

CUSTOMER & BUSINESS SOLUTIONS NEWSLETTER

ITC MIDWEST • FALL 2024



The Cardinal-Hickory Creek line in Dubuque County, Iowa.



CARDINAL-HICKORY CREEK TRANSMISSION LINE ENERGIZED

MAJOR TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT BEGINS PROVIDING SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS TO ELECTRIC CONSUMERS

MESSAGE FROM DUSKY TERRY, PRESIDENT OF ITC MIDWEST

After more than a decade of work including opportunities for public input, robust regulatory and environmental review, and construction, the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line was energized on September 26. This major 345,000 volt (345 kV) line – co-owned by ITC Midwest, ATC and Dairyland Power Cooperative – is the last of the Multi-Value Projects (MVPs) that were approved by MISO in 2011 to be placed in service. The 102-mile line stretches from Dubuque County, Iowa, to Dane County, Wisconsin.

For customers across the Upper Midwest, Cardinal-Hickory Creek is providing a vital pathway to help ensure the lower-cost, renewable energy that consumers are seeking is available and affordable by increasing capacity and reducing congestion on the transmission grid. In addition, the new line is improving the reliability and efficiency of the region's transmission system, and providing other economic benefits.

As of June 2024, there were 160 renewable generation projects in Wisconsin, Iowa and other Upper Midwestern states representing more than 24.5 gigawatts dependent upon its completion – enough to power millions of homes and businesses with clean energy.

The Cardinal-Hickory Creek line is critical to efficiently moving bulk electricity in our region, benefitting the entire ITC Midwest service territory. In fact, a line crossing the Mississippi River was identified as a need for the grid even before ITC took over the transmission system in 2007. A major concern has been congestion on the transmission grid between Iowa and Wisconsin, and congestion equals cost. That congestion is now being alleviated with Cardinal-Hickory Creek. It's now easier for electrons to flow where they are needed, whether from Iowa to Wisconsin or from Wisconsin to Iowa.

This major infrastructure project has implications beyond our region for everyone who cares about energy costs and access to lower-cost generation, resource adequacy and reliability, and environmental impact. As we've discussed at our Partners in Business meetings, the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project received national and international attention due to the lawsuits filed by those opposed to the project. It became a poster child for those who seek to use the court system to block critical energy infrastructure. Five separate lawsuits attempted to stop construction of the project in Wisconsin state and federal court. Thus far, the federal government and co-owner utilities have prevailed, winning appeals in the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. *(continued on page 2)*



FOR THE
GREATER GRID

IN THIS
ISSUE

- ITC Midwest moving to new Cedar Rapids office
- Project Grid Eye
- ITC Midwest Partners in Business Meetings

(continued, from cover)

This litigation has been a key driver in causing project cost increases. Simply put, the litigation caused construction delays, and construction delays drive up costs. While the eastern half of the project was placed in service by ATC on schedule in December 2023, the western half of the project constructed by ITC Midwest was delayed by nine months due to the litigation and resulting court-ordered injunctions, pushing costs higher.

We care about the environment and potential impacts where our transmission facilities exist. During planning and construction, the co-owner utilities complied with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all state and federal environmental regulations and permitting requirements. ITC Midwest took numerous actions to minimize the environmental impact along the line route, including through the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (Refuge). These efforts included consolidating existing transmission assets in the Refuge, reducing the number of structures by half, exchanging 36 acres of high-quality habitat near Cassville, Wisconsin, for 19 acres of low-quality habitat in the Refuge in Iowa to construct the line, building low-profile, avian-friendly structures in the Refuge area, and taking all necessary steps to minimize construction impacts.

Energy policy reform is critical to ensure that future projects can move forward in a timely and cost-efficient manner for energy consumers. We always seek to work upfront with the communities and landowners affected by our projects, to minimize environmental impacts and return the land to the same or even better condition than it was before our projects are constructed.

This is not the last line needed to cross the Mississippi. Both MISO's LRTP Tranche 1 projects and the proposed Tranche 2.1 projects have additional lines from Iowa to Illinois and Minnesota to Wisconsin. We'll advocate that public policy makers take a hard look at the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project and make meaningful legislative and regulatory changes to ensure that costs are contained and new, critically needed transmission infrastructure can be built and placed in service on schedule. The need to connect the grid across the Mississippi River continues to be critical in providing reliable and cost-effective energy delivery efficiently.



The Cardinal-Hickory Creek line in Grant County, Wisconsin.

ITC MIDWEST PLANS NOVEMBER MOVE TO NEW CEDAR RAPIDS OFFICE



As first announced last year, ITC Midwest will be transitioning to a new Cedar Rapids headquarters location in November. The new facility is located in the redeveloping Westdale Mall area, which will provide much-needed additional space for employees of the growing company.

The schedule for the move is as follows:

Thursday, October 31: last day in the current Cedar Rapids headquarters.

