

MGA MID-GRID 2035 2.0 - Quarterly Meeting
April 17-18, 2023 | 330 N Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL

Speaker Biographies

Lanny Nickell, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Southwest Power Pool

Lanny Nickell is an Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Southwest Power Pool, where he oversees grid operations, wholesale energy markets and transmission expansion plans. He received his Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Tulsa and is a graduate of Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program. Nickell began his career as a planning engineer for Public Service Company of Oklahoma and joined SPP in 2007. He previously served as Vice President of Engineering and Vice President of Operations. Nickell is the staff secretary for SPP's Markets and Operations Policy Committee and has served on numerous industry and philanthropic boards.



Suzanne Glatz, Director – Strategic Initiatives & Interregional Planning, PJM Interconnection

As director, Strategic Initiatives and Interregional Planning, Ms. Glatz, is responsible for directing strategy development and implementation of key Planning initiatives and corporate initiatives supported by the System Planning Division. In this capacity, she is responsible ensuring cross-divisional and cross-departmental coordination and alignment on the implementation of strategic initiatives as well as facilitating and guiding the development of new processes that will position PJM to reliably and effectively perform the planning function through the transition to a decarbonized grid. Glatz is also responsible for coordination among various teams on interregional planning matters. Glatz is currently leading the State Agreement Approach initiative in collaboration with New Jersey to achieve its goal of integrating 11GW of offshore wind.



Glatz is a registered Professional Engineer with 38 years of engineering and management experience. Glatz joined PJM in 2011, working initially in Operations Support and moved to System Planning where she is currently.

Prior to PJM, Glatz worked at PPL Electric Utilities for 11 years in varying management and engineering staff capacities in Transmission Planning, Distribution Planning and Transmission Regulatory functions. Prior to PPL, Glatz worked as a consulting engineer for 15 years performing system analysis, engineering and design for transmission and distribution projects at different engineering firms.

Glatz earned a Bachelor of Science in electric power engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a Master of Science in electrical engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology and a Master of Business Administration from Temple University Fox School of Business.

Aubrey Johnson, Vice President, System Planning & Competitive Transmission, MISO

Aubrey is the Vice President for System Planning and Competitive Transmission at MISO. He oversees all aspects of transmission planning, resource planning and modeling to meet MISO's future system needs. He is responsible for the planning process that yields the annual MISO Transmission Expansion Plan, including reliability, economic and interregional planning, transmission cost allocation, resource adequacy, resource utilization, modeling, and the competitive transmission developer selection and monitoring process.

Aubrey's background spans more than 25 years in the energy industry, includes roles at Public Service Company of New Mexico, GE Energy Services, and Southern Company.

Aubrey attended Tuskegee University and received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.



Tanta Paslawski, Founder and Principal, Elevated Engagement

Tanya Paslawski is the founder and principal of Elevated Engagement. She is an attorney and energy industry veteran with over 20 years of experience in regulatory policy analysis, development, and advocacy. She served in a variety of leadership roles in the public and private sector working on state and federal policy issues and was appointed by Michigan Governor Whitmer to the Council on Climate Solutions and the Upper Peninsula Energy Task Force.

Tanya is co-founder and facilitator for Advancing White Anti-Racist Education (AWARE), providing training and supported conversations on systemic inequities and tools for change. She has a law degree from Michigan State University College of Law with a concentration in environmental and natural resource law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Oakland University. Tanya is also a certified meditation teacher.



Commissioner Andrew J. French, Kansas Corporation Commission

Andrew French was appointed to the KCC on June 12, 2020 by Governor Laura Kelly and approved by the Senate Confirmation Oversight Committee on June 24, 2020. He served as Chairperson from January 14, 2021 to January 13, 2022. His term expires March 15, 2024.

French currently serves as the Kansas representative to the Southwest Power Pool and regularly participates in various SPP stakeholder groups, including the Regional State Committee (RSC). French currently serves as the 2023 RSC President. He is also one of 10 state utility regulators selected to serve on the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission formed in 2021.

Before his appointment to the KCC, French practiced law with a focus on energy policy and the regulation of utility rates and services. He represented a broad spectrum of energy stakeholders, including large industrial energy customers, local school districts, and a natural gas utility company.

Prior to his work in private practice, French was a staff litigation attorney with the KCC. During his tenure from 2012 to 2017, French held a number of positions within the agency, including Senior Litigation Counsel



representing the KCC Staff in litigated administrative proceedings. He also advised the Commission on legal, electric reliability, and cost-recovery issues associated with actions of the Southwest Power Pool, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

French has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Kansas and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kansas School of Law.

