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## **MGA MID-GRID 2035 – Corporate Buyers Workshop Speaker Biographies**

### **Bryn Baker, Director, Policy Innovation, Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance**

Bryn Baker is REBA's Director of Policy Innovation, leading REBA's work to influence policy to expand opportunities and accelerate new policy approaches that allow all non-residential energy buyers to access cost-competitive renewable energy. Previously, Bryn led World Wildlife Fund's renewable energy work with large buyers that merged under the new REBA, including the Renewable Energy Buyers Principles initiative. Prior to joining WWF, Bryn worked for the Overseas Development Institute in London and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) on climate change and energy issues. Bryn holds a Masters in Environmental Policy from the London School of Economics and a BA in biology from the University of Colorado Boulder.

### **Steve Chriss, Director, Energy Services, Walmart**

Steve W. Chriss is Director, Energy Services for Walmart Inc. Steve leads Walmart's utilities team and is responsible for managing Walmart's day to day and emergency engagement with utilities, regulatory and legislative cost exposure from changes in electric and natural gas rates, interventions in regulatory proceedings, pricing analyses, and strategic partnership opportunities. Since 2007, he has managed interventions in over 500 regulatory dockets. Steve also serves as a witness on behalf of Walmart and in his career has testified in over 230 rate and policy dockets in 41 states and on legislative matters in two states.

Prior to joining Walmart, Steve was an Economist and later Senior Utility Analyst for the Oregon Public Utility Commission from 2003 to 2007. From 2001 to 2003, Steve worked as an Analyst on domestic and international energy regulatory projects for Econ One Research, Inc., an energy and economics consulting firm.

Steve received a M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Louisiana State University in 2001 and a B.S. in Agricultural Development and a B.S. in Horticulture from Texas A&M University in 1997. He also completed coursework in Agricultural Education and Communication at the University of Florida.

### **Jeff Riles, Lead, Global Energy Markets and Policy, Google**

Jeff Riles leads energy market development initiatives for the Global Infrastructure Group at Google, a part of the business team responsible for the company's data centers and global energy portfolio. In this role, Jeff is responsible for Google's work in wholesale energy markets, focusing on ensuring flexible, cost-effective, and customer-centric market design. Additionally, Jeff is primarily responsible for managing energy policy issues in all of the markets represented by the Midwestern Governors Association.

Prior to Google, he worked as a Sr. Director at Enel Green power and as an energy attorney working on a number of transactional and regulatory matters. He holds a law degree from the University of Oklahoma and a Bachelor's degree from Oklahoma City University. He is a frequent lecturer on energy regulatory

policy, including most recently at the Georgetown Law Center, Harvard University, and the George Washington Law School.

Follow him on #energytwitter at jeffriles@

### **Rob Threlkeld, Global Manager – Sustainable Energy, Supply & Reliability, General Motors**

Rob Threlkeld is global manager of Sustainable Energy, Supply and Reliability for General Motors, leading the company's energy procurement efforts including the commitment to meet the electricity needs of its global operations with 100 percent renewable energy by 2040. Threlkeld is responsible for leading that team that supports GM energy procurement and regulatory efforts including negotiating power purchase agreements, natural gas, green tariffs, and engineering onsite renewable solutions for GM facilities across the globe, including opportunities associated with battery storage, behind-the-meter applications and EV integration.

As part of GM's Sustainable Workplaces team, Threlkeld shares best practices for renewable energy procurement with internal and external audiences, offering solutions for large and small businesses alike to benefit from the use of renewables.

Threlkeld is a board member of the Renewable Energy Buyer's Association (REBA), involved in the American Wind Energy Association and Solar Energy Industries Association, two energy groups advancing the use of these renewable forms of energy. He also serves an industry advisor to the School of Environmental and Ecological Engineering at Purdue University. He is a member of the Association of Energy Engineers, the Engineering Society of Detroit, and the Solar Power International Education Council. This year, Energy Manager Today recognized Threlkeld as one of 50 top energy managers for driving GM and the energy management industry forward.

Threlkeld began his career at GM in 2000 as manager of the powerhouse and wastewater treatment plant operations at GM's Lordstown, Ohio Assembly Complex. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Purdue University. He is a registered Certified Hazardous Material Manager, Certified Energy Manager and Business Energy Professional.

### **Jay Caspary, Vice President, Grid Strategies**

Jay Caspary provides analysis and strategic guidance on transmission grid planning and operations to support a clean energy portfolio. Jay has 40 years of experience in transmission planning, engineering, management, tariffs, transmission services, and retail marketing. Most recently he oversaw Research, Development & Tariff Services for the Southwest Power Pool. He also served as SPP's Director of Engineering and head of Transmission Development. In 2012-2013, Jay served as Senior Policy Advisor for the U. S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) with a focus on grid modernization. Prior to SPP, he served in several staff and managerial roles at Illinois Power.

In these roles, Jay has:

- Worked closely with regional organizations, national labs and affected parties to evaluate and promote the integration of renewables with effective transmission solutions, deployment of research pilots and case studies to identify the merits of new technologies or approaches to utility

operations, with a recent focus on the opportunities associated with aging infrastructure and the effective utilization of existing Rights of Way for the future grid.

