

# THE TRANSMISSION LINE



ITC MIDWEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2024

Welcome to the ITC Midwest Local Government and Community Affairs newsletter. We appreciate the opportunity to share with you the activities of ITC Midwest and our investments in the regional electricity transmission system. If you have any comments, questions or feedback, please contact us at 1-877-482-4829.

## ITC MIDWEST TEAM ENGAGES AT IOWA RURAL SUMMIT

### COMPANY SUPPORTS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR GREGG'S IOWA UNITED FIRST AID PILOT PROGRAM



ITC Midwest LGCA Area Manager Scott Arnold (left), ITC Midwest LGCA Area Manager Cydney Lovell, ITC Midwest LGCA Senior Area Manager Lori Broghammer, Iowa Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg, ITC Midwest Director of Customer and Business Solutions Cheri Monahan, ITC Midwest LGCA Director Troy Weary, and ITC Midwest Senior Communications Specialist Darcy Moulin participated in the Iowa Rural Summit.

The ITC Midwest team participated in the Iowa Rural Development Council's 8th annual Iowa Rural Summit on April 11 and 12 at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames, Iowa. The IRDC is a public-private statewide non-profit that works to support small towns by addressing issues such as housing, broadband access, business development and leadership. ITC Midwest works with the IRDC to promote economic development and the quality of life in rural Iowa communities. Six ITC Midwest team members attended the event along with more than 350 rural community leaders and economic developers to discuss challenges and opportunities in their communities.

This year's summit featured Iowa Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg highlighting the newly launched pilot program "Iowa United First Aid." Described as "Uber for emergency medical services," the program aims to reduce response times for emergency medical services in rural Iowa. ITC Midwest has played an integral part in getting this program off the ground in three pilot communities through a \$20,000 grant, with Lieutenant

Governor Gregg acknowledging the program's launch was made possible through this support.

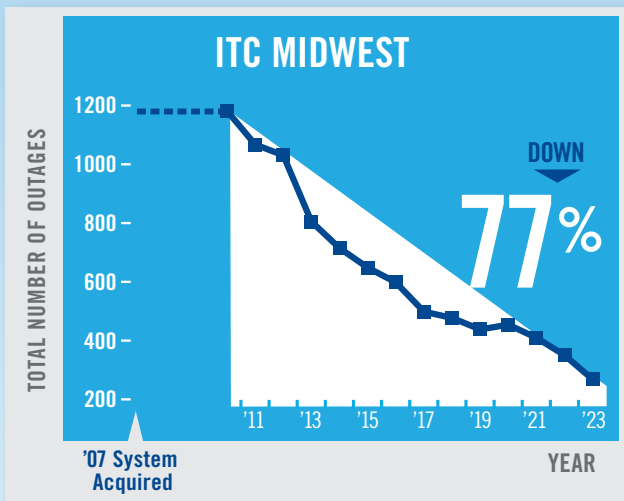
Additional sessions during the Summit included Scott Raecker, the Executive Director of The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University, who spoke on "Creating a Culture of Excellence and Civility" in rural and urban communities. His address noted the humanitarian acts of former Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray and the global impact of these acts. Sessions facilitating collaboration and interactive discussions included "20 Questions in 20 Minutes" offering attendees the opportunity to voice issues and provide insight on how to elevate their communities. The Summit concluded with the Rural Iowa Vitality Coalition announcing the selection of Van Buren County and the community of Manchester as initial participants in a pilot program to improve the health and vitality of their communities. This initiative will focus on developing a process that can be replicated to benefit additional rural communities throughout the state.



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THIS  
ISSUE

- ITC Midwest Reduces Outages by 77%
- Tornadoes, High Winds Damage ITC Midwest System
- Troy Weary Promoted to Director, LGCA



## ITC MIDWEST REDUCES ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OUTAGES BY 77% SINCE 2007

### RELIABILITY CONTINUES TO IMPROVE, DRIVING VALUE FOR CUSTOMERS

Through 2023, ITC Midwest has reduced the number of outages by 77% since acquiring the regional transmission system in 2007, based on a three-year rolling average. The outage reduction average improved from the previous three-year average of 70%, and the 2021 average of 65%.

Through investments in the electric grid, coupled with the company's operational performance and maintenance activities, ITC Midwest continues to improve the grid's performance and drive value for its customers, and ultimately, electric consumers.

"The 77% reduction in outages over the past 16 years is a testament to ITC Midwest's sustained, targeted capital investments and ongoing operations and maintenance program. Most importantly, these results would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our entire team in collaboration with the distribution utilities we serve," said ITC Midwest President Dusky Terry. "ITC Midwest works with leaders across Iowa to make our communities stronger, grow our local economies and support the quality of life we all enjoy."

Improving system reliability is a key component of ITC Midwest's Customer Value and Affordability Initiative, which prioritizes capital investment based on rate impact and customer impacts. When ITC Midwest took over the electric transmission system serving more than two-thirds of Iowa, it had largely reached the end of its usable life and needed significant investment.

The new transmission infrastructure built by the company has dramatically reduced system outages to improve system reliability, increased system capacity to provide the electric power needed to support the growth of Iowa's economy, provided back-up capabilities to help keep the power on during system outages, and improved system efficiency. The result is a modernized transmission system that supports economic growth and development across Iowa, southern Minnesota, and northwestern Illinois.

