

PRESS RELEASE



POWER FROM THE PRAIRIE INTERREGIONAL ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PROJECT CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT STUDY BEGINS

May 17, 2022, **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DES MOINES, IOWA. Power from the Prairie LLC (PftP LLC, www.powerfromtheprairie.com) announces the start of the Power from the Prairie project Concept Development Study (CDS).

Power from the Prairie is a proposed 4,000 Megawatt (MW) high voltage direct current (HVDC) interregional electric transmission project. It would span from the wind energy fields of Wyoming across either South Dakota or Nebraska to the wind energy fields of Iowa (Figure). Combined with existing and proposed HVDC transmission projects to its East and West, it will represent an innovative, bi-directional renewable energy superhighway from the West Coast to Chicago and Eastward.

The project would feature a DC/AC converter station in the middle, enabling interconnection of thousands of MW of new renewable energy development in some of the best wind energy resources in the nation that are remote and currently landlocked due to lack of transmission outlet and access to markets. It may also include grid-level, long duration energy storage including pumped hydro storage, compressed air energy storage (CAES), or green hydrogen.

Economic Development

“States in the Upper Midwest produce more corn and soybeans than their residents can consume,” said Bob Schulte, PftP LLC Managing Member. “They export the surplus via highways and railroads. We propose to do the same with renewable energy and interregional electric transmission. This means billions of dollars of investment, ongoing revenues and hundreds of jobs for those states, and affordable costs for electricity consumers”, he said.

Interregional Vision

The study is sponsored by nine CDS Participants representing 14 public and investor-owned utilities, transmission developers, and renewable energy developers across the span of the CDS. That extends from Minnesota and Iowa, the Dakotas and Nebraska, Wyoming, Nevada, Southern California, and the Pacific Northwest. “This unique ‘coalition of the willing’ of Participants we have assembled are capable of thinking outside their own service territories or markets to innovate toward a future of interregional collaboration for the good of all”, Schulte said.

Increasing Renewable Energy Reliability

The CDS will examine the potential for bi-directional swaps of time-diversified renewable energy between regions, making renewable energy more constant and thus reliable. “Utilities, states and corporations are increasingly announcing decarbonization goals” said Fred Fletcher,



PftP LLC Member. “They need more constant, 24 x 7 hourly renewables to get there. While local renewables alone are intermittent, on an interregional transmission system renewables are almost always happening somewhere. The renewable energy surpluses compared to local electric loads from one region can fulfill renewable energy deficits elsewhere”, he said.

The Study

The Power from the Prairie CDS is not just a technical transmission engineering study. The technology to do such an HVDC project already exists. Instead, the challenges involved are geopolitical, organizational, and regulatory. Accordingly, the CDS will address economic, technology, market relationship, organization structure, and regulatory issues.

“The CDS is a strategic study to help the Participants and others understand what would be involved and decide whether they want to pursue an interregional transmission project”, Schulte said. “We believe the CDS represents a practical, project-specific pathfinder for related efforts like the U.S. Department of Energy’s Building a Better Grid Initiative and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s current examination of ways to encourage interregional transmission. It is an initial installment of a future interregional macrogrid spanning the nation. We envision it would operate in concert with aggregated distributed energy resources as well.”

Seven years in the making, the CDS will cost \$800,000 and will be completed in late 2022.

About Power from the Prairie LLC

PftP LLC is incorporated in Iowa. It is a neutral, objective, due diligence incubator for interregional high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission projects and related planning studies. Its members include experienced utility experts in resource planning, permitting, operations and cost recovery, and legal experts in organizational structures and regulatory affairs. System economics modeling for the CDS will be performed by subcontractor Hitachi Energy Consulting of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Contact:

Robert Schulte
Managing Member
Power from the Prairie LLC
www.powerfromtheprairie.com
E-mail: rhs@schulteassociates.com
Mobile: (612) 804-5363



Power from the Prairie Concept

