

62nd Annual Minnesota Power Systems Conference Program Schedule				
Tentative Agenda—Subject to Change				
Tuesday, November 10, 2026				
7:15 AM	Registration			
General Session				
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 - John 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 - 12:00 am	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	Power Intersection	Protection Systems I	End of the Line - The Grid's Last Mile
	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 Speaker: Kyle Kropf, Black & Veatch	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 and Pratap Mysore, Ulteig	From Complexity to Consistency: Reframing Fault Response Requirements for Inverter-Based Resources Speaker: Bogdan Kasztenny, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.	Inside Urban Networks Speakers: Alexander Schmidt and Owen Krueger, HDR, Inc.
1:55 - 2:45 pm	Applying AI Across the Capital Project Lifecycle Speaker: Khaled Abdellatif and Cole Rein, Pioneer Management Consulting	Engineering Considerations for DTB and LTB Application in the Midwest: Cold-Weather Behavior, Gas Options, and System Reliability Speaker: Chunming Ma, Burns & McDonnell	Time-domain based Protection for Transmission Lines: Secure and Reliable Solution for Complex Networks Speaker: Michael Kockott, Hitachi Energy USA Inc.	“Small” Transmission Projects: Easy, Right? Not So Fast—Lessons from the Field Speaker: Brian Mielke, WSB
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 Terry Wang, Burns & McDonnell; Chunming Ma,	The Journey from Conservatism to Performance – the Status of IEEE 80 and 81 Speaker: Keith Wallace, Safearth Americas, Corp	Improving Apparent Impedance Calculations in Systems With IBRs Speaker: Ryan McDaniel, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. and Michael Rader, Minnesota Power	The Power in your Hands: Designing the Future with Microgrids Speaker: Daniel Voss, HDR, Inc.
4:10 - 5:00 pm	AI Driven Power Quality Analytics for Industrial Electrical Resilience Speaker: Sarat Chandra Vegunta, Siemens Power Technologies International	Using 1MHz Recorders to Capture Switching Transients for Tertiary-Connected Shunt Reactors Speaker: James Redinger, Xcel Energy and Pratap Mysore, Ulteig	Series Capacitor Line Protection Speaker: Daniel Ransom, General Electric Vernova	A Happy Marriage—Sizing Services and Transformers for Life-Long Bliss Speakers: Scott Iverson, MVEC and Jeremy Butman, Prairie Engineering, and Greg Owen, Capital Electric Cooperative
5:00 pm	Adjourn			
5:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Exhibitor Showcase Social			

