62nd Annual Midwest Power Systems Conference Program Schedule

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

7:15 AM	**Registration and Breakfast**							
	General Session							
	Moderator: Greg Schuttte **Co-Moderator:** Mark Tiemeier							
8:00 - 8:15 AM	**Welcome** Greg Schutte, Great River Energy & Chair of the MIPSYCON Planning Committee							
8:15 - 9:05 AM	**General Session 1 -** Market trends and resource challenges for utilities- Jon Brekke Great River Energy							
9:10 - 10:00 AM	**General Session 2 -** AI Data Centers and the Power Grid – What's the Problem and How Can We Get Through It? - Andrew Isaacs - Electranix Corporation							
10:00 - 10:15 AM	**Break**							
10:15 - 11:05 AM	**General Session 3 -** Ethical Decision Making for Engineers - Richard Kyte, Viterbo University							
11:10 AM - 12:00 PM	**General Session 4 -** Powering Growth: A Regulator's Perspective on Planning the Next Generation Grid **-** Commissioner John Tuma - Minnesota Public Utilities Commission							
12:00 PM	**Lunch (Exhibit Hall B)**							
	AI - Powering Intelligence	**Room**	**Power Intersection**	**Room**	**Protection Systems I**	**Room**	**End of the Line - The Grid's Last Mile**	**Room**
	Moderator: Mark T. **Co-Moderators:** Will L., Emily N.		**Moderator:** Mike C. **Co-Moderators:** Emily R., Neil S.		**Moderator:** Josh L. **Co-Moderators:** John B., Shafy I.		**Moderator:** Chris P. **Co-Moderators:** Sarah S. Dan S.	
1:00 - 1:50 PM	Beyond Megawatts: Understanding the Grid Impacts of Modern Data Center Design *Speaker* : Nick Welch, Black & Veatch	**Ballroom AB**	Performance of a Cost-Effective Design to Prevent Breaker Failures Due to Excessive RRRV During Capacitor Bank Fault Clearing *Speakers:* Vishwas Mahaveera, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Inc. and Pratap Mysore, Ulteig	**Ballroom CD**	From Complexity to Consistency: Reframing Fault Response Requirements for Inverter-Based Resources *Speaker* : Bogdan Kasztenny, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	Inside Urban Networks *Speakers* : Alexander Schmidt and Owen Krueger, HDR, Inc.	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**
1:55 - 2:45 PM	Applying AI Across the Capital Project Lifecycle *Speaker* : Khaled Abdellatif and AJ Perron, Pioneer Management Consulting	**Ballroom AB**	Engineering Considerations for DTB and LTB Application in the Midwest: Cold-Weather Behavior, Gas Options, and System Reliability *Speaker* : Chunming Ma, Burns & McDonnell, Jim Zhong, American Transmission Company and Jan Weisker, Siemens Energy	**Ballroom CD**	Time-Domain Based Protection for Transmission Lines: Secure and Reliable Solution for Complex Networks *Speaker* : Michael Kockott, Hitachi Energy USA Inc.	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	"Small" Transmission Projects: Easy, Right? Not So Fast—Lessons from the Field *Speaker* : Brian Mielke, WSB	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**
2:45 - 3:15 PM	**Break**							
3:15 - 4:05 PM	Automating the Grid: A Practical Framework for Integrating AI and Digital Twins in Substation Engineering *Speakers* : Charlie Li and Chunming Ma, Burns & McDonnell; Terry Wang, Sacramento Municipal Utility District	**Ballroom AB**	The Journey from Conservatism to Performance – the Status of IEEE 80 and 81 *Speaker* : Bryan Beske, Safearth Americas, Corp	**Ballroom CD**	Improving Apparent Impedance Calculations in Systems With IBRs *Speaker* : Ryan McDaniel, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. and Michael Rader, Minnesota Power	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	The Power in your Hands: Designing the Future with Microgrids *Speaker* : Daniel Voss, HDR, Inc.	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**
4:10 - 5:00 PM	AI-Driven Power Quality Analytics for Industrial Electrical Resilience *Speaker:* Alkeshkumar Patel, Siemens	**Ballroom AB**	Using 1MHz Recorders to Capture Switching Transients for Tertiary-Connected Shunt Reactors *Speaker* : James Redinger, Xcel Energy and Pratap Mysore, Ulteig	**Ballroom CD**	Series Capacitor Line Protection *Speaker* : Daniel Ransom, General Electric Vernova	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	A Happy Marriage—Sizing Services and Transformers for Life-Long Bliss *Speakers* : Scott Iverson, MWEC and Jeremy Butman, Prairie Engineering, and Greg Owen, Capital Electric Cooperative	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**
5:00 PM	**Adjourn**							
5:00 - 7:30 PM	**Exhibitor Showcase Social**							

