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, MWEC and Jeremy Butman, Prairie Engineering, and Greg Owen, Capital Electric Cooperative*
5:00 pm	**Adjourn**			
5:00 pm - 7:00 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** *Speakers: Cameron Dahlin, HDR Inc. and Skylar Ertman, Minnkota Power Cooperative*	**Xcel Energy's ADMS Fire Mitigation Strategy** *Speaker: Luther Blume, Xcel Energy*	**Rainbow Energy and Coal Creek Station - A Powerful Story** *Speaker: Ethan Vaagene, Rainbow Energy Center*	**Navigating Legacy Communication Circuit Retirement** *Speakers: Matt Valek, Burns & McDonnell and Raymond White, Xcel Energy*
8:55 - 9:45 am	**Scaling High Voltage Equipment to 765kV: Design Principles and Engineering Challenges** *Speakers: Pete Dopplmair and Daniele Buscemi, Trench Group*	**The Hidden Faults Driving Outages and Wildfires: A New Era of Predictive Grid Intelligence** *Speaker: Mike Adams, IND Technology*	**Fuel Cells: A Viable Alternative to Gas-Fired Power Generation for Large Loads** *Speaker: Justin Distler, Black & Veatch*	**Private Communication Network for Substations using OPGW** *Speaker: Brian Henke and Jordan Krueger, Xcel Energy; Matt Bill, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories*
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*	**Establishing an Enterprise Operator Training Simulator (OTS) Program** *Speaker: David Schindele, Connexus Energy*	**Navigating the Shift to Inverter Based Generation: Selecting Effective Power Oscillation Damping Architectures** *Speaker: Konrad Schmitt, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.*	**Pilot Studies of Distributed Energy Resource Management Applications** *Speakers: Griffin Anderson and Michael Hendrickson, WSB*
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*	**A Look Behind the Curtain - Retail Rate Design for Engineers** *Speaker: Luke Steen, Capital Electric Cooperative*	**Batteries Supporting Large Loads – the Impacts of Design Decisions** *Speaker: Josh Crawford, Burns & McDonnell*	**Functional and Architectural Considerations in Selecting DER Gateways for Secure and Scalable DER Integration** *Speaker: Brian Waldron, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.*
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** *Speaker: James Slegers, MISO Energy*	**Rethinking Substation Design: Prioritizing Constructability for Safer, Faster Steel Erection** *Speakers: Cody Riepl and Charlie Li, Burns & McDonnell and Yin Yonggang, PG&E*	**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*	**Circuit Breaker Life Monitoring: Critical Enabler to Protection Schemes** *Speaker: Michael Kockott, Hitachi Energy USA, Inc.*
1:55 - 2:45 pm	**Deploying Distributed Batteries for Integrated System Capacity: Lessons from Xcel Energy's Capacity*Connect Program** *Speaker: Patrick Dalton, Sparkfund*	**Strategic Infrastructure Hardening with the Pole Reclassification System (PRS)** *Speakers: Keal Messersmith, Laminated Wood Systems and Ryan Callahan, Central Power Electric Cooperative*	**Designing Telecom Infrastructure for Protection** *Speakers: Nidas Kudzina and Matt Valek, Burns & McDonnell*	**Integrating PD Monitoring and DGA for Early Fault Detection** *Speaker: Hugo Avila, Qualitrol Corporation*
2:45 - 3:15 pm	**Break**			
3:15 - 4:05 pm	**Integrating Data Centers into Utility Distribution Systems** *Speaker: Stephen Fung, Electric Power Engineers*	**Urban Substation Redevelopment: Design and Delivery of a Brownfield GIS Substation** *Speaker: Nick Gaspar and Bryce Hansen, Black & Veatch*	**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.*	**Tree Times the Charm: A Cultivated Approach to Targeted Tree Trimming** *Speaker: Mychal Kistler, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.*
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*	**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*	**The Evolution – From Hardware Intensive to Software Defined Grid Automation** *Speakers: Kamyar Moghadam and Evandro De Oliveira*	**Wireless Fault Indicators in Practice: Real-World Findings, Software Integration, and Next-Generation Capabilities** *Speaker: William Marshall, Smart Grid Solutions*

TENTATIVE AGENDA–SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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** *Speaker: Doug Houseman, Burns & McDonnell*	**Substation Planning Tutorial Focused on 765kV and Data Center Applications** *Speakers: Joe Gravelle, Xcel Energy, Logan Lauder, Burns & McDonnell and Edwardo Ramierez Betoni, Powell*	**Building All-Star Teams: Right Bus, Right Seat, Right Time** *Speaker: Kevin Miiller, ITCB Consulting*	**Engineering Essentials for Designing Utility-Scale Solar PV Systems** *Speaker: Steve Gartner, HDR Engineering, Inc.*
10:00 - 10:15 am	*Break*			
10:15 - 12:00 pm	*Continued*			
12:00 pm	*Adjourn*			

Updated 8/24/26