Week of November 4-8: all Cedar Rapids employees will be working remotely.

Tuesday, November 12: New office opens at **3165 Edgewood Parkway SW**
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

All current phone numbers will remain the same. As a reminder, most ITC Midwest employees continue to work a hybrid schedule, working in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

ITC Midwest's new location will feature a single-floor, open-office layout to facilitate and enhance employee interaction, communication and productivity. The company currently employs 115 professionals across its service territory, including more than 80 at its Cedar Rapids headquarters. The new facility will be configured with space for 120 employees to accommodate future growth.

(image) Architect's rendering of the new ITC Midwest headquarters facility in Cedar Rapids.

INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION: PROJECT GRID EYE

In assessing the losses the company was incurring when substations were broken into during construction, ITC Midwest Field Supervisor Brandon Weber began to wonder if there was a way to deter these thefts and the subsequent financial losses associated with them. After further investigation, Weber discovered that mobile security systems were available to help prevent thefts, which sparked his mission to improve the company's current security protocols. The collaboration between several departments included researching an internal build process, which eventually led to an equipment purchase from an outside vendor that proved to be the most cost-effective approach. This innovative solution was presented to Vice President of Engineering and Executive Sponsor Joe Bennett.

Weber recently reflected on the process to achieve this innovative solution, which is presented in a Question & Answer format below.

What is a mobile security monitor?

A mobile security monitor is a self-contained unit secured to a two-wheeled trailer for direct transport. The mobile security unit includes two cameras and has the capacity to hold two more. The unit operates using motion and vibration sensors, and light and audio aids, resulting in the same level of protection as a completed substation security system to deter theft and vandalism in substations under construction. The capital asset is powered by a battery which is energized by a self-contained generator or on-site power source. The unit is equipped with self-monitoring maintenance features as well as temperature sensors, which are critical in the territories of ITC's assets.

What is the need for this innovation?

Through analysis of the last 12 theft incidents at substations in ITC Midwest, Weber calculated the average loss per incident was \$11,000, with the largest loss being \$40,000. These numbers don't include the time lost due to the disruption in the project schedule.

How is this an improvement from current security methods?

The current security measures include deploying a "bait reel" if tampering of materials is suspected or has taken place. The bait reel has GPS monitoring within that sends a notification to the Security Command Center (SCC) once the location has changed. Local law enforcement then becomes involved in tracking the reel and the parties who removed it from the site.

The new mobile security units will deter theft by using a more proactive approach. The mobile unit can be deployed at any time, but the intended purpose is to secure a site when construction has concluded for the day or to provide additional security to existing ITC assets. To activate, the mast on the device is raised and the Security Command Center is contacted to bring the unit online. The unit is then adjusted to get the best perimeter of the site. Once connected, the unit registers as a mobile substation in the Security Command Center. If the system is triggered, several options are available to deter threats including direct communication through an announcement system advising the party they have been captured on surveillance. This gives local authorities an opportunity to act in a much more timely and effective manner, utilizing critical video images captured by the unit.



ITC Midwest Field Supervisor Brandon Weber poses next to the new mobile security unit at the Iowa City warehouse.

What sites will utilize mobile security units?

Personnel from the Security Command Center, local security coordinators and field supervisors will have input as to which sites are in greatest need. The projects that are anticipated to benefit most from the use of a mobile security unit include those with aggressive timelines where for loss of time needs to be avoided. Mobile security units will also be deployed for projects in remote areas as these have tended to be targeted for theft due to minimal oversight during non-work hours.

When does ITC Midwest plan to begin utilize mobile security units?

The first unit designated for ITC Midwest has been programmed and tested, and was placed in service at the end of September.

How has collaboration driven safety, security and innovation?

"Collaboration with other teammates grew one small thought into something very successful for the entire company. Project Grid Eye is an innovative project that will provide lasting benefits to the company as well as our customers. At the end of the day, we consider that a win-win," said Weber.

Along with Weber, the Project Grid Eye Team includes Senior Network Security Engineer Anthony Stitt, Supervisor of Substation Support James Yang, Senior Security Coordinator Frank Rochon, Manager of Corporate Security Fred Fung, Manager of GIS and Engineering Data Adam Cianfarani, and Senior Security Coordinator Michael Howell along with others.



ITC Midwest team members Brian Selinger, Jackie Swartz, Cheri Monahan, Scott Drzycimski, Darcy Moulin, Rod Pritchard and ITC Midwest President Dusky Terry with Governor Kim Reynolds (center) during "Power Up Iowa Day" at the Iowa State Fair.

ITC MIDWEST PARTICIPATES IN "POWER UP IOWA DAY" AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR

GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS PROCLAIMS AMERICAN CLEAN POWER WEEK IN IOWA

In celebration of American Clean Power Week, ITC Midwest participated in "Power Up Iowa Day" hosted by the American Clean Power Association and Power Up Iowa at the Iowa State Fair. The featured one-day event took place on August 13, providing an opportunity for fair attendees to interact with utilities like ITC Midwest and renewable energy developers that are focused on the benefits of clean energy. The event gave Iowans the chance to learn how these renewable energy sources not only benefit the environment, but also strengthen the state's economy.