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

7:30 AM	**Registration and Breakfast**							
	High Energy, High Voltage	**Room**	**Operations & Maintenance Management**	**Room**	**Generation for the Modern Grid**	**Room**	**The Connected Grid**	**Room**
	Moderator: Dan S. **Co-Moderators:** Mike C., Darrick B.		**Moderator:** Greg O. **Co-Moderators:** Neil S., Will P.		**Moderator:** Ruth P. **Co-Moderators:** Pete M., Ed S.		**Moderator:** Dan L. **Co-Moderators:** Christian F., Aaron D.	
8:00 - 8:50 AM	Replacing a "Landmark": Engineering and Construction of the Hobart Lake Transmission Crossing *Speakers:* Cameron Dahlin, HDR Inc. and Skylar Ertman, Minnkota Power Cooperative	**Ballroom AB**	Xcel Energy's ADMS Fire Mitigation Strategy *Speaker* : Luther Blume, Xcel Energy	**Ballroom CD**	Rainbow Energy and Coal Creek Station - A Powerful Story *Speaker* : Ethan Vaagene, Rainbow Energy Center	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	Private Communication Network for Substations using OPGW Speaker: Brian Henke and Jordan Krueger, Xcel Energy; Matt Bill, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Inc.	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**

8:55 - 9:45 AM	Scaling High Voltage Equipment to 765kV: Design Principles and Engineering Challenges *Speakers* : Peter Dopplmair and Daniele Buscemi, Trench Group	**Ballroom AB**	The Hidden Faults Driving Outages and Wildfires A New Era of Predictive Grid Intelligence *Speaker:* Mike Adams, IND Technology	**Ballroom CD**	Fuel Cells: A Viable Alternative to Gas-Fired Power Generation for Large Loads *Speaker* : Justin Distler, Black & Veatch	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	Modern Substation Communication Networks *Speakers:* Matt Valek, Burns & McDonnell and Raymond White, Xcel Energy	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**
9:45 - 10:00 AM	**Break**							
10:00 - 10:50 AM	One Shot, One Opportunity… to Rebuild 8 Mile's Transmission Line *Speakers* : Jack Cameron, Siddarthan Mohan, Black & Veatch and Jessica Gruca, ITC	**Ballroom AB**	Establishing an Enterprise Operator Training Simulator (OTS) Program *Speaker* : David Schindele, Connexus Energy	**Ballroom CD**	Navigating the Shift to Inverter-Based Generation: Selecting Effective Power Oscillation Damping Architectures Speaker : Brian Waldron, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	Pilot Studies of Distributed Energy Resource Management Applications *Speakers* : Griffin Anderson and Michael Hendrickson, WSB	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**
10:55 - 11:45 AM	Heavily Shunt Compensated Lines: Issues from delayed zero crossings, and the Ferranti effect and how to remediate them *Speakers* : Kandas Graham, Xcel Energy and Ben Sherman, Burns & McDonnell	**Ballroom AB**	A Look Behind the Curtain - Retail Rate Design for Engineers *Speaker* : Luke Steen, Capital Electric Cooperative	**Ballroom CD**	*Batteries Supporting Large Loads – the Impacts of Design Decisions Speaker* : Avery Calhoun, Burns & McDonnell	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	Functional and Architectural Considerations in Selecting DER Gateways for Secure and Scalable DER Integration *Speaker* : Brian Waldron, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. and Yashar Kenarangui, Xcel Energy	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**
12:00 PM	**Lunch (Exhibit Hall B)**							
	System Planning - Beyond Studies	**Room**	**Build It Right**	**Room**	**Protection Systems II**	**Room**	**Asset Monitoring- Looking Deeper**	**Room**
	Moderator: Mike M. **Co-Moderators:** Ruth P., Will L.		**Moderator:** Sarah S. **Co-Moderators:** Emily N., Greg S.		**Moderator:** Pratap M. **Co-Moderators:** John B., Shafy I.		**Moderator:** Christian F. **Co-Moderators:** Greg O., Darrick B.	
