussion in the industry is the potential needs and solutions to address evolving grid risk including the ability to meet electric demand in all conditions, ramp up or down production when needed, and maintain voltage and frequency when faced with disturbances. Experts will discuss how states are working with their RTOs to address these needs.*

- **Justin Grady**, Deputy Director, Utilities Division, Kansas Corporation Commission
- Commissioner [Marcus Hawkins](#), Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
- Commissioner [John Tuma](#), Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
- [Claire Vigesaa](#), Executive Director, North Dakota Transmission Authority
- *Moderator:* [George Damian](#), Director of Government Affairs, Clean Energy Economy of Minnesota

5:20 pm

### Day 1 Wrap-Up

5:30 pm

### Evening Reception

## Day 2, Tuesday, April 30

8:00 am

### Continental Breakfast

\*Served in Chief Wabasha Room

8:45 am

### Day 2 Welcome

8:50 am

### Keynote Address: Grid United HVDC Capacity Value Analysis

- [Will Harrop](#), Director of Commercial Analytics, Grid United

9:30 am

### Panel Discussion: Grid Reliability, Resource Adequacy, Accreditation, and Evolving Reliability Needs

*What's happening around the region and the country? The electric power industry is experiencing a changing generation resource mix, increased impacts from severe weather, and increasing demand for electricity. Experts will discuss industry trends and how resource accreditation, risk assessment, and other planning processes are being reformed to address these challenges.*

- [Jordan Bakke](#), Director – Strategic Insights and Assessments, MISO
- [Jeff Eddy](#), Director of Planning, ITC Holdings
- [Will Harrop](#), Director of Commercial Analytics, Grid United
- [James Okullo](#), Director of System Planning, ESIG
- *Moderator:* [John Wachtler](#), Transmission Planning Director, Minnesota Dept. of Commerce

**10:45 am Break**

**11:00 am Panel Discussion: Solutions in the Short-Term: Deploying Grid Technologies to Boost System Capacity**

*As Midwestern states seek to tackle reliability challenges, many policymakers, grid operators, and utilities are considering the near-term cost savings and other benefits grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) and high-performance conductors (HPCs) can deliver across the region. Experts will discuss Midwestern case studies focused on reforms that will increase the use of GETs and HPCs, federal funding opportunities, and state policies to incentivize deployment of these technologies.*

- [Jørgen Festervoll](#), Chief Executive Officer, Heimdall Power
- [Temujin Roach](#), Senior Director - Transmission Policy, EDF Renewables
- [Julia Selker](#), Executive Director, WATT Coalition
- [Zach Zimmerman](#), Research and Policy Manager, Grid Strategies
- *Moderator:* [Brad Pope](#), Director of Legal & Regulatory Affairs, Organization of MISO States

**12:30 pm Lunch**

\*Served in Chief Wabasha Room

**1:30 pm Improving Transmission Siting Processes and Outcomes**

*Most forward-looking studies of electric transmission needs in the US point out the considerable benefits of increased regional and interregional transmission. However, as the region's RTOs are planning and constructing these projects, the demands of state siting authorities are going to increase rapidly. State panelists will discuss how their agencies are gearing up, including process improvements, innovative siting solutions, and federal funding support.*

- [Nate Burnand](#), Analyst: Strategic Operations Division, Michigan Public Service Commission
- [Alexandra Klass](#), James G. Degnan Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School and Co-director, Environmental and Energy Law Program
- Vice-Chair [Joe Sullivan](#), Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
- [Paul Wetherbee](#), Advisor, Regional Energy System Planning, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- *Moderator:* [Melissa Birchard](#), Senior Policy Advisor, Grid Deployment Office, Transmission Division, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

**3:00 pm Break**

**3:15 pm Panel Discussion: Transmission Planning Outside the MGA Footprint**

*The need for transmission and the processes through which it is planned are different across the country. Yet, they all rely on effective state collaboration. Participants will share perspectives on transmission planning, coordination with RTOs, cost allocation, and needed support for state energy offices and regulators.*

- [Robin Arnold](#), Director of State, Federal & Int'l Affairs, Western Interstate Energy Board
- [Lisa Barrett](#), Director, Advanced Energy United
- Chair [Philip Bartlett](#), Maine Public Utilities Commission
- [Stephen Bennett](#), Manager, Regulatory/Legislative Affairs, PJM Interconnection
- *Moderator:* [Matt Prorok](#), Senior Policy Manager, Great Plains Institute

**4:45 pm Day Wrap-Up**