

MGA MID-GRID Quarterly Meeting Speaker Biographies

Cici Vu, DNV Energy Insights USA Inc.

Cici brings more than 12 years of experience managing, designing, convening, mediating, evaluating and facilitating equitable and inclusive processes for politically and data-driven complex environmental, social, and racial conflict, and large-scale infrastructure projects and policies. Her work has been in the service of government agencies (local, state, and federal), philanthropic entities, BIPOC communities in environmental justice, disadvantaged and vulnerable, underserved areas, with an emphasis on bridging the data/technical and human dimensions through a Diversity Equity Inclusion Access and Justice (DEIAJ) and community benefits lens.



Her expertise is across sectors of transmission, clean energy, energy efficiency, sustainability (ESG), EV, transportation, climate change, water and air quality, natural resources, housing, homelessness, public health, and safety. She also has deep experience with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), other regulatory processes and Justice 40 priorities for large-scale infrastructure projects, permitting and community benefits planning. Another dimension of her work delves into the realm of Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD) reviews, focused on human rights, community and stakeholder engagement and indigenous issues, pursuant to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) performance standards and the Equator Principles frameworks. Given her deep experience, her work is foremost informed by her experience and community perspective, having lived environmental, climate and energy burdens first-hand. Cici has created a framework that encapsulates and provides a clear guide for implementation of her work as described above.

Colin Byers, Union of Concerned Scientists

Colin Byers is a Senior Campaign Coordinator with the Climate & Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists focused on making grid equity and accessibility. Colin is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer who has worked in and studied community development and climate impacts globally.



Bradley Pischea, Land & Liberty Coalition

Bradley Pischea is the National Director of the Land & Liberty Coalition, a project of the Conservative Energy Network. Before joining the coalition, Bradley worked in the Michigan Senate, where he served on staff with the Michigan Senate Majority Leader, the Senate Appropriations Chairman, and worked on three legislative cycles supporting Michigan house and senate candidates on the campaign trail. He joined the Land & Liberty Coalition in 2019 as the Michigan Field Director, advanced to national Deputy Director, and became the National Director in 2022. Originally from Michigan, Bradley now resides in Omaha, Nebraska with his fiancé. He enjoys Michigan football, cycling, and spending time with their two cats.



Jared Policichio, City of Chicago

Jared Policichio is an experienced policy and regulatory professional focused on advancing Chicago's equitable environmental and energy priorities. Currently Jared serves as the Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer and Deputy Commissioner in the City's newly reformed Department of Environment. Previously, Jared served as Deputy CSO, Deputy Director of Policy and Senior Policy Counsel in the Chicago Mayor's Office. Among other projects, Jared project managed the City's successful transition to 100% renewable energy for municipal operations through serving as the anchor customer for a nearly complete 600MW utility-scale solar facility in Sangamon County, Illinois. He also serves on the steering committee of the PJM Cities and Communities Coalition. Jared has also worked at the Chicago Department of Law and the Environmental Law & Policy Center. Jared has a B.A. from Franklin and Marshall College and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.



Chair Angie Hatton, Kentucky Public Service Commission

Angie Hatton was appointed to the Public Service Commission and designated as Vice Chair by Governor Andy Beshear in March 2023. She was then appointed as Chair on August 6, 2024. Her term expires July 1, 2025.

Prior to her appointment, in addition to her private law practice, Chair Hatton served three terms representing Letcher, Pike and Harlan Counties in the House of Representatives, and served the General Assembly as House Minority Whip. Much of her legislative work centered around energy and utility issues. She served on the House Standing Committee on Natural Resources and was appointed by the Speaker of the House to the Southern Legislators Conference Committee on



Energy and Environment. Currently she serves on the Board of Directors for both OPSI (Organization of PJM States) and OMS (Organization of MISO States). For NARUC, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions, She serves on the Energy Resources and Environment Committee, the International Relations Committee, and the Clean Coal Committee. Also, she serves on the Advisory Board for the New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities.