Maria Redmond, Director, Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy

Maria serves as the Director of the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy and has worked for the State of Wisconsin for 22 years. In addition to helping with the development and implementation of the recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, Maria is leading the implementation of the state's first ever Clean Energy Plan. The plan is centered on environmental justice, creates a pathway to multi-sector deep decarbonization and a bustling clean energy economy that supports a diverse workforce and technology innovation. Maria is a Certified Public Manager, holds a BA in Psychology and a Certificate in African Studies from UW-Madison.



Brian Selinger, Director, Iowa Energy Office

Brian Selinger is the Director of the Iowa Energy Office, a division of the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). The Energy Office manages a diverse mix of state, federal and utility-funded programs and initiatives that provide energy-economic benefits for Iowa's citizens, businesses, and organizations.

Brian joined IEDA in 2015 after serving as the Deputy Director of Policy and Research for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Brian's professional experience includes work with Lockheed Martin as part of an Energy Efficiency partnership with a Missouri utility.



Commissioner John Tuma, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

John Tuma was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission by Governor Mark Dayton, effective February 2, 2015. He was reappointed by Governor Tim Walz on March 30, 2021. He also represents Minnesota as a member of the Regional State Committee of the Southwest Power Pool, the regional transmission organization for Western Minnesota and several other states of the Great Plains. Prior to his appointment Commissioner Tuma had decades of experience working on energy and conservation policy issues for a variety of nongovernmental organizations. He most recently served as a Government Relations Associate with Conservation Minnesota. He helped lead efforts to pass key energy legislation, including Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard – which garnered broad, bipartisan support.



Commissioner Tuma served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1995 to 2002, representing parts of Rice, LeSueur, Scott, and Dakota counties. During his time in the House, he served as Chair of the Crime Prevention Committee.

Commissioner Tuma has practiced law in Northfield Minnesota. He earned his B.A. from Mankato State University, and his J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School.

John Weeda, Director, North Dakota Transmission Authority

John Weeda is the Director of the North Dakota Transmission Authority. He has served in this role since February of 2018. Prior to joining the NDTA, he served as the Director of North Dakota Generation for Great River Energy for forty-one years. This included Coal Creek Station, Stanton Station, Spiritwood Station as well as Midwest Ag Energy Ethanol. Prior to his work at Great River Energy, he worked with Iowa Electric at Duane Arnold Nuclear Generating Plant. Weeda is a graduate of the University of North Dakota in Mechanical Engineering.



Doug Scott, Vice President, Electricity and Efficiency, Great Plains Institute

Doug Scott joined the Great Plains Institute in early 2015 and is vice president of electricity and efficiency. Doug focuses on GPI projects related to his work as a former state official, including the Midcontinent Power Sector Collaborative, state energy and environmental regulator groups, the Carbon Capture Coalition and State CO2 Work Group, and utility business model/grid modernization, including the e21 Initiative.

Doug was appointed chair of the Illinois Commerce Commission in March 2011 by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn. During his tenure with the Commission, he served as a member of the Energy, Resources, and Environment Committee for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and on the Task Force on Environmental Regulation.



Doug also previously served as director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency from 2005 to 2011. During those years, he chaired the Illinois Governor's Climate Change Advisory Committee and represented Illinois in the development of the Midwestern Governors' Association's energy and climate accords. Doug was a member of the Air Committee for the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) and the US EPA Environmental Financial Advisory Board. He was also elected and served as mayor of Rockford, IL from 2001 to 2005, after serving as a state representative in the Illinois General Assembly between 1995 and 2001.

A native of Rockford, Doug received his undergraduate degree with honors from the University of Tulsa in 1982 and a juris doctorate with honors from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI in 1985.

Jeff Dennis, Deputy Director, Transmission, Grid Deployment Office (GDO), U.S. Department of Energy

Jeff Dennis is the Deputy Director for Transmission at the Grid Deployment Office (GDO). Jeff leads GDO's Transmission Division, which facilitates transmission deployment, supports robust transmission planning, and addresses transmission siting and permitting challenges to ensure grid reliability and resilience.

Prior to joining GDO, Jeff was General Counsel and Managing Director at Advanced Energy Economy (now Advanced Energy United), where he co-founded and later led its programs aimed at increasing wholesale electricity market access for advanced energy technologies and transforming wholesale electricity market designs and transmission policies to support the energy transition. Under his leadership, the reach of the organization's wholesale markets, and transmission program



expanded rapidly, with staff and funding more than tripling. Jeff also provided legal advice and counsel to the organization's federal and state programs and served as Corporate Secretary.