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds made a special appearance at the event, proclaiming American Clean Power Week in Iowa, reiterating the importance of renewable energy in the state. Her visit highlighted the ongoing collaboration between the state's policy-makers and clean energy advocates to maintain Iowa's leadership in renewable energy.

As the state continues to focus on renewable energy initiatives, ITC Midwest's participation in Power Up Iowa Day reflects the company's commitment to connecting low-cost, renewable energy resources to the distribution utilities served by the company for the benefit of electric consumers.

ITC MIDWEST PRESIDENT DUSKY TERRY ADVOCATES FOR ENERGY POLICY REFORM AT IOWA ENERGY SYMPOSIUM PANEL DISCUSSION

ITC Midwest President Dusky Terry participated in a panel discussion and asserted ITC's support of energy policy reform to remove barriers to the buildout of the transmission grid at the recent Iowa Energy Symposium hosted by Iowa Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks. Among other assignments, Miller-Meeks serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. She was joined by three other members of Congress who are interested in energy policy issues.

During the day-long event to discuss energy infrastructure, Terry served on the transmission and permitting panel along with representatives of MidAmerican Energy, Alliant Energy, large rural electric cooperatives, and the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities. The discussion was moderated by Chaz Allen, the executive director of the Iowa Utility Association.

In his remarks, Terry discussed the need for regulatory certainty to ensure the timely buildout of transmission to support our growing economy. He also referenced the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project as a prime example of delays caused by litigation, which could be prevented in the future through Congressional action on energy policy reforms.

During the Q&A portion, Terry was asked about the roadblocks to building transmission projects. He responded with additional information regarding the company's experience with delays caused by litigation with the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project, and then outlined the energy policy proposals supported by ITC to help address challenges in timely completion of transmission projects. He also drove home the message that project delays lead to cost increases, which are all passed along to energy consumers.

Representative Miller-Meeks and the other House members involved in the forum took notes and engaged with the overall discussion surrounding transmission and power generation.

DURING FALL HARVEST, THINK SAFETY WITH ELECTRICITY

With fall harvest underway, here are some safety tips to keep in mind:

- Farm equipment should always be kept a safe distance away from power lines. Today's large combines, tractors, grain carts and augers can extend high into the air. Farm operators should practice extreme caution and use a spotter to ensure they stay far away from power lines when using tall equipment.
- Motorists should be on the lookout for slow moving combines and tractors throughout harvest season. Drivers should slow down and be cautious when meeting or passing farm equipment on roadways.
- Modern combines have GPS systems to improve efficiency in harvesting crops. Please be mindful of utility poles and guy wires located in or close to fields to accurately map GPS to avoid contacting facilities which can cause injuries and outages, as well as damage equipment and property.
- Overhead power lines are not the only electrical hazard on the farm. Guy wires, which are used to stabilize poles, can also be easily snagged by farm equipment. If a guy wire is damaged, it is important to contact the appropriate utility company to evaluate the situation and make proper repairs.

Agriculture and reliable electricity are both essential for our Midwestern way of life and our economy. Following these simple safety tips can help ensure a safe harvest season.



ITC MIDWEST • FALL 2024 PARTNERS IN BUSINESS MEETINGS

You're invited to join us for the Fall 2024 Partners in Business Meetings. Partners in Business Meetings help keep our customers and other important partners updated on ITC Midwest activities and projects. Through these meetings, we work to build connections and share information that benefits stakeholders and allows them to maximize the benefits of our investments in the regional grid. We look forward to seeing you!

TUESDAY
OCT 8 9:30 am – 2:30 pm CT

Kirkwood Conference Center
7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
Also hosted live on Microsoft Teams

WEDNESDAY
OCT 9 9:30 am – 2:30 pm CT

Wedgewood Cove Golf Club
2200 W 9th St, Albert Lea, MN 56007
In-Person meeting only

REGISTRATION

Click below to register. You will be sent a confirmation email with a calendar appointment attached that corresponds to the location you select. If you would like other guests to attend, please have them use the link below to register.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER: CEDAR RAPIDS](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER: ALBERT LEA](#)

ITC MIDWEST CUSTOMER AND BUSINESS SOLUTIONS TEAM

Please let our Customer and Business Solutions Team know when your organization has personnel changes so we can keep our communications contact list current and provide you with the latest news and information from ITC Midwest.

Cheri Monahan
Director
cmonahan@itctransco.com
319-213-5915

Aaron Curtis
Manager
acurtis@itctransco.com
319-631-8442

Casey Woodside
Account Manager
cwoodside@itctransco.com
507-318-9397



**FOR THE
GREATER GRID**
www.itcmidwest.com