

Direct Testimony and Schedule
Thomas C. Petersen

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION DOCKET No. E002, ET6675/CN-17-184
OF NORTHERN STATES POWER
COMPANY AND ITC MIDWEST LLC OAH DOCKET No. 82-2500-35157
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE
HUNTLEY-WILMARTH 345 kV
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION DOCKET No. E002, ET6675/RP-17-185
TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION FOR A ROUTE PERMIT OAH Docket No. 82-2500-35157
FOR THE HUNTLEY-WILMARTH 345 kV
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

THOMAS C. PETERSEN

On Behalf of

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY,
A MINNESOTA CORPORATION

and

ITC MIDWEST LLC

September 6, 2018

Exhibit ____ (TCP-1)

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Resume of Thomas Petersen	Schedule 1
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I. INTRODUCTION

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Thomas C. Petersen, and my business address is 123 Fifth Street SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401.

Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

A. I am employed as the Director – Public Affairs for ITC Midwest LLC (ITC Midwest), one of the co-applicants in this proceeding.

Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE.

A. I have been in my current position since June 2017. In this role, I support our capital project teams and work with stakeholders on issues of mutual interest. Prior to that, I was the Director – Communications for ITC Midwest for approximately nine years. In that role, I worked on a variety of capital project teams, interacting with communities, news media, and landowners throughout the regulatory and construction process. Before working for ITC Midwest, I was employed in various positions at Alliant Energy Corporation and its predecessor companies. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism, a Master of Arts in Journalism, and a Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning, all from the University of Iowa. Additional details regarding my background are provided in my resume, attached as Exhibit___ (TCP-1), Schedule 1.

1 Q. FOR WHOM ARE YOU TESTIFYING?

2 A. I am testifying on behalf of Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest (collectively,
3 Applicants) for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Huntley –
4 Wilmarth 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project (Huntley – Wilmarth
5 Project or Project).

6

7 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

8 A. The purpose of my testimony is to describe ITC Midwest's role in the
9 Project and to introduce the other ITC Midwest witness who is providing
10 testimony in this proceeding. ITC Midwest supports the Project, given the
11 benefits it provides to Minnesota and Midwest stakeholders, and has worked
12 closely with Xcel Energy in support of the applications for a Certificate of
13 Need and Route Permit for the Project.

14

15 Q. WHAT PORTIONS OF THE CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPLICATION ARE YOU
16 SPONSORING?

17 A. I am sponsoring the ITC Midwest-specific data contained in the Application
18 relating to the Huntley Substation modifications.

19

20 Q. WHAT SCHEDULES ARE ATTACHED TO YOUR TESTIMONY?

21 A. Schedule 1: Resume of Thomas C. Petersen.

22

II. ITC MIDWEST

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE ITC MIDWEST'S OPERATIONS AND SERVICES.

A. ITC Midwest was formed in 2007 to acquire the transmission assets of Interstate Power and Light Company (IP&L), a subsidiary of Alliant Energy Corporation. ITC Midwest is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Holdings Corp., the nation's only fully-independent electric transmission company. ITC Holdings Corp. is majority-owned by Fortis Inc. and minority-owned by GIC Private Limited. ITC Midwest is an independent transmission company and owns more than 6,600 miles of transmission lines and more than 200 electric transmission substations serving more than 700 communities in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri, and maintains operating locations in Albert Lea and Lakefield, Minnesota, and in Dubuque, Iowa City, and Perry, Iowa.¹ ITC Midwest is a transmission-owning member of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO). Accordingly, transmission service over facilities developed and owned by ITC Midwest is provided pursuant to the MISO Open Access Transmission Energy and Operating Reserve Markets Tariff.

Q. WHO ARE ITC MIDWEST'S CUSTOMERS?

A. ITC Midwest provides wholesale transmission service to vertically-integrated investor-owned utilities, cooperatives, and municipal utilities in Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois. Our customers also include independent power producers and other generators who interconnect into ITC Midwest's transmission system, reflecting a total generation capacity of more than 8,400

¹ As an independent transmission company, ITC Midwest does not directly serve load.

1 megawatts (MW). These generators include more than 35 individual wind
2 generators in Minnesota and Iowa totaling more than 3,670 MW of
3 renewable generation.
4

5 Q. WHAT IS ITC MIDWEST'S FOCUS IN MINNESOTA?

6 A. After acquiring IP&L's system in 2007, ITC Midwest went to work to
7 update a transmission system that was sorely in need of improvements. We
8 have invested approximately \$3 billion in the ITC Midwest system, including
9 approximately \$265 million in service in Minnesota. ITC Midwest's
10 Minnesota projects include construction of the Minnesota-Iowa 345 kV
11 Transmission Line Project in Jackson, Martin, and Faribault counties (which
12 includes the Huntley Substation), investments in lines to meet North
13 American Electric Reliability requirements, and upgrades to existing 69 kV
14 lines, lines that are critical for reliable local electric service. On a day-to-day
15 basis, ITC Midwest maintains active operations of its Minnesota
16 transmission system, from restoration of lines that have experienced storm
17 damage to daily maintenance and construction activities.
18

19 These new and upgraded facilities produce significant benefits for Minnesota
20 electricity consumers. Across the ITC Midwest system, we have seen
21 transmission outages drop by approximately 59 percent in the past 10 years,
22 as a result of improvements in the infrastructure and ITC Midwest's
23 operating and maintenance practices.
24

25 In addition, our investments have allowed nearly 500 MW of new wind
26 generation to connect to the grid in Minnesota since 2007, with another

1 200 MW currently under a Generation Interconnect Agreement to connect
2 by 2020. These new wind resources not only provide access to a clean
3 energy source, they provide economic benefits through tax payments and
4 landowner payments in the rural areas where the turbines are located. As
5 detailed in the testimony of Applicants' witness Mr. Kyle Neidermire, the
6 Project will further capture the benefits of these wind energy developments
7 by reducing system congestion and expanding access to low-cost wind
8 energy.

