



Great Plains Clean Energy Transmission Summit

Monday, October 21, 2013

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Continuing Education Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul
1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

DRAFT AGENDA

- 8:30 AM Registration and Breakfast**
- 9:00 AM Welcoming Remarks**
- 9:15 AM Transmission: Essential Infrastructure for the American Economy**
- **James Hoecker**, *Counsel, WIRES Group; Former FERC Chairman*
- 9:45 AM The Midwest: Leading the Way on Clean Energy Transmission**
What can other regions of the country learn from the experience of the region? Leadership in planning, cost allocation and siting of transmission, and in the development of diverse renewable resources around the region.
- **Moderator: Dan Haugen**, *Energy Journalism Fellow, Midwest Energy News*
 - **Teresa Mogensen**, *Vice President of Transmission, Xcel Energy*
 - **Rolf Nordstrom**, *Executive Director, Great Plains Institute*
 - **Beth Soholt**, *Executive Director, Wind on the Wires*
 - **Michael Skelly**, *President, Clean Line Energy Partners*
- 11:00 AM Updating Transmission Policy for a Clean Energy Future**
Renewable energy and transmission are technically proven and cost effective now – the primary barriers to their further development are policies and institutions designed decades ago for very different challenges than the ones we face today.
- **Moderator: Ken Paulman**, *Editor, Midwest Energy News*
 - **John Moore**, *Senior Attorney, Sustainable FERC Project*
 - **Jonathan Hladik**, *Energy Policy Advocate, Center for Rural Affairs*
 - **Phyllis Reha**, *Former Commissioner, Minnesota Public Utility Commission*
 - **Will Kaul**, *Vice President of Transmission, Great River Energy*
- 12:15 PM Lunch**

- 12:45 PM Lunch Keynote Address**
- **Lauren Azar**, *Former Senior Advisor, US Department of Energy; Former Commissioner of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission*
- 1:45 PM The Clean Energy Transmission Economy: Much More Than Wires**
 Transmission enables large scale renewable energy development and spurs growth in manufacturing and supply chains for generating and transmission technologies. A robust, modern high-voltage transmission system is essential economic infrastructure. Transmission cuts electricity prices and benefits corporate energy users and ratepayers generally.
- **Kristine M. Schmidt**, *President, ITC Great Plains*
 - **Jim Fixsen**, *Central Region Sales Manager, Bell Lumber & Poles*
 - **Frank James**, *Staff Director, Dakota Rural Action*
 - **Al Bloniarz**, *Senior Vice President, Systems Control*
- 3:00 PM Unlocking Clean Energy Potential: Transmission is the Key**
 Transmission makes high levels of renewable energy possible by: bringing the largest and lowest cost renewable resources to market, linking balancing areas and diverse resources to improve reliability and reduce variability, allowing exports/imports with neighboring regions, and eliminating congestion that curtails generation. While distributed resources have a role to play in a clean energy future, they, too, rely on and benefit from increased transmission.
- **Dan Prowse**, *Special Projects and Renewable Energy Officer, Manitoba Hydro*
 - **Erin Stojan Ruccolo**, *Director of Energy Markets, Fresh Energy*
 - **Mark Spurr**, *Legislative Director, International District Energy Association*
- 4:15 PM Closing Remarks and Discussion**
- 4:30 PM Adjourn**