## ITC MIDWEST EXPECTS SUBSTANTIAL LOAD GROWTH WITH NEW CEDAR RAPIDS DATA CENTER

In February, plans were announced for a new, large data center to be built in Cedar Rapids – the home of ITC Midwest, Alliant Energy and their largest load center. More recently, it was announced that Google is the company behind the proposed \$576 million facility, which is slated to be built in the Big Cedar Industrial Park located near the Eastern Iowa Airport. Big Cedar is owned and developed as a shovel-ready certified industrial park by Alliant Energy, and is marketed by the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

Google's investment represents the first major data center in the Alliant Energy service territory. This is exceedingly positive news for ITC Midwest, as the new data center is expected to lead to significant load growth. The new Google facility has the potential to reduce upward rate pressure for ITC Midwest's distribution customers.

The ITC Midwest team is continuing working closely with their counterparts from Alliant Energy as well as city and other economic development leaders to facilitate reliable transmission power delivery to the new facility.

## DEV24 HIGHLIGHTS IOWA AS POISED FOR GROWTH

The DEV24 conference, co-sponsored by the Iowa Economic Development Authority, ITC Midwest and other investor-owned utilities of the Iowa Utility Association, was held in downtown Cedar Rapids on May 15. More than 300 professionals attended the conference, which provided an opportunity to learn and share expertise on a range of topics surrounding economic development including site readiness, workforce strategies, governance, energy and infrastructure.

The DEV24 conference opened with a message from Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds expressing her excitement for the state and acknowledging Iowa as poised for growth, highlighting recent bills and other successes. Among the participants were ITC Midwest Director of Public Affairs Scott Drzycimski, and members of ITC Midwest's Customer and Business Solutions and Local Government and Community Affairs teams Troy Weary, Scott Arnold, Aaron Curtis and Casey Woodside. The ITC Midwest Team networked with attendees and answered questions at the company's sponsor booth during session breaks.



## TORNADOES, HIGH WINDS CAUSE OUTAGES ON ITC MIDWEST SYSTEM

*Utility workers rebuild a transmission line damaged by a tornado east of Nevada, Iowa, following the May 21 storm.*

Tornadoes and high winds ripped across Iowa late Tuesday afternoon and evening, May 21, causing transmission and distribution system outages extending across the ITC Midwest service territory.

The storms exited the state at approximately 9 p.m. and left 20 ITC Midwest circuits out of service. Initially, more than 20,000 Alliant Energy customers were without power.

ITC Midwest utility crews immediately began to assess the damage and make repairs to the system. By 8 a.m. on Wednesday morning, May 22, only seven ITC Midwest circuits were out of service that impacted customer load. Fortunately, considering the magnitude of the storms, a relatively small number of customers were impacted by transmission outages.

The company's formal Incident Command System was activated early Tuesday evening, and the ITC Crisis Management Plan was followed. Beginning on Tuesday night, the Emergency Preparedness & Response team held storm calls to coordinate the response and ensure adequate resources and materials were in place. Most of the restorations were facilitated by ULC utility workers. Throughout the process, ITC Midwest personnel closely collaborated with their counterparts at the utilities and electric cooperatives served to coordinate the response. All outages with customer impacts were restored by Friday, May 24 at 2 p.m., within 72 hours of the initial outages.

A second severe storm early morning on Friday, May 24, caused additional outages on eight ITC Midwest lines, but transmission service was unaffected – only the damaged distribution underbuild caused customer outages.

The worst hit line in central Iowa had 17 poles down. All outages affecting customers were restored to service by 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 25. Between the two storms approximately 90 poles were replaced.

No safety incidents were reported as the ITC Midwest team worked to restore the transmission system as quickly and safely as possible.



*(top) The severe storm damaged the ITC Midwest transmission line along Iowa Highway 8 east of Traer, Iowa. (middle) A utility crew removes a tornado-damaged transmission line near the Skunk River west of Maxwell, Iowa. (bottom) ITC Midwest utility crews work to restore a transmission line near Stanwood, Iowa.*



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## TROY WEARY PROMOTED TO ITC MIDWEST DIRECTOR OF LGCA

Troy Weary has been promoted to Director of Local Government and Community Affairs (LGCA) for ITC Midwest. Troy began his utility career with Alliant Energy in an account management position and joined ITC Midwest as an LGCA Area Manager in 2008. In 2019, he was promoted to LGCA Regional Manager to lead the community affairs team.

Among other organizations, Troy serves as an Empower Rural Iowa Task Force Member, an Iowa Rural Development Council Board Member, and serves on the Living Roadway Trust Fund Technical Advisory Committee. He also is a member of the Nevada Economic Development Board and the Ames Regional Economic Alliance Board.

Troy and the ITC Midwest LGCA team support work with local communities as well as obtaining the necessary permits from various government agencies to allow for the construction of capital projects. Local Government and Community Affairs works with local city councils, county boards of supervisors, township officials, natural resource districts, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, department of transportation staff members, and others to coordinate ITC project communications, work activities and transmission system projects.