

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
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June 5, 2018

Ms. Jennifer Curran  
Vice President, System Planning  
Midcontinent ISO  
720 City Center Drive  
Carmel, IN 46082

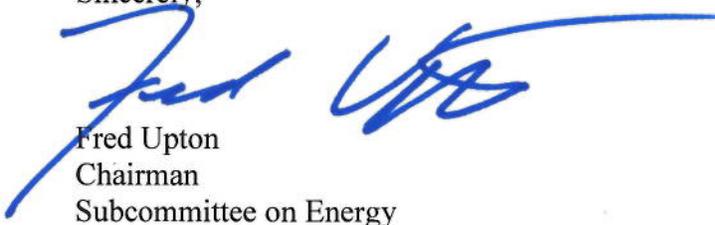
Dear Ms. Curran:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy on Thursday, May 10, 2018, to testify at the hearing entitled "Examining the State of Electric Transmission Infrastructure: Investment, Planning, Construction, and Alternatives."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Tuesday, June 19, 2018. Your responses should be mailed to Kelly Collins, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to [Kelly.Collins@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kelly.Collins@mail.house.gov).

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy

cc: The Honorable Bobby L. Rush, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy

Attachment

## Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

### The Honorable Fred Upton

1. FERC Order 1000 requires that certain transmission projects be competitively bid. I understand that MISO has opened just two bidding opportunities for projects under Order 1000. Other RTOs such as ISO-New England have not offered any opportunities for competitive bidding, and your neighbor, SPP, has offered just one, which failed.
  - a. Why does it appear that the RTOs are not opening up transmission projects for competitive bidding?
2. We've heard multiple times that inter-regional transmission lines simply are not being constructed. Can you explain why?
3. MISO was very successful with its Multi Value Project (or MVP) effort. Can you explain in more detail how the MVP process works and how it's different than the Order 1000 planning process?
  - a. In terms of allocating the costs of transmission projects, how does MISO seek to ensure that beneficiaries pay for transmission?

### The Honorable Gregg Harper

1. Under FERC's incentive policy provided certain ROE rate incentives for transmission providers to build projects that either faced unique risks or employed advanced technologies.
  - a. From your perspective as a grid operator, do these incentives attract needed transmission infrastructure investment?
  - b. In your opinion, would many of these projects still get built without the incentives?

### The Honorable H. Morgan Griffith

1. Given the difficulties you mention achieving consensus on who should pay for large new transmission investments, would clearer FERC policy on cost allocation address another impediment to building the next set of large transmission projects?

### **The Honorable Richard Hudson**

On April 19, FERC issued a new rule (Order No. 845) concerning revisions to the interconnection process for large generators which are over 20 MWs. The intent of this rule is to reduce the backlog of interconnection queue requests, however, these new regulations put the onus on the transmission provider to develop new procedures to accommodate additional flexibility for interconnecting generators. The interconnection process is already quite complicated with several studies often required to determine the impact of the new generation on the transmission grid with various deadlines for each specific step in the process. This was manageable when there were only a handful of interconnection requests in a year. However, these queues have grown more recently due to the significant increase in the number of smaller-sized interconnection requests for wind and solar generation. Developers typically put in several requests at one time, knowing that many of them will not get built. In some cases, there is more proposed generation in the queue than the total customer load in a particular area.

1. Do you believe that this new interconnection rule will alleviate these backlogs?
2. How would modifications made by interconnection customers affect the interconnection studies of later-queued requests?

### **The Honorable Tim Walberg**

1. You note that FERC Order 1000 and the advent of competitive bidding is one of the items that has increased the complexity of developing additional large scale investment plans. Can changes to this policy remove some of the challenges to developing the next set of regional transmission investments needed in MISO?