



September 8, 2020

Mr. John Bear  
Chief Executive Office  
MidContinent Independent System Operator  
720 City Center Drive  
Carmel, IN 46032-3826

Ms. Barbara Sugg  
President and CEO  
Southwest Power Pool  
201 Worthen Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72223-4936

Mr. Manu Asthana  
President and CEO  
PJM Interconnection LLC  
2750 Monroe Boulevard  
Audubon, PA 19403

Dear Mr. Bear, Ms. Sugg, and Mr. Asthana:

The Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) convened the MID-GRID 2035 initiative beginning in September 2019. Led by state policy and regulatory leaders, the initiative is exploring the potential for a long-range transmission plan that is responsive to the state shared goals, as well as, to individual state needs. As part of this work, the MGA developed the enclosed Vision Statement in close collaboration with the participating states. We thank those states and individuals who have participated in this work to date and look forward to continuing to work together to make meaningful progress.

We are writing today for three reasons.

First, we want you to know that we appreciate the work completed to date by MISO, SPP, and PJM, as well as, their respective state regulatory committees. We understand that rapid technological innovation makes long-range transmission planning increasingly complex. Moreover, as the grid and technologies connected to it evolve, so too does the nature of the reliability needs and solutions available to meet them. All of which must be incorporated into regional planning processes. Therefore, we are encouraged by recent announcements that long-range transmission planning efforts will begin this year and look forward to close collaboration to ensure the regional grid continues to provide tremendous value to our states.

Second, we would like to respectfully share our expectations moving forward, as well as, our sense of urgency. States participating in the MID-GRID 2035 initiative share the general objectives outlined in the enclosed Vision Statement. More specifically, we ask that you explore both short-term (five to ten years) and long-term (twenty to twenty-five years) comprehensive plans.

Potential solutions to short-term transmission issues need to fit into a long-term transmission “blueprint” or the grid could continue to act as a barrier to industry evolution for decades to come. Because the industry is changing so quickly, these long-term solutions should be scalable, flexible, and meet the needs of all the states. Therefore, the MGA continues to support the evaluation of creative long-term, region-wide solutions that will allow states, their utilities, and their customers to meet their goals and objectives. In summary, we believe that we need a grid that will support continued innovation over the long-term, while ensuring that reliable, low-cost energy is available when and where it is needed.

Third, the MGA, in cooperation with states and stakeholders, looks forward to continued collaboration with all three RTOs and the opportunity to continue to provide insight into issues and solutions.

The MGA anticipates continued cooperation with states and stakeholders to further explore the implications of our shared and individual goals. We also look forward to continuing to work with you and the opportunity to continue to provide input into issues and solutions being considered by RTOs.

Sincerely,



Kim Reynolds  
Governor of Iowa  
Chair, Midwestern Governors Association



Tim Walz  
Governor of Minnesota  
Vice-Chair, Midwestern Governors Association