

62nd Annual Minnesota Power Systems Conference Program Schedule								
Tuesday, November 10, 2026								
7:30 AM	Registration							
	General Session							
	Moderator: Greg Schuttte Co-Moderator: Mark Tiemeier Room Moderator: Room Moderator:							
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 - 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							
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							
	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 Full Complexity of Modern Data Centers and Their Impact on the Power System <i>Speaker</i> : 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 <i>Speakers</i> : Vishwas Mahaveera, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories and Pratap Mysore, Ulteig	Ballroom CD	From Complexity to Consistency: Reframing Fault Response Requirements for Inverter-Based Resources <i>Speaker</i> : Bogdan Kasztenny, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.	Meeting Rooms 1-3	Inside Urban Networks <i>Speakers</i> : Alexander Schmidt and Owen Krueger, HDR, Inc.	Meeting Rooms 4-6
1:55 - 2:45 PM	Applying AI Across the Capital Project Lifecycle <i>Speaker</i> : 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 <i>Speaker</i> : 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 <i>Speaker</i> : Michael Kockott, Hitachi Energy USA Inc.	Meeting Rooms 1-3	“Small” Transmission Projects: Easy, Right? Not So Fast—Lessons from the Field <i>Speaker</i> : 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 <i>Speakers</i> : 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 <i>Speaker</i> : Bryan Beske, Safearth Americas, Corp	Ballroom CD	Improving Apparent Impedance Calculations in Systems With IBRs <i>Speaker</i> : 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 <i>Speaker</i> : Daniel Voss, HDR, Inc.	Meeting Rooms 4-6
4:10 - 5:00 PM	<i>Speaker</i> : Alkeshkumar Patel	Ballroom AB	Using 1MHz Recorders to Capture Switching Transients for Tertiary-Connected Shunt Reactors <i>Speaker</i> : James Redinger, Xcel Energy and Pratap Mysore, Ulteig	Ballroom CD	Series Capacitor Line Protection <i>Speaker</i> : Daniel Ransom, General Electric Vernova	Meeting Rooms 1-3	A Happy Marriage—Sizing Services and Transformers for Life-Long Bliss <i>Speakers</i> : Scott Iverson, MWEC and Jeremy Butman, Prairie Engineering, and Greg Owen, Capital Electric Cooperative	Meeting Rooms 4-6
5:00 PM	Adjourn							
5:00 - 7:00 PM	Exhibitor Showcase Social							
Wednesday, November 11, 2026								
7:45 AM	Registration							
	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 <i>Speakers</i> : Cameron Dahlin, HDR Inc. and Skylar Ertman, Minnkota Power Cooperative	Ballroom AB	Xcel Energy’s ADMS Fire Mitigation Strategy <i>Speaker</i> : Luther Blume, Xcel Energy	Ballroom CD	Rainbow Energy and Coal Creek Station - A Powerful Story <i>Speaker</i> : Ethan Vaagene, Rainbow Energy Center	Meeting Rooms 1-3	Navigating Legacy Communication Circuit Retirement <i>Speakers</i> : Matt Valek, Burns & McDonnell and Raymond White, Xcel Energy	Meeting Rooms 4-6
8:55 - 9:45 AM	Scaling High Voltage Equipment to 765kV: Design Principles and Engineering Challenges <i>Speakers</i> : Pete Dopplmair and Daniele Buscemi, Trench Group	Ballroom AB	The Hidden Faults Driving Outages and Wildfires A New Era of Predictive Grid Intelligence <i>Speaker</i> : Mike Adams, IND	Ballroom CD	Fuel Cells: A Viable Alternative to Gas-Fired Power Generation for Large Loads <i>Speaker</i> : Justin Distler, Black & Veatch	Meeting Rooms 1-3	Private Communication Network for Substations using OPGW <i>Speaker</i> : Brian Henke and Jordan Krueger, Xcel Energy; Matt Bill, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories	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 <i>Speakers</i> : Jack Cameron, Siddharthan Mohan, Black & Veatch and Jessica Gruca, ITC	Ballroom AB	Establishing an Enterprise Operator Training Simulator (OTS) Program <i>Speaker</i> : David Schindele, Connexus Energy	Ballroom CD	Navigating the Shift to Inverter-Based Generation: Selecting Effective Power Oscillation Damping Architectures <i>Speaker</i> : Brian Waldron, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.	Meeting Rooms 1-3	Pilot Studies of Distributed Energy Resource Management Applications <i>Speakers</i> : 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 <i>Speakers</i> : Kandas Graham, Xcel Energy and Ben Sherman, Burns & McDonnell	Ballroom AB	A Look Behind the Curtain - Retail Rate Design for Engineers <i>Speaker</i> : Luke Steen, Capital Electric Cooperative	Ballroom CD	<i>Speaker</i> : Avery Calhoun, Burns & McDonnell	Meeting Rooms 1-3	Functional and Architectural Considerations in Selecting DER Gateways for Secure and Scalable DER Integration <i>Speaker</i> : Brian Waldron, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.	Meeting Rooms 4-6
12:00 PM	Lunch							
	System Planning - Beyond Studies	Room	Build It Right	Room	Protection Systems II	Room	Asset Monitoring- Looking Deeper	Room
	<i>Moderator</i> : Mike M. <i>Co-Moderators</i> : Ruth P., Will L.		<i>Moderator</i> : Sarah S. <i>Co-Moderators</i> : Emily N., Greg S.		<i>Moderator</i> : Pratap M. <i>Co-Moderators</i> : John B., Shaify I.		<i>Moderator</i> : Christian F. <i>Co-Moderators</i> : Greg O., Darrick B.	