1:00 - 1:50 PM	The Future of MISO's LRTP *Speaker* : James Slegers, MISO Energy	**Ballroom AB**	Rethinking Substation Design: Prioritizing Constructability for Safer, Faster Steel Erection *Speaker* s: Cody Riepl and Charlie Li, Burns & McDonnell	**Ballroom CD**	Field-Tested Method for Detecting Broken Conductors in Power Lines With Multiple Taps *Speakers* : Josh LaBlanc, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. and Joe Livingston, Great River Energy	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	Circuit Breaker Life Monitoring: Critical Enabler to Protection Schemes *Speaker* : Michael Kockott, Hitachi Energy USA, Inc.	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**
1:55 - 2:45 PM	Deploying Distributed Batteries for Integrated System Capacity: Lessons from Xcel Energy's Capacity*Connect Program *Speaker* : Patrick Dalton, Sparkfund and Gabe Gauderman, Xcel	**Ballroom AB**	Strategic Infrastructure Hardening with the Pole Reclassification System (PRS) *Speakers* : Keal Messersmith, Laminated Wood Systems and Ryan Callahan, Central Power Electric Cooperative	**Ballroom CD**	Designing Telecom Infrastructure for Protection *Speakers* : Nidas Kudzina and Matt Valek, Burns & McDonnell	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	How Inverter Based Generation Stresses Power Equipment, Leading to Failure *Speaker:* Mark Tostrud, Dynamic Ratings	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**
2:45 - 3:15 PM	**Break**							
3:15 - 4:05 PM	Integrating Data Centers into Utility Distribution Systems *Speaker* : Stephen Fung, Electric Power Engineers; Kristy Baksh, Teco Energy	**Ballroom AB**	Urban Substation Redevelopment: Design and Delivery of a Brownfield GIS Substation Speaker: Nick Gaspar and Bryce Hansen, Black & Veatch	**Ballroom CD**	Replacing Uncertainty With Predictability at Xcel: Risk-Driven Evaluation of Digital Secondary Systems *Speakers* : Lauren Donati, Xcel Energy and David Dolezilek, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	Tree Times the Charm: A Cultivated Approach to Targeted Tree Trimming *Speaker* : Mychal Kistler, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**
4:10 - 5:00 PM	Case Study: A Systematic Approach to Evaluating Generator Shaft Torsional Risks Near Large AI Data Center Loads *Speaker* : Novan Zakkia, Hitachi Energy	**Ballroom AB**	ASCE MOP 160: Design of Overhead Power Line and Substation Foundations *Speakers* : Simon Murley, Burns & McDonell, Molly Pruess, Great River Energy and Jeff Gutzman, Xcel Energy	**Ballroom CD**	The Evolution – From Hardware Intensive to Software Defined Grid Automation Speakers: Kamyar Moghadam and Evandro De Oliveira, Siemens Industry Inc.	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	Wireless Fault Indicators in Practice: Real-World Findings, Software Integration, and Next-Generation Capabilities *Speaker* : William Marshall, Smart Grid Solutions	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**
5:00 PM	**Adjourn**							

Thursday, November 12, 2026

7:45 AM	**Registration and Breakfast**							
	Tutorial I	**Room**	**Tutorial II**	**Room**	**Tutorial III**	**Room**	**Tutorial IV**	**Room**
	Moderator: Sarah S. **Co-Moderators:** Mike C., Will L.		**Moderator:** Emily R. **Co-Moderators:** Emily N., Josh L.		**Moderator:** Mark T. **Co-Moderators:** Pete M., Chris P.		**Moderator:** Aaron D. **Co-Moderators:** Ed S., Mike M.	
8:15 - 10:00 AM	Interconnection Issues With Large Loads for Transmission *Speaker* : Doug Houseman, Burns & McDonnell	**Ballroom A**	Substation Planning Tutorial Focused on 765kV and Data Center Applications *Speakers* : Joe Gravelle, Xcel Energy, Logan Lauder, Burns & McDonnell and Eduardo Ramierez Betoni, Powell	**Ballroom EF**	Building All-Star Teams: Right Bus, Right Seat, Right Time *Speaker* : Kevin Miiller, ITCB Consulting	**Meeting Rooms 1-3**	Engineering Essentials for Designing Utility-Scale Solar PV Systems *Speaker* : Civil, electrical, and structural experts from HDR and Minnesota Power	**Meeting Rooms 4-6**
10:00 - 10:15 AM	**Break**							
10:15 AM - 12:00 PM	**Continued**							
12:00 PM	**Adjourn**							