

**MGA Preparing Midwestern Communities for Power Plant Closures
Quarterly Meeting - July 28, 2021
Speaker Biographies**

Briggs White, Ph.D., Deputy Executive Director, Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization, National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)

Briggs White, Ph.D., serves as deputy executive director of the Biden Administration's Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization. In this role, he works hand in hand with the 11 federal agency members of the IWG to advance its mission. The IWG is identifying and coordinating opportunities to connect energy communities for federal investments to help ensure the shift to a clean energy economy creates good-paying union jobs, spurs economic revitalization, remediates environmental degradation and supports energy workers in coal, oil and gas, and power plant communities. Prior to being appointed deputy executive director, White was central to a multi-agency effort to prepare the IWG's initial report, which described existing mechanisms and provided recommendations for future actions that could support and revitalize the economies of energy communities.



White joined the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) in 2007 and most recently served as a technology manager for three research and development programs, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management: High Performance Materials, Water Management, and Energy Storage. He is currently based out of NETL's Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, site and worked at NETL's Morgantown, West Virginia, site from 2007 to 2015. White holds degrees in materials science and engineering from Alfred University (B.S.), the University of Florida (M.S., Ph.D.) and the University of Rome (Ph.D.) with an emphasis on solid-state high-temperature electrochemical devices.

Michele Chang, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

Michele Chang is a seasoned executive with nearly 20 years of experience in the private, public and nonprofit sectors. She joins the Economic Development Administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy. She most recently was the Executive Director of the Rework America Business Network at the Markle Foundation, where she worked with Fortune 500 companies to help American workers without four-year degrees get the skills they need and access quality jobs.



Ms. Chang served in the Obama Administration as Acting Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), where she managed the day-to-day operations of the 3,000+ person agency. She also served as the agency's point person on policy issues with the White House's National Economic Council; coordinated cross-agency initiatives; and launched and ran new federal programs.

Prior to joining the Administration, Ms. Chang worked at McKinsey & Company, where she helped local governments, public school systems and Fortune 500 companies alike tackle some of their most challenging and urgent issues. She has also held roles at PricewaterhouseCoopers; and Hope Street Group, a national nonprofit where she led their national workforce development programs.

Ms. Chang earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, in Mathematics/Applied Sciences and her MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. She was born and raised in San Jose, California, and currently lives in Maryland with her husband and three children.

Matthew Dalbey, Director, Office of Community Revitalization, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Matthew Dalbey is the director of the US EPA's Office of Community Revitalization. During his 17 years at EPA he has been recognized as a thought leader on more sustainable, resilient and innovative approaches to the growth and development of communities.

He has launched technical assistance programs that link economic revitalization and environmental protection and led these programs through transitions across changes in Federal leadership. The interagency assistance programs have been used to help hundreds of communities across the country. During the Obama Administration, he served as the deputy director of the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities.



Prior to joining EPA he spent five years on the faculty of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Jackson State University.

Karama Neal, Administrator for Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dr. Karama Neal comes to Rural Development from the Southern Bancorp Community Partners (SBCP) where she served, most recently, as president. SBCP is a rural-focused community development loan fund that has made frequent use of RBCS programs in its 30-year history in Arkansas and Mississippi. In addition to development lending, SBCP works in consumer-focused public policy and provides asset building programs for low- and moderate-wealth families and communities.

In 2013, Karama founded Heirs of Arkansas, a statewide grassroots organization created to promote passage of the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act which was passed with no dissent in 2015. Prior to joining SBCP in 2009, she served as an adjunct professor and program director at Emory University, where she earned a Ph.D. in genetics. She also worked as a curator for a biofuel's informatics company, where she focused on feedstocks and the food/fuel balance. In addition to holding a M.A. in bioethics and health policy from Loyola University Chicago and a B.A. in biology from Swarthmore College, Karama has completed the Impact Investing Program at the University of Oxford's Saïd Business School. She has also served on the board of the Little Rock Branch of the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank. Karama is currently based in Little Rock, Arkansas, her hometown.