Earlier in his career, Jeff spent over a decade at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), holding senior legal and policy positions including Director of Policy Development and Legal Advisor to Commissioner John R. Norris. He was instrumental in the development and implementation of landmark FERC rules and orders on transmission planning, transmission cost allocation, and wholesale electricity market design. He also defended FERC's decisions in the United States Courts of Appeals, arguing numerous cases before the D.C. Circuit.

Jeff also has been a lawyer in private practice representing a wide range of private and public energy sector clients in proceedings before FERC, state public utility commissions, and in the courts.

In addition to his work in GDO, Jeff is Chair-Elect of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, and serves on the Editorial Board of the Energy Law Journal, and on the faculty of the Clean Energy Leadership Institute. He is a frequent author and speaker on topics in energy policy and law.

Jonathon Monken, Principal, Convergence Strategies

Jonathon has deep public and private sector experience in the areas of national security, emergency preparedness, risk management, and energy resilience planning. During the past several years he pioneered programs to build enterprise-level resilience for the utility sector through information sharing, public and private sector integration, and large-scale exercise development and execution. Most recently Jonathon served as the Senior Director of System Resilience and Strategic Coordination for PJM Interconnection. In that role, he worked within the areas of business continuity, physical and cyber security, risk management and resilience planning for the world's largest wholesale energy market. Previously, he served as VP for the U.S. Operations for the Electric Infrastructure Security (EIS) Council where he worked with government and industry to develop best practices and capabilities to improve the resilience of life support infrastructure systems to widespread, long-duration power outages, known as "Black Sky" events. Jonathon earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point, and holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. Jonathon serves in the Army Reserves supporting the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He is a Fellow with the Truman National Security Project.



Adria Brooks, Engineer, U.S. Department of Energy Grid Deployment Office

Dr. Adria Brooks (she/her) currently works as a transmission planning engineer at the U.S. Department of Energy Grid Deployment Office. She previously served as a transmission engineer at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow. Adria holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering with a focus in energy policy from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. Early in her career, Adria was a researcher at the University of Arizona where she worked with utilities, developers, and the general public to answer their solar energy questions, with an additional focus in educational outreach for young students. Adria is a power grid and clean energy nerd who is happiest when backpacking in the nation's forests.



Christian Hayes, Executive Director, Americans for a Clean Energy Grid (ACEG)

Christina Hayes is Executive Director of Americans for a Clean Energy Grid, a diverse coalition of independent and utility transmission developers, clean energy customers, renewable resource developers, environmental advocates, grid technology developers, and labor unions supporting the development of high-capacity transmission to cost-effectively and reliably build out the grid of the future.

She previously served as Vice President for Federal Regulatory Affairs for Berkshire Hathaway Energy, as well as an attorney with FERC, where she served as an advisor to Chairman Wellinghoff. A native Oregonian, Christina also served as an administrative law judge at the Public Utility Commission of Oregon.



Michael Skelly, Chief Executive Officer, Grid United

Michael Skelly is a pioneer in the U.S. renewable energy industry and is the founder and CEO of Grid United, an early stage transmission development company.

Skelly was previously the founder and president of Clean Line Energy, a company that successfully permitted some of the longest transmission lines in the U.S. in the last 50 years. Prior to Clean Line, Skelly led the growth of Horizon Wind Energy, now part of EDPR, one of the largest renewable energy companies in the US.

Skelly applies his expertise in developing infrastructure projects to enhance transportation options and increase access to parks in his adopted hometown of Houston, Texas. In 2012, he led the “Parks By You” campaign, which resulted in the passage of a \$150 million bond measure to fund over 100 miles of trails along the city’s bayous, an effort in which Skelly remains deeply involved. Skelly sits on the boards of the Houston Bike Share, the Houston Parks Board, LINK Houston, Greentown Labs Houston, and Form Energy.



He holds an MBA from Harvard Business school and a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Notre Dame.

Marcus Hawkins, Executive Director, Organization of MISO States

Marcus Hawkins is the Executive Director of the Organization of MISO States (OMS). In this role he works closely with Commissioners from the 17 state regulatory agencies within the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) footprint. Marcus oversees the coordination of efficient and informed participation in MISO stakeholder and regulatory proceedings, advises state commissions on wholesale market issues, and represents the collective interests of OMS members at both MISO and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Marcus has been with the OMS since 2016, serving as Executive Director since January 2019. Before joining OMS, he was a Senior Engineer at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Marcus has additional industry experience from PA Consulting Group and Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation. Marcus holds a bachelor’s degree in Nuclear Engineering and a master’s in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where he also received certificates in Technical Communication and Energy Analysis & Policy.



