

THE TRANSMISSION LINE



ITC MIDWEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER • FALL 2023



MESSAGE FROM DUSKY TERRY, PRESIDENT OF ITC MIDWEST

ITC MIDWEST PROVIDES RELIABLE POWER TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ITC Midwest is in the infrastructure business, and oftentimes we celebrate success when our work goes unnoticed. We want electricity consumers to depend upon us when their lights come on, their cell phones are charged, and their refrigerators stay cold. All of that happens as consumers practically take electric reliability for granted, and that's a win for us. In many ways, when they don't have to think about us, we've done our job. And with every win, we demonstrate system performance. However, with those wins come expectations for our performance, which gets normalized over time.

ITC Midwest took over the transmission system in 2007, at a time when baseline reliability was not meeting expectations. It was universally recognized that an infusion of capital was needed, and over the past 16 years ITC Midwest has invested approximately \$5 billion in capital to upgrade the system. Led by the rebuild of the 34.5 kV system to 69 kV construction standards that was completed in the fall of 2021 – with system conversions to 69 kV about halfway completed – the result is a 70% reduction in transmission outages. This translates into a much more reliable transmission system that has the resilience to handle the electrification of the economy and support future growth throughout our region.

At ITC Midwest, we try to bring as much certainty and stability as we can to a rapidly changing industry. We're pleased that MISO – the organization responsible for planning and operating the electric transmission power grid in our region – is taking a more holistic approach to transmission planning than ever before, and the ITC Midwest team is actively engaged in the process. We are poised for growth with a more reliable and resilient system because of MISO's planning leadership. And the benefits of these investments will be experienced by electric consumers over the next 50 plus years.

Ongoing investment in the regional transmission system is needed, and we realize that is our largest rate driver. Customer affordability continues to be a priority for ITC Midwest. We prioritize capital investment based on rate impacts, and we're doing our best to hold the line on operating expenses – targeting an average increase of less than 2% per year. Our network rate increase is approximately 0.7% for 2024, well below the rate of inflation.

The only responsible way to manage our rate impact is through economic growth to increase the electric load carried on our system. We're focused more than ever before on supporting economic development initiatives across our service footprint. For example, we are just completing our fourth year of collaboration with the Iowa Rural Development Council to support the Power of Connection Community Grant Program. This program is tailored to support economic development and community growth in rural areas of Iowa. (See the article on page 3.)

In addition, we have stepped up our efforts to work hand-in-hand with community leaders, economic development organizations, and Alliant Energy and the other distribution utilities we serve, to actively pursue opportunities to grow load and drive economic growth. We are uniquely positioned in MISO and in the Midwest to attract new economic development, with a transmission system that has the capacity to power economic growth, and provides access to the renewable generation resources that companies are seeking.

By providing a reliable and resilient transmission system that delivers lower-cost, clean energy to homes, businesses and farms, we're poised to support economic development initiatives across our service territory. We look forward to continuing to work with government officials, community leaders and economic development specialists to help turn future opportunities into realities to promote even greater quality of life for the people in the communities we serve.



FOR THE
GREATER GRID.

IN THIS
ISSUE

- ITC Midwest Supports Cedar Rapids ReLeaf
- Honor Flight Contribution Provided by ITC Midwest
- ITC Midwest LGCA Team's 2023 Conference Involvement

ITC MIDWEST RECOGNIZED FOR MAJOR SUPPORT OF CONNECTCR PROJECT

ITC Midwest was invited to participate in a milestone “Recycle the Bridge” celebration for the ConnectCR project, held on August 31 on top of Mount Trashmore overlooking downtown Cedar Rapids. In 2019, the company pledged \$400,000 to support the major improvement initiative in the downtown Cedar Rapids area, where the operating company’s headquarters is located. ConnectCR is a plan to bring together two major projects: the revitalization of the urban Cedar Lake area and the construction of a pedestrian/trail bridge over the Cedar River. ConnectCR will significantly improve the quality of life in the region and is expected to spur tremendous economic development, attracting capital investments and creating jobs. Local officials routinely characterize the project as a “game changer” for the greater Cedar Rapids community.

Marketing and Communications Manager Rod Pritchard delivered remarks supporting the project on behalf of ITC Midwest alongside city and ConnectCR volunteers, as well as May Farlinger, Vice President of Customer and Community Engagement for Alliant Energy. City officials and the ConnectCR leaders publicly commended ITC Midwest for the company’s support of this important initiative. The ITC Midwest contribution will be used to purchase LED lighting on the new pedestrian/trail bridge across the Cedar River, supported by Alliant Energy. The event provided the opportunity



Speakers at the recent ConnectCR “Recycle the Bridge” event included (from left) Rod Pritchard of ITC Midwest, May Farlinger from Alliant Energy, Steve Soveren from Connect CR, Cedar Rapids City Councilwoman Ann Poe, and Cedar Rapids City Manager Jeff Pomeranz.

to demonstrate how ITC Midwest and its largest customer, Alliant Energy, work together to support initiatives to improve the quality of life in the greater Cedar Rapids area – the largest load center for both utilities.

