

Bridging the Gap

How Grid United Can Align With America’s Industrial Renaissance

By Lisa Bennett



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As the push to bring manufacturing back to American soil accelerates under the current administration, energy demand is skyrocketing. National leaders are aggressively courting multi-trillion-dollar investments to rehome industrial plants, tech hubs, and energy-intensive data centers across the American West, including Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Northern California.

For projects like Grid United’s 420-mile North Plains Connector, aligning with this economic renaissance offers a tremendous opportunity to set a new gold standard for American energy resilience. As our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, corporations that build our critical infrastructure have a unique patriotic calling: to look past a century-old dependency on heavy steel-core technology and invest in the next 250 years of American prosperity. Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) Commissioner Randy Pinocci has highlighted the immense stakes involved in building a grid capable of supporting this growth, emphasizing the vital role of modern technology:

“I have a responsibility to point out these common-sense benefits of carbon core transmission lines.”

Meeting the Capacity Demands of Industrial Reshoring

With trillions of dollars in investments flowing into data centers and domestic manufacturing under President Trump’s industrial agenda, power demands are soaring across Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Northern California. Commissioner Pinocci notes that capturing this economic momentum requires looking ahead:

“Not only is the 525kv capacity not sufficient for the trillions of dollars in investments into data centers, data centers alone can use that much power, but it doesn’t take into account the rebuilding of America’s industrial manufacturing that President Trump has achieved. The western United States will not be competitive for those manufacturing facilities if we don’t have the power they need.”

“I believe with the demands for power from the western United States, 525KV isn’t going to be sufficient, but if that’s something Grid United cannot change, then at the very least they should focus on the safest, most reliable and affordable carbon core transmission lines to run that DC power.”

Enhancing Safety, Efficiency, and Ratepayer Value

Embracing advanced materials offers a powerful way to safeguard communities while lowering long-term costs. Relying on traditional steel-core lines—a technology over a century old—introduces heavy thermal sag, which remains a leading cause of line outages and catastrophic fire risks. In contrast, advanced carbon-core conductors provide unprecedented safety and operational intelligence:

“Steel core is the heaviest line and causes line sag which is the number one cause of line outages and fires. If we stop one fire because we move to carbon core instead of steel transmission lines, how much is saved? What price do you put on saving lives? Steel lines cannot be monitored both for failure points and sensitivity such as drones flying nearby. Carbon core is embedded with the technology to pinpoint a problem to within 1 inch.”

Furthermore, the economic advantages flow directly back to consumers. Beyond

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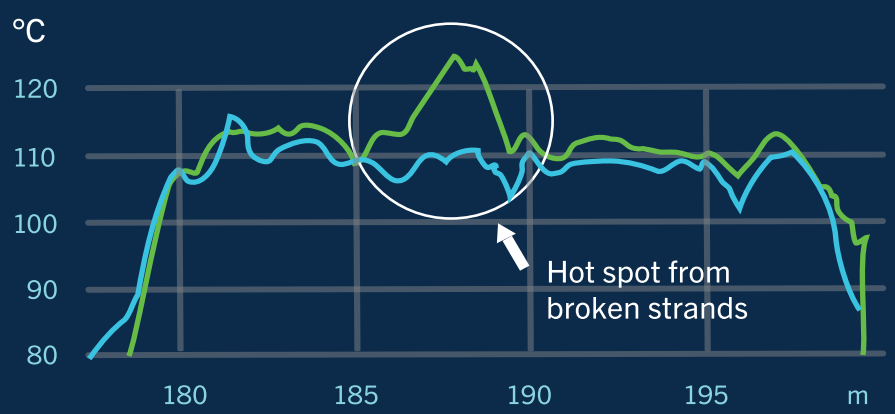


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eliminating line sag and reducing multi-million dollar wildfire risks, carbon core technology can save millions of dollars per transmission tower because the lines do not require as much steel and do not need to be built as tall. According to manufacturers like Epsilon, carbon-core solutions can match traditional steel costs while delivering substantial operational savings:

“Epsilon, a manufacturer of carbon core transmission lines says it can match the cost of steel conductors,” states Pinocci. He adds, “Carbon Core companies say that between N. Dakota and Colstrip in MT, using carbon core transmission lines will save \$1 million dollars a year on line loss. That is money that goes directly into the pockets of ratepayers because every bill has a calculation for line loss added that ratepayers pay for.”

A Pivotal Moment for American Infrastructure

Grid United stands as a pivotal corporation working on the newest additions to our aging national grid. Having already secured vital, long-lead converter station agreements with Hitachi Energy, they have demonstrated strong project leadership. Because physical conductors and poles remain under design, leadership has a natural window to make a bold, forward-thinking choice.

By stepping up during this historic 250th anniversary year to deploy cutting-edge carbon-core technology instead of outdated steel, Grid United can showcase true corporate patriotism. Embracing this smart evolution ensures mutual success for the corporation, protects everyday ratepayers, and locks in the high-performance energy backbone required to power America for generations to come. 🇺🇸