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### POWER FROM THE PRAIRIE INTERREGIONAL ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PROJECT STUDY SHOWS PROMISE

April 11, 2023, **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DES MOINES, IOWA.** Power from the Prairie LLC (PftP LLC, [www.powerfromtheprairie.com](http://www.powerfromtheprairie.com)) announces the completion of the Power from the Prairie (PftP) project Concept Development Study (CDS). The results show great and innovative promise.

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). It would cross the current seam between the Western and Eastern Interconnections of the U.S. electric grid.

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 providing reliability, resiliency, and cost-effective service for electric customers.

The project would feature multiple DC/AC (alternating current) converter stations in the middle, enabling interconnection of thousands of MW of new renewable energy development in some of the best wind energy resource in the nation that is remote and currently landlocked due to lack of transmission outlet and access to markets. They will also enable beneficial on-ramps and off-ramps to and from the PftP transmission superhighway for all states along the way. The study also examined grid-level, long duration energy storage options including pumped hydro storage, compressed air energy storage (CAES), and hydrogen production operating in combination with the PftP line.

#### *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 using 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 was sponsored by multiple CDS Participants representing 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.

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The CDS Participants included, among others: Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC), BHE U.S. Transmission, LLC (BHEUST), Black Hills Corporation (BHC), Minnesota Power (MP), Omaha Public Power District (OPPD), and Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) represented by their member, Burbank Water & Power (BWP).

### *Increasing Renewable Energy Reliability*

The 11-month, \$800,000 CDS examined the potential for bi-directional swaps of geographically widely separated and thus time-diversified renewable energy between regions, making the aggregated renewable energy taken together 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 CDS is not just a technical transmission engineering study. The technology to do such an HVDC project already exists. Instead, the challenges are geopolitical, organizational, and regulatory. Accordingly, the CDS addressed economic, technology, market relationships, organization structure, and regulatory issues. The study Final Report includes proposed agenda items for state, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO), and Congressional action supporting interregional transmission of this type.

“The Stage 1 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 approach and results represent a practical, project-specific pathfinder for related efforts like the U.S. Department of Energy’s Building a Better Grid Initiative and FERC’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.”

The CDS Participants will now consider moving to development of Stage 2 (Proof of Concept). Depending on their preferences, additional entities may be invited to join the project.

The public edition of the CDS Report can be found at [www.powerfromtheprairie.com/the-cds](http://www.powerfromtheprairie.com/the-cds).



**About Power from the Prairie LLC**

PftP LLC is incorporated in Iowa. It is a neutral, objective 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 was performed by subcontractor Hitachi Energy Consulting of Raleigh, North Carolina.

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# Power from the Prairie Concept

