

MGA Quarterly MID-GRID 2035 Virtual Meeting July 9, 2024

Speaker Bios

Matt Prorok, Great Plains Institute

Matt Prorok joined the Great Plains Institute in November 2015 and is a senior policy manager for GPI's Energy Systems team. His work focuses on the development of electric transmission infrastructure and market mechanisms to accelerate deployment of low-carbon energy technologies in the Midcontinent region. Matt serves as a facilitator and technical consultant for a number of initiatives including the MISO Cities and Communities Coalition, NextGen Highways, and the Midwestern Governors Association's MID GRID 2035 initiative. Matt also contributes to GPI's research, analysis, and technical assistance work on topics including industrial and transportation electrification, electric rate design, local clean energy planning and goals, and federal policy implementation.



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.

Karin Herzfeld, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

Karin Herzfeld is Senior Transmission Counsel to Willie Phillips, Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. She serves as the lead for the Chairman's office on efforts to reform transmission and generator interconnection policies. Prior to working for Chairman Phillips, Karin Herzfeld was a legal advisor to former FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee and an Attorney Advisor in FERC's Office of General Counsel, where she focused on electricity market matters. She also served as lead attorney on Order Nos. 2222 and 841, the Commission's rulemakings removing barriers to distributed energy resource aggregations and electric storage resources in wholesale markets. Karin holds a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.A. in Economics and Sociology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



Christina S. Drake, MISO

Christina Drake joined MISO in June 2002 and is currently the Director of Economic & Policy Planning in Transmission Planning. Christina leads the economic, interregional, and future scenario planning functions along with supporting the Long-Range Transmission Planning in the System Planning Division at MISO.



Christina is a power industry professional with over 22 years of experience including leadership in real-time operations, markets, and transmission planning. Her experience includes transmission and generation outage coordination, loss of load expectation planning studies, event analysis, transmission and distribution planning, transmission settlements, real-time operations engineering, NERC certified Reliability Coordination, quality management and 15 years of coaching, development, and management. In addition to Transmission Planning, while at MISO, Christina has held several positions in Real-Time and Market Operations including Reliability Coordinator, Regional Operations Engineer and has served as Manager for Transmission Settlements, Generation & Interchange, Central Region Operations Engineering and Operations Processes & Controls departments.

Christina holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, as well as a Master of Business Administration from Anderson University Falls School of Business. Christina held a NERC a System Operator –Reliability and American Society for Quality (ASQ) Manager of Quality/Organization Excellence certifications while in real-time operations. She is very excited to be a part of the rapidly changing electric industry.

Sunny Raheem, Southwest Power Pool

Sunny is a results-driven leader with a proven track record in team leadership, technical competencies, and stakeholder relations. Currently serving as the Director of System Planning at Southwest Power Pool, Sunny oversees critical transmission planning assessments and spearheads policy improvement efforts. With extensive experience in developing and implementing strategic plans, conducting innovative research, and optimizing transmission planning approaches, Sunny is known for his communication skills, innovative solutions, training, and motivating engineering teams. Sunny holds a Professional Engineer (P.E.) license and an advanced degree in Systems Engineering from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, making him a distinguished expert in the field of power systems and engineering management.



Jason Stanek, PJM Interconnection

Jason M. Stanek is the Executive Director for Governmental Services at PJM Interconnection, LLC. He most recently served as Chairman of the Maryland Public Service Commission from 2018 to 2023. Before that, he was Senior Counsel to the Energy Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Energy and Commerce where he advised on matters involving national energy policy, with specific focus on electricity issues and the operations of the regional power markets. He also served in senior positions at FERC, advising both a Chairman and Commissioner. Jason received a law degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a bachelor's degree from Tulane University. He also completed studies at American University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Derek Brown, Evergy

Mr. Brown holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Electrical Engineering, Power Systems from Kansas State University, and is certified as a Professional Engineer in Kansas.

Mr. Brown has been in his current role as a Senior Manager of Regulatory Affairs at Evergy for two years, specializing in transmission policy at the Federal, State, and RTO/ISO levels. Prior to this role, he held roles as an Engineer and Manager of Transmission Planning and Operations Planning at Evergy for 12 years. He has significant expertise in power flow, short-circuit, and dynamic modeling and was responsible for developing and updating of Evergy's portion of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) planning and operations models for many years. He has also performed and overseen various studies using these models to meet the company's, NERC, and SPP Tariff requirements.



Mr. Brown has served as the company's identified subject matter expert for Transmission Planning Standards; Modeling, Data, and Analysis Standards; and Nuclear Standards in his previous roles at Evergy.

Mr. Brown currently holds has served as both a member and in leadership roles on SPP working groups and task forces. He currently serves as Member, SPP Board-Level Consolidated Planning Process Task Force; Member, Market and Operations Policy Committee; Chair, SPP Transmission Working Group; Member, SPP Economic Studies Working Group; and Member, Transmission Owner Selection Process Task Force.

Hannes Pfeifenberger, The Brattle Group

Johannes (Hannes) Pfeifenberger, a Principal at The Brattle Group, is an economist with a background in electrical engineering and over twenty-five years of experience in the areas of regulatory economics and finance. His work focuses on improving regional wholesale power markets and transmission planning.

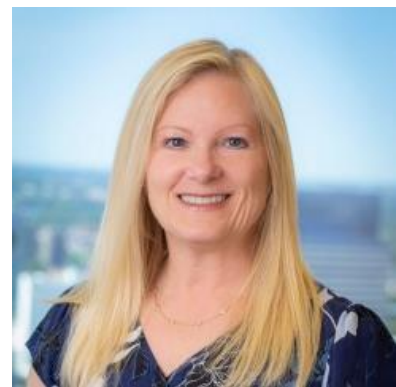
Hannes is a Visiting Scholar at MIT's Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research (CEEPR), a former Senior Fellow at Boston University's Institute of Sustainable Energy (BU-ISE), and an IEEE Senior Member. He frequently serves as an advisor to research initiatives by the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG) and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Labs. Before joining The Brattle Group, he was a Consultant for Cambridge Energy Research Associates and a Research Analyst at the Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Technology in Vienna, Austria.



He received an M.A. in Economics and Finance from Brandeis University's International Business School and an M.S. and B.S. ("Diplom Ingenieur") in Power Engineering and Energy Economics from the University of Technology in Vienna, Austria. A list of his public reports and presentation is [available here](#).

Beth Soholt, 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.