

THE TRANSMISSION LINE



ITC MIDWEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2025



MESSAGE FROM DUSKY TERRY, PRESIDENT OF ITC MIDWEST

PROPOSED IOWA LEGISLATION ENSURES A RELIABLE, RESILIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE TRANSMISSION GRID

During the 2025 legislative session, Iowa lawmakers will consider legislation that serves as the first broad update to Iowa's energy policy in several years. One key piece of Governor Kim Reynolds' proposed energy policy package ensures Iowans decide who builds critical electric transmission infrastructure in the state. The proposed Right-of-First-Refusal (ROFR) provision would ensure that Iowa's established utilities can develop regional transmission projects that cross the state.

ITC Midwest and other Iowa utilities employ thousands of Iowans to design, maintain and repair power lines in the state to assure power continues to flow during the state's most extreme weather conditions. They invest in our communities and utilize Iowa companies as suppliers while working with Iowa's landowners to protect Iowans' interests.

The proposed ROFR legislation will require construction for these large infrastructure projects to be competitively bid, driving innovative solutions and containing project costs. In addition, the proposed legislation will introduce new landowner rights to ensure private property is carefully restored after construction.

Governor Reynolds' inclusion of this electric transmission legislation as part of her broader energy policy legislative priorities ensures that Iowa can grow faster and more affordably while leading the country in energy and growth, without adding 14-18 months of delay and cost to the bidding process to get needed transmission infrastructure constructed. This is critical when meeting the tight timelines of new and expanding business and industry.

A reliable, resilient and cost-effective transmission grid is essential to support our growing economy. Electricity is required for the quality of life we all enjoy. Large-scale customers with hundreds or thousands of employees need access to reliable, low-cost energy delivered through the electric grid. A modernized electric grid works to keep utility bills as low as possible.

Energy consumers in Minnesota are enjoying the benefits of ROFR legislation enacted several years ago, while ROFR legislation is currently under consideration in Wisconsin and Illinois.

Consider these benefits of the proposed ROFR legislation:

- **Iowa utilities know Iowa best:** Iowa's utilities have weathered the state's extreme conditions and design systems that create the best value for energy customers over the life of the infrastructure they build, minimizing outages and repairs. Because they already have a robust network of employees, equipment and supplies, they can achieve cost efficiencies that out-of-state companies who operate a single line in the state could never offer.
- **Iowa's utilities are poised to power economic growth:** Iowa's utilities reinvest in the state to stimulate local economic growth, by utilizing local labor, vendors and services while contributing to regional prosperity.

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IN THIS
ISSUE

- ITC Midwest moves to new headquarters
- Power of Connection 2024 grants
- New team members join LGCA

continued from cover >

- **Iowa's utilities value landowner relationships:** Iowa's transmission utilities have a 99%+ track record of working with landowners to gain voluntary easements for project rights-of-way, protecting Iowans from the threat of eminent domain by out-of-state developers. The energy legislation introduces new land restoration protections on the largest electric transmission projects in Iowa.

As an Iowa-based utility, ITC Midwest owns and operates a transmission system that helps manage energy costs and ensures reliable service. Of course, there is a great deal of misinformation about proposed ROFR legislation coming from lobbyists for out-of-state energy interests.

The record is clear: When out-of-state companies have built electric transmission projects elsewhere, they have a proven history of low-balling their bids, building with lower-quality materials, minimizing landowner preferences, and, finally, raising the price before construction is completed. When local utilities build large-scale electric transmission projects, the construction standards are higher, the cost of repairs and replacement are reduced, and the costs over the life of the transmission lines are lower for energy consumers.

A recent survey of Iowans found that a majority support ROFR legislation because it assures local utilities, that know Iowa, will be building these lines. By passing ROFR legislation, lawmakers can help ensure a seamless continuation of the reliable, resilient and responsive electricity grid that is key to the region's continued growth.

ITC MIDWEST MOVES TO NEW CEDAR RAPIDS HEADQUARTERS

REGIONAL ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PROVIDER PLANTS PERMANENT ROOTS IN THE COMMUNITY



In November 2024, ITC Midwest moved its headquarters to a new Cedar Rapids location in the redeveloping Westdale Mall area.

The facility, which has been completely renovated for ITC Midwest employees, provides much-needed additional space for the growing company.

“Our decision to purchase and renovate a building with space configured to create a modern office environment reinforces our decision to plant roots and maintain permanent headquarters in Cedar Rapids. The Westdale Mall area has become a major economic hub in the city, and it provides the perfect environment for ITC Midwest’s new company headquarters,” said ITC Midwest President Dusky Terry. “We value the quality of life the greater Cedar Rapids area provides for our employees to live, work and raise their families. We are also pleased to be actively involved with and committed to the community, and proud to be part of the area’s success.”

