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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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May 28, 2025

Ms. Jennifer Curran
Senior Vice President for Planning and Operations
Midcontinent Independent System Operator
720 City Center Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

Dear Ms. Curran:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, to testify at the hearing entitled "Keeping the Lights on: Examining the State of Regional Grid Reliability."

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. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. Your responses should be mailed to Calvin Huggins Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to Calvin.Huggins1@mail.house.gov.

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

Sincerely,

Robert E. Latta
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy

cc: Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Robert E. Latta (R-OH)

1. As stated in President Trump's Executive Order "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence" (AI EO) on January 23, 2025 "It is the policy of the United States to sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security." President Trump has made it clear that he wants the US to be the global leader in AI and unleash American energy. How does MISO plan to ensure sufficient supply of energy to meet the needs of data centers in a timely manner?

2. Accurate and transparent electricity load forecasting is a linchpin of modern economic development. States rely on these forecasts to plan new industrial parks, data centers, and manufacturing hubs, while utilities use them to schedule grid expansions and major infrastructure investments. Despite the vital role of load forecasts in spurring economic growth, practices vary widely among states, utilities and RTO/ISOs, often leading to inconsistent data, misaligned investment signals, and unnecessary risk for both utilities, and both large and residential customers. Recent inconsistencies underscore how a patchwork of forecasting methodologies can exacerbate speculation in large load interconnection requests, inflate demand projections, and drive-up costs. These issues cross both state and federal jurisdictions and regional differences.

    a. What steps is MISO taking to ensure its load forecasting is transparent, predictable and correctly anticipating future capacity and infrastructure needs to power AI infrastructure?

    b. What, if any, barriers exist to increased transparency on potential load growth from AI?

3. How can RTOs accelerate transmission expansion to support load growth without creating excessive costs for ratepayers?

4. From a siting and permitting perspective, what do you see as the challenges and barriers to constructing sufficient transmission infrastructure needed for reliable, safe, affordable, and timely delivery of power?

    a. What role, if any, should Congress and FERC play in siting and permitting for regional or interregional transmission?

5. Regarding planning for transmission, what specific impediments have you identified to current state, regional, and interregional planning for transmission projects?

    a. What are examples of impediments you have identified and what is necessary for system planners to overcome these impediments?

b. What reforms do you recommend to improve state, regional, and interregional planning to overcome these impediments?

6. In the last Congress and the previous administration, there was a lot of talk about transmission policy reform.

   a. How does your organization plan transmission in your region and with other regions? What should Members understand about the nature of transmission planning as it exists today?

   b. Does a top-down approach, through FERC, serve the interests of utilities and grid operators that are already expending tremendous time and engineering resources on design new transmission?

7. With current policies, do you think we can build all the generation and transmission needed in time for this AI race?

8. What would be your top priority or need from states, FERC or Congress to assist you in meeting new demand —especially if we need even more power than projected? Are you equipped today to meet increased future demand at the pace needed and to maintain affordability and competitive rates?

9. MISO and most other ISOs agreed, the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan 2.0 negatively impacted the reliability of the bulk power system. If FERC was able to step in and make recommendations based on reliability during rule making processes, could that have a positive impact on the reliability of the bulk power system?

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA)

1. Ms. Curran, since 2022 MISO has developed and approved two tranches of significant transmission development under its Long-Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Process. Please provide a detailed description of the generation resource mix for the MISO footprint that MISO transmission planners and stakeholders used to develop the tranches of the LRTP.

The Honorable John James (R-MI)

1. I've heard repeatedly that strengthening the grid is a vital step necessary for meeting growing energy demands. Democratic governors in Lansing, Springfield, and St. Paul, however, are pushing "net zero". The Clean Power Plan 2.0, which is the catalyst for "net zero" mandated renewables and carbon capture for resources such as natural gas. While bipartisan, carbon capture is still a relatively new technology that is in development and needs time before it can be mandated.

   Given MISO's purview of the Midwest, specifically Michigan, I wanted to quote one of your colleagues who testified in 2023 on behalf of MISO before this committee, where he mentioned the following:

"Controllable, dispatchable resources are being retired and replaced primarily with weather dependent, non-dispatchable, and variable generation types to achieve carbon reduction goals."

He went on to list the risks of weather dependent sources, which according to him were declining accredited capacity, diminishing resource attributes, and operational challenges. In your written opening statement, you mention that weather dependent energy sources do not provide "24/7 availability, flexibility, and duration attributes compared to the retiring power plants they are replacing."

a. I'd like to know from you what role natural gas will have in a state like Michigan in the foreseeable future. To the extent that you collaborate with stakeholders, I would also appreciate your thoughts on how the federal government can free up the regulatory environment for natural gas to best serve the "generation mix," given its reliability.

b. I wanted to ask you about nuclear energy. I am excited that Palisades is coming back online, but arguably we cannot stop there. What is MISO's assessment of nuclear energy in Michigan and throughout the Midwest vis-à-vis the grid?

The Honorable Kathy Castor (D-FL)

1. One of our greatest challenges today is getting new sources of electricity on the grid as quickly as possible in this new era of increasing electricity demand. Interconnection processes – while critical to maintaining the reliability of the grid – can also take far too long under the current framework.

   On March 17, FERC Commissioner David Rosner wrote a letter to each of you detailing new opportunities to streamline the interconnection process. In a recent study by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), an automated process was able to nearly replicate in ten days the results of an interconnection study that took nearly two years to conduct.

   a. Please describe your experience with interconnection automation technologies to date and the prospects for further deploying them going forward.

   b. Please describe how FERC and Congress can each support such innovation.

The Honorable Scott Peters (D-CA)

1. Have you experienced permitting delays that this committee should better understand? What are some key/important examples?

2. What laws (on permitting specifically, but also planning, siting, interconnection, cost allocation, etc.) should be changed/amended/improved with regard to permitting?

3. What are your specific challenges when it comes to planning and cost allocating high voltage transmission lines?