- Served in leadership roles for industry-utility collaboratives such as the Energy Systems Integration Group, Electric Power Research Institute, Power System Engineering Research Center and Grid-connected Advanced Power Electronics Systems as well as support industry advisory boards at the University of Arkansas Little Rock and Harding University.
- Written and supported testimony at FERC and state public utility commissions regarding improvements to study processes and tariff procedures as well as major transmission expansion projects.
- Served as a technical reviewer for over many national laboratory reports, academic articles, and utility wind integration studies.
- Quoted in dozens of press articles and a frequent presenter at utility conferences, as well as industry events such as CIGRE, IEEE and the North American Power Symposium.
- Published academic articles and conference presentations on optimization tools for utility operations, effective and efficient grid planning, wind integration challenges and new technologies that utilities ought to consider to improve grid operations and planning.

Jay holds a BS from the University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign with an emphasis in Power Systems.

### **Brandon J. Hofmeister, Senior Vice President of Governmental, Regulatory and Public Affairs for CMS Energy and Consumers Energy**

In this role, Hofmeister leads a team responsible for public policy and regulatory advocacy, corporate communications and corporate citizenship. Their work helps shape Michigan’s energy future by proactively engaging with policymakers, customers and other key stakeholders.

Hofmeister also is president of the CMS Energy and Consumers Energy charitable foundations. Hofmeister previously served as vice president of governmental and public affairs. Hofmeister joined Consumers Energy in 2013 and has been responsible for research and analysis of policy, economic and technological trends, public and community affairs, and the company’s sustainability initiative.

Prior to joining Consumers Energy, Hofmeister served as an assistant professor of law at Wayne State University and as visiting professor of law at the University of Michigan, focusing on energy and climate law and policy.

Previously, Hofmeister was an energy policy advisor and deputy legal counsel to Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm. Hofmeister led comprehensive state energy policy reforms, helped implement the governor's clean energy economic development efforts and coordinated with Congress and the Obama Administration on federal energy and climate policies.

Hofmeister holds a bachelor’s degree in government from Harvard College, and also is a Harvard Law School graduate. In 2009, he was one of two Americans selected as a Chevening Fellow at the University of Edinburgh Business School, where he studied finance and investment in a low-carbon economy with policymakers from around the world.

### **Brian Tulloh, Executive Director, External Affairs MISO North Region**

Brian Tulloh is executive director of External Affairs for Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). Tulloh is MISO's primary liaison with members, stakeholders and policymakers in MISO's north footprint in the upper Midwest. Overall, MISO ensures reliable operation of, and equal access to, high-voltage power lines in 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. MISO also manages one of the world's largest energy markets, with over \$30 billion in gross annual market charges.

Tulloh has 35 years of leadership experience across the energy industry. Most recently, he served as vice president of public policy for Dallas-based Energy Future Holdings Corp., where he was responsible for shaping and advancing the organization's public and external affairs strategy. Previously, Tulloh spent a decade at TXU Energy, serving in executive roles including public affairs, business strategy, corporate affairs, and retail strategy and analysis.

Prior to joining TXU, Tulloh was a leader within McKinsey and Company's energy practice, where he served a variety of U.S. and European clients consulting on strategy and organizational issues. Tulloh also held a series of positions within the ARCO family of companies in Texas and California, including oil and gas operations, environmental services, and natural gas trading.

Tulloh is on the board of the Northern Star Council of the Boy Scouts of America in Minnesota and has served in the past on the board of the North Texas Commission, the Texas Association of Businesses, the Center for Commercialization of Electric Technologies (CCET) in Austin, Texas and a UT-Dallas Advisory Board for the Energy Management Program.

Tulloh earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Purdue University and is a registered professional engineer in Texas. He holds an MBA from Southern Methodist University.

### **Amy Fredregill, Managing Director, Sustainable Growth Coalition**

Having worked in the public, private and non-profit sector, Fredregill has nearly 25 years of experience in policy and systemic approaches to energy, water and other sustainability efforts in both the Midwest and nationally. Since March 2018, Fredregill has been serving as the Managing Director of the Minnesota Sustainable Growth Coalition at Environmental Initiative (EI). The Coalition primarily represents Fortune 500 Companies headquartered in Minnesota that are leaders in corporate sustainability. Prior to EI, Fredregill was Xcel Energy's Manager of Resource Planning and Strategy for External and State Affairs at NSP-MN. Fredregill served since 2011 as Executive Director for the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System (M-RETS) and as the Vice President of the Cooperative Network, a business trade association working with cooperatives in the Upper Midwest. She has also held positions as a legislative aide for the US Senate and a researcher for the MN Public Utilities Commission.

Fredregill has consulted internationally on several USAID-funded partnerships, most recently in Mexico to assist with federal energy reform. In 2016 she was recognized as a Clean Energy Leader for MN Women by the Clean Energy Resource Team and *The Business Journal's* 25 Women to Watch Award in 2010. She received a Master's degree in Environmental Policy from the George Washington University in 2002 and an Economics Degree from the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in 1997. Fredregill was awarded a Policy Fellowship from the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs from 2008-2009. In her free time, she enjoys Nordic skiing, wilderness backpacking, paddling and playing the fiddle.