ITC Midwest’s new location features a single-floor, open-office layout to facilitate and enhance employee interaction, communication and productivity. The company currently employs 130 professionals across its service territory, including nearly 100 at its Cedar Rapids

headquarters. The new facility is configured with space for 120 employees to accommodate future growth.

“For years, ITC Midwest has played a vital role in powering our homes and industries. This new headquarters facility illustrates the company’s commitment to keeping the lights on in Cedar Rapids and the greater region,” said Cedar Rapids Mayor Tiffany O’Donnell. “We are pleased ITC Midwest chose to make Cedar Rapids its permanent home, adding momentum to a growing list of investments on the southwest side.”

Cedar Rapids is home to Alliant Energy and Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), the two largest utilities served by ITC Midwest. Many businesses and industrial companies served by the regional transmission provider are located in the greater Cedar Rapids area. In addition, the new location provides easy access to the partner suppliers that allow ITC Midwest to operate and maintain the regional power grid. The cost savings ITC Midwest will realize from this move reinforces the company’s commitment to driving value for the utilities it serves.

THE POWER OF *connection*

POWER OF CONNECTION COMMUNITY GRANTS SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

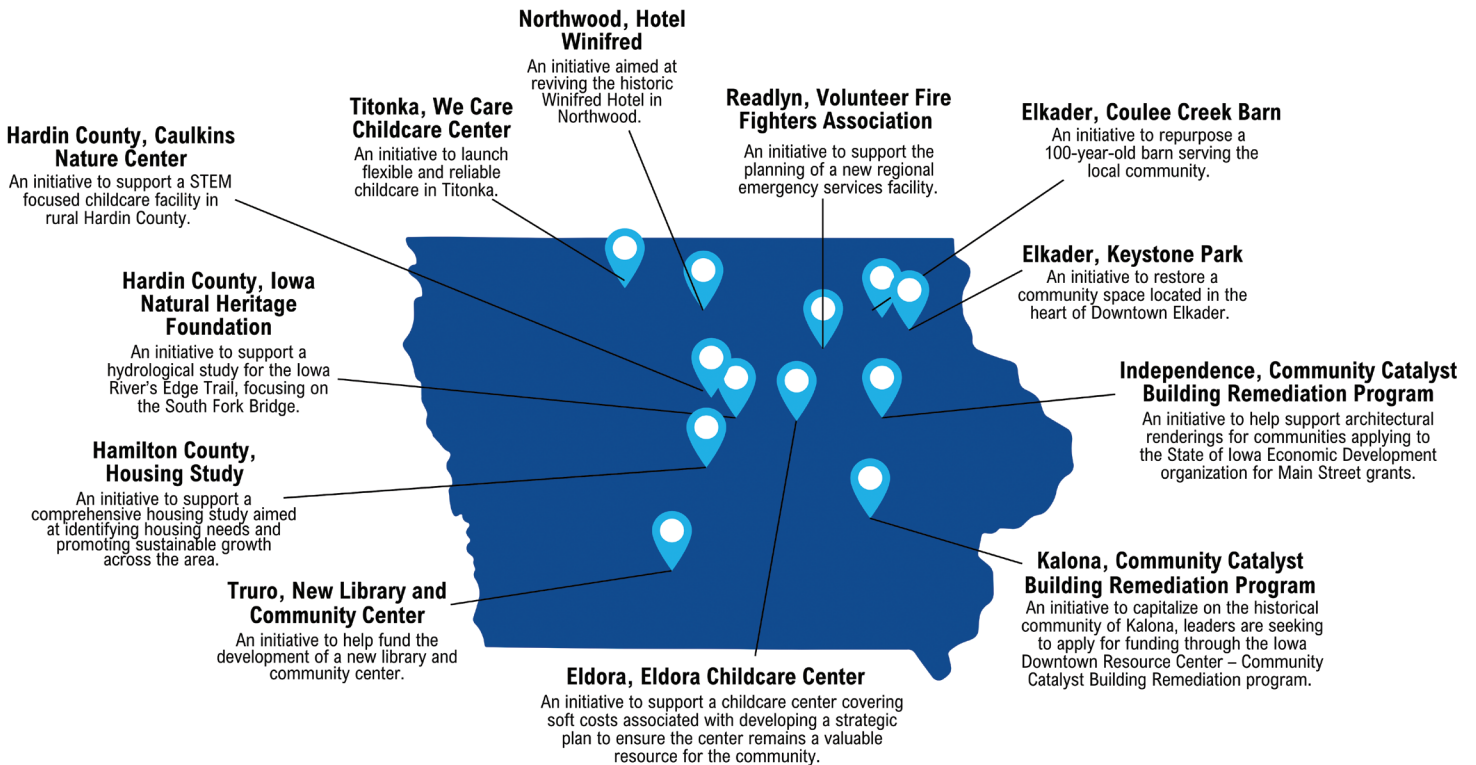
In 2019, ITC Midwest and the Iowa Rural Development Council (IRDC) launched the Power of Connection Community Grant Program to facilitate economic development in rural communities across Iowa. This innovative economic development program is designed to pair rural communities seeking assistance with resource teams from IRDC member organizations, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. 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 five years of the program, ITC Midwest has funded 27 grants in the company's service territory, plus an additional 25 grants awarded by the IRDC, for a total of 52 grants to support rural