Tentative Agenda—Subject to Change

Wednesday, November 11, 2026				
7:30 am	Registration			
	High Energy—High Voltage	Operations & Maintenance Management	Generation for the Modern Grid	The Connected Grid
	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: Cameron Dahlin, HDR Inc. and Skylar Ertman, Minnkota Power Cooperative</i>	Xcel Energy's ADMS Fire Mitigation Strategy <i>Speaker: Luther Blume, Xcel Energy</i>	Rainbow Energy and Coal Creek Station - A Powerful Story <i>Speaker: Ethan Vaagene, Rainbow Energy Center</i>	Navigating Legacy Communication Circuit Retirement <i>Speakers: Matt Valek, Burns & McDonnell and Raymond White, Xcel Energy</i>
8:55 - 9:45 am	Scaling High Voltage Equipment to 765kV: Design Principles and Engineering Challenges <i>Speakers: Pete Dopplmair and Daniele Buscemi, Trench Group</i>	The Hidden Faults Driving Outages and Wildfires: A New Era of Predictive Grid Intelligence <i>Speaker: Mike Adams, IND Technology</i>	Fuel Cells: A Viable Alternative to Gas-Fired Power Generation for Large Loads <i>Speaker: Justin Distler, Black & Veatch</i>	Private Communication Network for Substations using OPGW <i>Speaker: Brian Henke and Jordan Krueger, Xcel Energy; Matt Bill, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories</i>
9:45 - 10:00 am	Break			
10:00 - 10:50 am	One shot, One opportunity... to Rebuild 8 Mile’s Transmission Line <i>Speakers: Jack Cameron, Siddarthan Mohan, Black & Veatch and Jessica Gruca, ITC</i>	Establishing an Enterprise Operator Training Simulator (OTS) Program <i>Speaker: David Schindele, Connexus Energy</i>	Navigating the Shift to Inverter Based Generation: Selecting Effective Power Oscillation Damping Architectures <i>Speaker: Konrad Schmitt, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.</i>	Pilot Studies of Distributed Energy Resource Management Applications <i>Speakers: Griffin Anderson and Michael Hendrickson, WSB</i>
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: Kandas Graham, Xcel Energy and Ben Sherman, Burns & McDonnell</i>	A Look Behind the Curtain - Retail Rate Design for Engineers <i>Speaker: Luke Steen, Capital Electric Cooperative</i>	Batteries Supporting Large Loads – the Impacts of Design Decisions <i>Speaker: Josh Crawford, Burns & McDonnell</i>	Functional and Architectural Considerations in Selecting DER Gateways for Secure and Scalable DER Integration <i>Speaker: Brian Waldron, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.</i>
Noon	Lunch			
	Systems Planning—Beyond Studies	Build it Right	Protection Systems II	Asset Monitoring—Looking Deeper
	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 <i>Speaker: James Slegers, MISO Energy</i>	Rethinking Substation Design: Prioritizing Constructability for Safer, Faster Steel Erection <i>Speakers: Cody Riepl and Charlie Li, Burns & McDonnell and Yin Yonggang, PG&E</i>	Field-Tested Method for Detecting Broken Conductors in Power Lines With Multiple Taps <i>Speakers: Josh LaBlanc, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. and Joe Livingston, Great River Energy</i>	Circuit Breaker Life Monitoring: Critical Enabler to Protection Schemes <i>Speaker: Michael Kockott, Hitachi Energy USA, Inc.</i>
1:55 - 2:45 pm	Deploying Distributed Batteries for Integrated System Capacity: Lessons from Xcel Energy's Capacity*Connect Program <i>Speaker: Patrick Dalton, Sparkfund</i>	Strategic Infrastructure Hardening with the Pole Reclassification System (PRS) <i>Speakers: Keal Messersmith, Laminated Wood Systems and Ryan Callahan, Central Power Electric Cooperative</i>	Designing Telecom Infrastructure for Protection <i>Speakers: Nidas Kudzina and Matt Valek, Burns & McDonnell</i>	Integrating PD Monitoring and DGA for Early Fault Detection <i>Speaker: Hugo Avila, Qualitrol Corporation</i>
2:45 - 3:15 pm	Break			

3:15 - 4:05 pm	Integrating Data Centers into Utility Distribution Systems <i>Speaker: Stephen Fung, Electric Power Engineers</i>	Urban Substation Redevelopment: Design and Delivery of a Brownfield GIS Substation <i>Speaker: Nick Gaspar and Bryce Hansen, Black & Veatch</i>	Replacing Uncertainty With Predictability at Xcel: Risk-Driven Evaluation of Digital Secondary Systems <i>Speakers: Lauren Donati, Xcel Energy and David Dolezilek, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.</i>	Tree Times the Charm: A Cultivated Approach to Targeted Tree Trimming <i>Speaker: Mychal Kistler, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.</i>
4:10 - 5:00 pm	Case Study: A Systematic Approach to Evaluating Generator Shaft Torsional Risks Near Large AI Data Center Loads <i>Speaker: Novan Zakkia, Hitachi Energy</i>	ASCE MOP 160: Design of Overhead Power Line and Substation Foundations <i>Speakers: Simon Murley, Burns & McDonell, Molly Pruess, Great River Energy and Jeff Gutzman, Xcel Energy</i>	The Evolution – From Hardware Intensive to Software Defined Grid Automation <i>Speakers: Kamyar Moghadam and Evandro De Oliveira</i>	Wireless Fault Indicators in Practice: Real-World Findings, Software Integration, and Next-Generation Capabilities <i>Speaker: William Marshall, Smart Grid Solutions</i>

Thursday, November 12, 2026				
7:30 am	Registration			
	Tutorial I	Tutorial II	Tutorial III	Tutorial IV
	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 <i>Speaker: Doug Houseman, Burns & McDonnell</i>	Substation Planning Tutorial Focused on 765kV and Data Center Applications <i>Speakers: Joe Gravelle, Xcel Energy, Logan Lauder, Burns & McDonnell and Edwardo Ramirez Betoni, Powell</i>	Building All-Star Teams: Right Bus, Right Seat, Right Time <i>Speaker: Kevin Miiller, ITCB Consulting</i>	Engineering Essentials for Designing Utility-Scale Solar PV Systems <i>Speaker: Steve Gartner, HDR Engineering, Inc.</i>
10:00 - 10:15 am	Break			
10:15 - 12:00 pm	Continued			
12:00 pm	Adjourn			