1:00 - 1:50 PM	The Future of MISO's LRTP <i>Speaker</i> : James Slegers, MISO Energy	Ballroom AB	Rethinking Substation Design: Prioritizing Constructability for Safer, Faster Steel Erection <i>Speakers</i> : Cody Riepl and Charlie Li, Burns & McDonnell and Yin Yonggang, PG&E	Ballroom CD	Field-Tested Method for Detecting Broken Conductors in Power Lines With Multiple Taps <i>Speakers</i> : 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 <i>Speaker</i> : 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 <i>Speaker</i> : Patrick Dalton, Sparkfund	Ballroom AB	Strategic Infrastructure Hardening with the Pole Reclassification System (PRS) <i>Speakers</i> : Keal Messersmith, Laminated Wood Systems and Ryan Callahan, Central Power Electric Cooperative	Ballroom CD	Designing Telecom Infrastructure for Protection <i>Speakers</i> : Nidas Kudzina and Matt Valek, Burns & McDonnell	Meeting Rooms 1-3	Integrating PD Monitoring and DGA for Early Fault Detection <i>Speaker</i> : Hugo Avila, Qualitrol Corporation	Meeting Rooms 4-6
2:45 - 3:15 PM	Break							
3:15 - 4:05 PM	Integrating Data Centers into Utility Distribution Systems <i>Speaker</i> : Stephen Fung, Electric Power Engineers; Kristy Baksh Teco Energy	Ballroom AB	Urban Substation Redevelopment: Design and Delivery of a Brownfield GIS Substation <i>Speaker</i> : Nick Gaspar and Bryce Hansen, Black & Veatch	Ballroom CD	Replacing Uncertainty With Predictability at Xcel: Risk-Driven Evaluation of Digital Secondary Systems <i>Speakers</i> : 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 <i>Speaker</i> : 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 <i>Speaker</i> : Novan Zakkia, Hitachi Energy	Ballroom AB	ASCE MOP 160: Design of Overhead Power Line and Substation Foundations <i>Speakers</i> : Simon Murley, Burns & McDonnell, Molly Pruess, Great River Energy and Jeff Gutzman, Xcel Energy	Ballroom CD	The Evolution – From Hardware Intensive to Software Defined Grid Automation <i>Speakers</i> : Kamyar Moghadam and Evandro De Oliveira	Meeting Rooms 1-3	Wireless Fault Indicators in Practice: Real-World Findings, Software Integration, and Next-Generation Capabilities <i>Speaker</i> : William Marshall, Smart Grid Solutions	Meeting Rooms 4-6
5:00 PM	Adjourn							
Thursday, November 12, 2026								
8:00 AM	Registration							
	Tutorial I	Room	Tutorial II	Room	Tutorial III	Room	Tutorial IV	Room
	<i>Moderator</i> : Sarah S. <i>Co-Moderators</i> : Mike C., Will L.		<i>Moderator</i> : Emily R. <i>Co-Moderators</i> : Emily N., Josh L.		<i>Moderator</i> : Mark T. <i>Co-Moderators</i> : Pete M., Chris P.		<i>Moderator</i> : Aaron D. <i>Co-Moderators</i> : Ed S., Mike M.	
8:15 - 10:00 AM	Interconnection Issues With Large Loads for Transmission <i>Speaker</i> : Doug Houseman, Burns & McDonnell	Ballroom A	Substation Planning Tutorial Focused on 765kV and Data Center Applications <i>Speakers</i> : Joe Gravelle, Xcel Energy, Logan Lauder, Burns & McDonnell and Eduardo Ramirez Betoni, Powell	Ballroom EF	Building All-Star Teams: Right Bus, Right Seat, Right Time <i>Speaker</i> : Kevin Miiller, ITCB Consulting	Meeting Rooms 1-3	Engineering Essentials for Designing Utility-Scale Solar PV Systems <i>Speaker</i> : Steve Gartner, HDR Engineering, Inc and other experts from HRD & MP	Meeting Rooms 4-6
10:00 - 10:15 AM	Break							
10:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Continued							
12:00 PM	Adjourn							