The \$20 million ConnectCR project has support of state and local government, business and nonprofit organizations, foundations and individuals. Support of this project extends ITC Midwest’s longstanding support of the greater Cedar Rapids area, beginning with the company’s first significant contribution to the community following the devastating Flood of 2008.



Alliant Energy Senior Community Affairs Program Manager Leah Rodenberg, Trees Forever Founder Shannon Ramsay, Trees Forever Interim CEO Deb Powers and ITC Midwest Local Government and Community Affairs Area Manager Cydney Lovell at the ReLeaf commemoration event.

formed ReLeaf Cedar Rapids — a plan to plant more than 42,000 trees along streets and parks in the city. As part of our commitment to Cedar Rapids and its residents, ITC Midwest supported ReLeaf Cedar Rapids with a \$200,000 award. On August 10 – the three-year anniversary of the derecho – the restoration efforts were commemorated with the placement of the first major donor sign. ITC Midwest is proud to be part of the ReLeaf plan so the generations of Cedar Rapidians who follow us can receive all the benefits trees provide.

CEDAR RAPIDS: LOVE IT AND LEAF IT RECOGNIZING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE DERECHO

The term “derecho” was unknown to most everyone in Cedar Rapids until the city was devastated by one on August 10, 2020. No one anticipated the magnitude of this fast-moving, hurricane-like storm that involved straight-line winds of up to 140 miles per hour, lasting 45 minutes. The unprecedented storm left more than 31% of the ITC Midwest transmission system out of service, and leaving portions of the greater Cedar Rapids area without electricity for over a week.

In the immediate days after the storm, the ITC Midwest team worked diligently and safely to restore transmission service to the company’s distribution customers. The magnitude of permanent damage also became evident as up to 100,000 trees were damaged and destroyed, totaling more than 65 percent of Cedar Rapids’ tree canopy. Decades-old trees that once lined their streets and yards were completely uprooted and destroyed. What had taken generations to grow was gone in minutes.

In the weeks following the derecho, the City of Cedar Rapids and Trees Forever

POWER OF CONNECTION COMMUNITY GRANTS SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2019, ITC Midwest and the Iowa Rural Development Council (IRDC) launched the Power of Connection Community Grant Program to facilitate economic development in rural communities across Iowa. This innovative economic development program is designed to pair rural communities seeking assistance with resource teams from IRDC member organizations, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Small Business Administration, and the Iowa Finance Authority. Those teams drive both community conversations and solution development for problems or projects. Ultimately, grants of up to \$5,000 – funded by ITC Midwest and the IRDC – may be awarded to rural communities for capacity building, strategic planning, studies or assessment.

In the first four years of the program, ITC Midwest has funded 15 grants to in the company's service territory, plus an additional 15 grants awarded by the IRDC, for a total of 30 grants to support rural communities. In all, 67 communities across Iowa have expressed interest in the Power of Connection program, with 46 SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis meetings held with IRDC resource teams and communities.

In 2023, four grants were awarded in the ITC Midwest service territory to support a variety of projects to facilitate growth and economic development. The Iowa communities that have received grants and their projects include:

- **Colorado** – An initiative to provide reliable childcare in the community. The funding was used to offset fees and training sessions needed to create a registered childcare center utilizing two rooms in the recently renovated high school building resulting in an impact on not only parents but the workforce, including local businesses and the communities they serve.
- **Decatur County** – An initiative to assess and understand the need for flexible and reliable childcare in the area. The funds were used to conduct a market study to determine the feasibility of additional options including a childcare center to serve the needs of young families in the community, to encourage growth and strengthen community vitality.
- **Murray** – An initiative to develop a portion of land owned by the City of Murray to meet local housing needs providing new opportunities for growth and help ensure the community continues to thrive into the future. The funds helped to support the submission of a proposal for full design services, review existing information and conditions, and provide assistance with permitting and construction drawings.
- **Nevada** – An initiative to create a new industrial park in Nevada to facilitate future economic growth. The funding was used to enlist the services of a civil engineer to analyze drainage, wetlands and soil, in addition to providing a recommendation regarding suitability for industrial development.

Additional grants are in the queue to be awarded in 2024.

The ITC Midwest/IRDC Power of Connection Community Grant Program is a cornerstone of a larger economic development program that ITC Midwest is implementing to help communities grow and thrive.

For more information about program details, contact IRDC Executive Director Bill Menner at director@iowardc.org or call 641-990-4757.