Julie Pierce, Vice President, Strategy and Planning, Minnesota Power

Ms. Julie Pierce, Vice President Strategy and Planning for Minnesota Power is responsible for long term strategy development for customer electric needs. This area includes utility planning, project development, consideration of new technology, customer power supply marketing and Regional Transmission Organization coordination, and resource planning to meet Minnesota Power customer requirements. Julie has worked in the Strategy and Planning area for Minnesota Power for 15 years.

Before moving to Duluth with her husband in 2007, Ms. Pierce worked 8 years with the Midwest ISO in the reliability and market operations areas, responsible departments that conducted real time coordination of transmission outage requests and engineering support for the Reliability Coordination center in St. Paul, MN and assisting with the implementation of the Day Ahead and Real Time energy markets.

Active in her community and passionate about education, Ms. Pierce is the current President of the Board of Trustees for Marshall School, and independent school located in Duluth, MN and serves on the Board of Governors for the School of Engineering at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, MN. She supports the economic development and employment in Minnesota as a Board member on both the Greater Minnesota Partnership and Duluth 1200 Fund board.



Corey Singletary, Director, Regulatory Affairs, Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin (CUB)

Corey Singletary currently serves as Director, Regulatory Affairs for the Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin (CUB), an independent, non-profit organization that serves as the Wisconsin's residential and small business consumer advocate on public utility issues. In addition to leading CUB's regulatory efforts, Corey is also an expert in utility cost allocation and rate design, having testified in over 80 cases before the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. Prior to joining CUB in 2017, Corey was employed by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin as an energy policy advisor and utility rate analyst. During his time with the PSCW, his work focused on electric and natural gas utility rate design and cost-of-service, as well as a number of policy issues such as smart grid technology, innovative rate design, rate-based energy efficiency, conservation, and demand response programs, and distributed energy resources. Corey holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in international studies from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. He also holds a Master's Degree in international public affairs and a Graduate Certificate in energy analysis and policy from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.



Beth Soholt, Executive Director, Clean Grid Alliance

As Executive Director of Clean Grid Alliance, Beth Soholt brings more than 20 years experience working with the electric industry in various capacities. At CGA she directs work in the areas of technical/transmission planning, state regulatory proceedings, legislative education and outreach. She holds a seat on the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) Advisory Committee representing the Environmental Sector. She was also selected as one of three NGO representatives on the Stakeholder Steering Committee of the Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative.



Beth holds a law degree from Hamline University Law School, St. Paul, Minnesota, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

Simon Whitelocke, Vice President, ITC Holdings Corp. and President, ITC Michigan

Simon Whitelocke is Vice President, ITC Holdings Corp. and President, ITC Michigan, which includes the responsibility for both ITC Transmission and METC operating companies. Prior to this role, he was Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer for ITC Holdings Corp. where he was responsible for the corporate compliance functions of the company. Mr. Whitelocke also has served in other roles responsible for regulatory affairs, external affairs, and internal audit functions.



Prior to joining ITC, he worked at an energy utility company and in public accounting. Mr. Whitelocke earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree in accounting from the University of Toronto and an MBA in finance and management from Michigan State University.

He is currently Chair of the Board of Directors of ReliabilityFirst Corporation and Food Gatherers, a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trustees of Detroit Public Television, a member of the Board of Directors of Ann Arbor SPARK, and past President and member of the Board of Trustees of Legacy Land Conservancy.

Matt Prorok, Senior Policy Manager, Electricity, Great Plains Institute

Matt Prorok joined the Great Plains Institute in November 2015 and is a senior policy manager. His work focuses on the development of electric transmission infrastructure and market mechanisms to enhance the development of low-carbon energy technologies in the Midcontinent region. In addition, Matt contributes to GPI's research and analysis work and is a facilitator for the Midwestern Governors Association's Grid Security & Modernization initiative. As part of his work at GPI, he also served on the steering and policy committees of the Minnesota Energy Storage Alliance.



Matt has a background in engineering and sustainability. He obtained his BS in mechanical engineering from Penn State with a minor in earth systems and an MS in science, technology, and environmental policy from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. His work at the University of Minnesota focused on assessment of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to electric vehicle charging in Minnesota based on policy incentives intended to direct charging to specific hours of the day.