communities. In all, 97 communities across Iowa have expressed interest in the Power of Connection program resulting in SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis meetings held with IRDC resource teams and communities.

In 2024, 12 grants were awarded in the ITC Midwest service territory to support a variety of projects to facilitate growth and economic development.

Additional grants are in the queue to be awarded in 2025. The ITC Midwest/IRDC Power of Connection Community Grant Program is a cornerstone of a larger economic development program that ITC Midwest maintains 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.



ITC MIDWEST LGCA TEAM SUPPORTS LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Three new personnel have recently joined the ITC Midwest LGCA team, including:

Mike Frank is the new LGCA Area Manager for northern Iowa, and southcentral and southwestern Minnesota, working out of the Albert Lea, Minnesota office. Mike comes to ITC Midwest from the Iowa Department of Transportation, where for the past 21 years he has held positions with increasing levels of responsibility. His experience in the state government sector includes working with utility projects, as well as other major projects involving engineering, design, construction inspection, mechanical and electrical work, and requiring utilization of a wide range of technology. Mike has demonstrated success in developing, fostering and maintaining positive relationships with representatives of city, county, state and federal agencies and landowners affected by infrastructure projects. Mike has extensive experience with utility coordination and permitting in state right-of-way, and conducting meetings with government representatives, developers and affected landowners where complex presentations of roadway and other infrastructure projects were discussed.



Nicole Breitbach recently joined ITC Midwest as the LGCA Area Manager with responsibility for the greater Dubuque area and part of eastern Iowa, and as well as the company's service territories in Illinois, Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota. She is based in the Dubuque office. Nicole comes to ITC Midwest from Black Hills Energy, where she has served for more than five years as Senior Public Affairs Manager. Her experience at Black Hills Energy included developing and enhancing effective communication channels and relationships with community, business, state and local government agencies, builders and developers, and other leaders. She served as the primary company contact with city officials in communities served by the utility across Iowa. In addition, at Black Hills Energy Nicole renewed and coordinated franchise agreements, led communications strategy around acquisitions, and led the team through two rate reviews by employing strong communications strategies.



Travis Weigert has joined the LGCA team as a Permitting Specialist. Travis will take over permitting responsibilities in ITC Midwest's far southern and western service territories including southwest Minnesota. He is based at the Iowa City warehouse. Travis comes to ITC Midwest from Utility Lines Construction Services (ULCS), where he was Regional Forester overseeing vegetation crews in the southern half of Iowa. Travis was responsible for inspecting and assessing vegetation on ITC Midwest transmission line right-of-ways for vegetation compliance. During his time at ULCS, Travis has worked under the parameters of multiple county, state and federal permits. He understands the importance of fostering strong relationships with the government bodies issuing permits, which provided him strong background and tools that ITC Midwest needs to operate successfully.



In addition, longtime LGCA team member **Chad Levi** was recently promoted to Senior Permitting Specialist. Chad is based in the Cedar Rapids office and has responsibility for eastern Iowa, most of Illinois and Wisconsin, and southeastern Minnesota.

ITC MIDWEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS PERMITTING SPECIALISTS

Local Government and Community Affairs Permitting Specialists work with state, county and local officials to ensure good working relations and consistent communications during capital and maintenance projects. Permitting Specialists obtain all necessary permits once local governments approve ITC Midwest projects. Permitting Specialists help ensure ITC Midwest crews and contractors adhere to local, county, state and federal regulations. Permitting Specialists maintain accurate project records and renewals for permits, working with local government officials to address any concerns.