The City of Nevada received a Power of Connection Grant to support a new industrial park to promote economic growth. Pictured are ITC Midwest LGCA Regional Manager Troy Weary (left), Executive Director of Nevada Economic Development Council Brenda Dryer, Council Member Jordan Cook, Nevada Mayor Brett Barker, Council Member Emily Schaack, Council Member Sandy Ehrig, and Iowa Rural Development Council Board Chair Mark Reinig.



ITC MIDWEST PROVIDES GRANT TO SUPPORT EASTERN IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

ITC Midwest has provided a \$4,000 grant to the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight organization to offset the cost of upcoming honor flights. With a mission of showing our nation's veterans the appreciation and honor they deserve, veterans travel to Washington, D.C. free of charge, thanks to generous donations.

On November 8, ITC Midwest Director of Public Affairs Scott Drzycimski welcomed ITC Midwest employees and guests in the Cedar Rapids office for a check presentation and program. Cedar Rapids Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell provided remarks regarding the importance of organizations like ITC Midwest supporting the community. Five employee veterans presented

the check to Eastern Iowa Honor Flight leaders. The organization's President, Dick Bell, spoke on the impact of ITC Midwest's contribution as the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight operates as an entirely volunteer organization with no government funding. ITC Midwest Senior Communications Specialist and Eastern Iowa Honor Flight Board Member Darcy Moulin concluded the program with a reminder of the sacrifices made as Veterans Day approaches.

An Honor Flight is a single-day trip that entails visits to the World War II, Korean and Vietnam memorials, as well as Arlington National Cemetery for a special wreath dedication. Participation in an Honor Flight

trip allows veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans.



ITC Midwest employee veterans Edward Leaders, Mike Howell, Del Luedtke, Jason Smith and Matt Foster present a check to Eastern Iowa Honor Flight Fundraising Coordinator Mary Seeley and President Dick Bell. ITC Midwest employee veterans not available for the photo include Aaron Graber, Brian Grady, Terry Jessen and Brad Mossman.





**FOR THE
GREATER GRID**

123 Fifth Street SE • Cedar Rapids IA 52401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE TRANSMISSION LINE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER



ITC MIDWEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS CONTACTS

Dusky Terry, President
Mobile: (515) 423-9582
Email: dterry@itctransco.com

Troy Weary, Regional Manager
Mobile: (515) 509-4273
Email: tweary@itctransco.com

Cydney Lovell, Area Manager - Cedar Rapids
Mobile: (319) 721-2476
Email: clovell@itctransco.com

Scott Arnold, Area Manager - Des Moines
Mobile: (319) 551-8482
Email: sarnold01@itctransco.com

Lori Broghammer, Area Manager - Albert Lea
Mobile: (641) 220-4600
Email: lbrogghammer@itctransco.com

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 877-482-4829
Email: general@itctransco.com

ITC MIDWEST LGCA TEAM ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN 2023 CONFERENCES

The ITC Midwest Local Government and Community Affairs (LGCA) team actively participated in many conferences and events to support regional initiatives and the communities the company serves throughout 2023. These include:

- **Eggs and Issues** – ITC Midwest Local Government and Community Affairs Area Manager Scott Arnold attended a quarterly breakfast event in February, hosted by the Greater Ottumwa Partners in Progress. Scott participated on a panel which highlighted timely topics in development interests surrounding infrastructure in the greater Ottumwa/Wapello County area.
- **Iowa Rural Summit** – The ITC Midwest LGCA team attended the Seventh Annual Iowa Rural Summit in Ames, held April 11-12. The event provided an opportunity to collaborate with nearly 400 rural residents and companies to discuss the challenges and opportunities in their communities.
- **DEV23 Conference** – LGCA Area Manager Scott Arnold attended the DEV23 Conference on May 18 in Des Moines. The development conference provided an opportunity to learn

and share expertise on a range of topics surrounding economic development.

- **ABI Taking Care of Business** – ITC Midwest supported the Iowa Association of Business and Industry's (ABI) 41st Annual Taking Care of Business Conference June 13-15 in Cedar Rapids. The conference provided an opportunity for the team to engage with business leaders from across the state.
- **Iowa League of Cities** – The ITC Midwest team participated in the Iowa League of Cities annual conference September 20-22 in Cedar Rapids. The event provided an excellent networking source including a space to actively interact with city council members, city managers, mayors and other city officials.
- **Professional Developers of Iowa Conference** – ITC Midwest LGCA Area Manager Lori Broghammer and Stakeholder Relations Manager Mike Dabney participated in the fall conference in Council Bluffs on September 27-29. The annual conference provides an excellent opportunity for ITC Midwest leaders to interact with the business and economic development leaders to help promote continued economic growth in the state.