9
10 Q. HOW WOULD THE HUNTLEY – WILMARTH PROJECT FURTHER SUPPORT THE
11 INVESTMENTS ITC MIDWEST HAS MADE IN MINNESOTA?

12 A. ITC Midwest's support of the Huntley – Wilmarth Project is consistent with
13 the company's commitment to making improvements in the electric
14 transmission system to provide tangible customer benefits. The company's
15 focus has been to strengthen the regional grid to improve service and
16 reliability and support access to generating sources. The Huntley-Wilmarth
17 Project is consistent with ITC Midwest's approach. As demonstrated by the
18 testimony submitted by Applicants' witness Mr. Andrew Siebenaler and
19 MISO, the Project is a cost-effective way to address electric congestion
20 issues that increase the cost of electricity for consumers.

21
22 The Project also builds on the new Huntley Substation, which ITC Midwest
23 built to replace the smaller Winnebago Substation that had served the area
24 for many years with interconnections to the 69 kV lines to serve Southern
25 Minnesota electricity consumers. Today, the new substation is configured to
26 accommodate the 345 kV, 161 kV, and 69 kV lines in the area. Construction

1 of the Project leverages this substation investment for the benefit of
2 consumers.

3 4 **III. HUNTLEY-WILMARTH PROJECT**

5
6 Q. WHAT IS ITC MIDWEST'S ROLE IN THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

7 A. ITC Midwest will be an equal owner of the Project with Xcel Energy. ITC
8 Midwest is jointly seeking a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the
9 Project.

10
11 Xcel Energy will take the lead on construction and act as the construction
12 manager for all aspects of the Project, except for the work needed at the
13 Huntley Substation, for which ITC Midwest will take the lead on
14 construction. Xcel Energy also will maintain and operate the transmission
15 line once the Project is put in service. Having a single construction manager
16 for all of the transmission line work will provide for efficiencies in
17 construction and Project oversight. ITC Midwest will operate the additional
18 equipment at the Huntley Substation once constructed.

19
20 Q. WHAT MODIFICATIONS WILL BE MADE TO THE HUNTLEY SUBSTATION TO
21 ACCOMMODATE THE NEW 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE?

22 A. The work at the Huntley Substation will be overseen and managed by the
23 ITC Midwest Project Manager, Mckenzie Dickerman. The modifications
24 will include:

- 25 • One new 345 kV circuit breaker;
- 26 • Three new 345 kV potential transformers for relays;

- Two new 345 kV switches;
- Four new 345 kV dead end structures;
- Five new steel stands;
- Three new relay panels and equipment panels and equipment;
- New 345 kV bus, circuit breaker control cable, ground rods, and couplings; and
- Concrete foundations for the dead-end structure, breaker, switches, wave traps, and bus supports.

IV. ITC MIDWEST WITNESSES

Q. PLEASE INTRODUCE THE OTHER ITC MIDWEST WITNESS WHO IS PROVIDING DIRECT TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING.

A. Benjamin Abing is also providing Direct Testimony in this proceeding. Mr. Abing is a Senior Engineer with ITC Holdings Corp. and testifies regarding ITC Midwest's evaluation of the externalities of different transmission line alternatives in the Certificate of Need proceeding, as required by the Commission. This evaluation is contained in Appendix I to the Certificate of Need Application, titled "ITC Midwest's Cost of Alternatives, Including Commission Externalities Values."

Q. IS ITC MIDWEST OFFERING ANY OTHER WITNESSES TO DISCUSS OTHER PARTS OF THE CERTIFICATE OF NEED AND ROUTE PERMIT APPLICATIONS?

A. Not at this time. ITC Midwest has worked closely with Xcel Energy on the applications, providing information and input, with Xcel Energy taking the lead on need analyses and testimony. ITC Midwest supports the

1 applications and Xcel Energy witnesses' testimonies that demonstrate the
2 Project meets the criteria for a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. ITC
3 Midwest may provide additional testimony to address ITC Midwest-specific
4 questions that arise in the proceeding.

5
6 **V. CONCLUSION**
7

8 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?

9 A. Yes.

Thomas C. Petersen, APR

123 Fifth Street SE
Cedar Rapids Iowa 52401

Education:

M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning, University of Iowa

M.A. in Journalism, University of Iowa

B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communications, minor emphasis in Business
Administration, University of Iowa

Additional graduate coursework in University of Iowa College of Business and Graduate
College, School of Library and Information Science.

Professional Experience:

ITC Midwest
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Director – Public Affairs, June 2017-present

Director – Communications, January 2008-June 2017

Alliant Energy Corp.
and predecessor
companies
Madison, Wisconsin
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Director – Strategic Projects Communications, October 2007-Dec. 2007

Director – Corporate Communications, January 2002-October 2007

Director – Marketing, Alliant Energy Integrated Services, Sept. 2000-01

Manager – Restructuring Communications, Sept. 1999 to Sept. 2000;

Manager – Account Service, February 1999 to September 1999

Sr. Communications Account Manager, April 1998 to January 1999

Communications Program Manager, March 1996 to April 1998

Sr. Communications Coordinator, October 1993 to March 1996

Communications Coordinator, July 1990 to September 1993

Leslie Associates, Inc.
Omaha, Nebraska

Assistant Vice President, October 1988 to July 1990

Account Executive, March 1986 to October 1988

Daily Nonpareil
Council Bluffs, Iowa

General Assignment/Business Reporter, June 1985 to March 1986