CONTACTS:

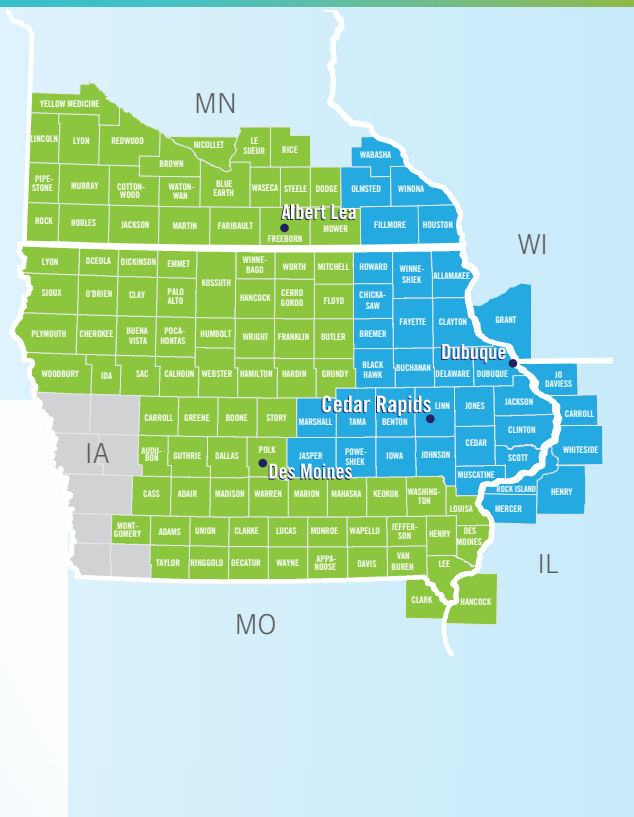
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ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING

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AREA MANAGERS

Local Government and Community Affairs Area Managers work with local city councils, county boards of supervisors, township officials, natural resources districts, chambers of commerce, economic development boards, department of transportation staff members and others to coordinate ITC Midwest communications, work activities and transmission system projects.

CONTACTS:

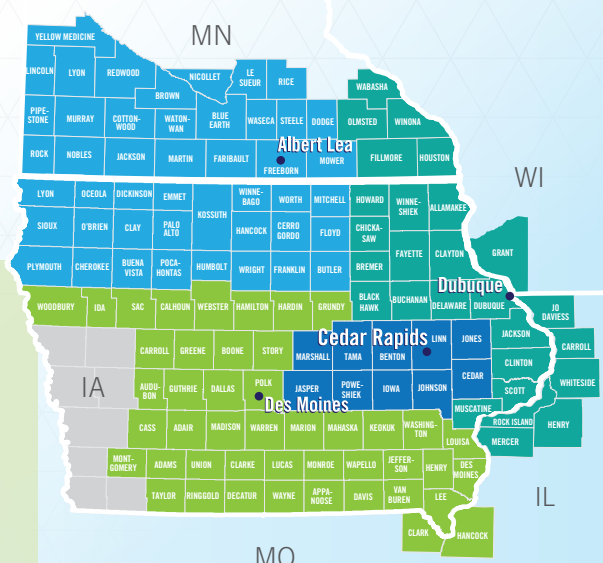
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1 Position Currently Open

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3 Mike Frank, Area Manager-Albert Lea
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4 Nicole Breitbach, Area Manager-Dubuque
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February 2025

In Memory of Our LGCA Colleague Cydney Lovell

Cydney Lovell, who served as an LGCA Area Manager in Cedar Rapids, passed away on December 15, 2024, surrounded by her loving family following a hard-fought battle with breast cancer.

Over the past five years, many of you have had the opportunity to get to know Cydney as someone who lit up every room that she entered with her outgoing personality, sense of humor, and positive outlook on life. Cydney was truly an unforgettable person who became a friend almost instantly to everyone she met. Those personal characteristics translated well into her position as an LGCA Area Manager, where she readily and rapidly made connections and friendships with her professional colleagues within the company and the contacts in the many communities she served.

Cydney was especially well known among city leaders, key stakeholders and non-profit leaders throughout her service area. She played important leadership roles with several organizations including the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, the Marion Chamber of Commerce, the Cedar Rapids Boys and Girls Club, and the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, among others.

Thanks to all of you who have supported Cydney and her family over the past 16 months during this extremely difficult time. She will be greatly missed at ITC Midwest.

As we determine our path forward, please contact ITC Midwest LGCA Director Troy Weary at tweary@itctransco.com or 515-509-4273 with any questions or issues that need to be addressed.