Chair Hatton hails from Letcher Co, one of the more impoverished areas of East Kentucky. After graduating from Eastern Kentucky University in 1994 with a degree in journalism, she worked as a newspaper reporter before earning her law degree at the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1999. She and her family reside in Whitesburg.

Dan Leshner, Great River Energy

Dan Leshner is the manager of transmission permitting and land rights for Great River Energy, which is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative that provides electricity through its 27 member-owner cooperatives and customers. Through its member-owners, Great River Energy serves two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin. Great River Energy is based in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

During Dan's 17 years with Great River Energy, he has led routing, siting, and real estate acquisition for more than 400 miles of regional MISO transmission. In addition, Dan manages a department that leads all routing, permitting and land rights activities for Great River Energy's new and existing transmission lines.



Brad Pnazek, Invenergy

Brad Pnazek (Puh-NAY-zick) is a Vice President at Invenergy, working in its Transmission Business Development group and his current responsibilities revolve around the project development activities for the Grain Belt Express transmission line. He has 10+ years of experience developing large, utility scale energy generation projects from inception through construction. Brad has a Bachelor's of Science in Civil & Environmental Engineering and a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Illinois. He has a passion for working on and delivering the next generation of energy projects as well as the engagement with the multitudes of stakeholders that are integral to successfully bringing a project to fruition.



Prior to working as a developer, Brad also worked in construction project management, corporate finance and consulting. He's a lifelong learner and is excited to be a part of the change and innovation that is ongoing in the energy industry.

Peter Schmitt, U.S. Solar Corporation

Peter is a Director of Project Development focusing on US Solar's grid scale developments across the country, ranging from 50-500+ MW each. He also spearheads the company's dual-use solar ("agrivoltaic") innovations, including the advancement of pollinator seed mixes, experimental crops, beehives, sheep grazing, and honey, wool, and organic crop production to sites. Prior to joining US Solar, Peter worked as an internal consultant at Xcel Energy in transmission, worked for a public utility in Austria, and founded a commercial compost processing company. Peter grew up in Minnesota and received two undergraduate and two graduate degrees, all from the University of Minnesota.



Matt Prorok, Great Plains Institute

Matt Prorok joined the Great Plains Institute in November 2015 and is a director 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.



Tricia DeBleeckere, Organization of MISO States (OMS)

Tricia DeBleeckere is the Executive Director of the Organization of MISO States, a non-profit organization facilitating state participation and strategy in regional transmission planning and capacity and energy market design. Previously she worked at MISO as the Director of State Policy and Strategy. Prior to MISO, Tricia worked for the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for 15-years as a Commission advisor and analyst on integrated resource, transmission and distribution system planning, siting and need, cost recovery, and competitive procurements. Prior to government work, Tricia spent 7-years consulting on FERC and state regulatory filings for natural gas, ethanol, and manufacturing clients. Tricia has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Minnesota and pursuing an MBA from the University of Texas.



Russell De Salvo, ComEd

Russell De Salvo serves as the Director of Transmission System Operations at ComEd, where he oversees the Control Room and Operations Planning teams responsible for the daily operation of the ComEd Transmission System. Additionally, he manages the TSO Training team, ensuring that all Exelon Transmission System Operators are properly qualified and trained.

With a career spanning 25 years in the industry, Russell has held various leadership roles, particularly in planning both the ComEd Transmission and Distribution systems. He has also led engineering and execution of large projects within the Substation Engineering and Smart Grid groups at ComEd.

Before joining ComEd in 2005, Russell held positions at PJM and Mid-America Interconnected Network (MAIN), focusing on operations and operations planning to support transmission reliability for Illinois and Wisconsin.

Russell holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois.

Commissioner Dennis Deters, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

Dennis P. Deters was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) by Governor Mike DeWine in 2019 and reappointed to a second term in 2021.

Prior to joining the PUCO, Commissioner Deters served in local government for the last decade, most recently as a judge on Ohio's First District Court of Appeals. Deters also has served as a Colerain Township Trustee, a Hamilton County Commissioner, and a trial attorney representing local government interests.

In these positions, Deters has overseen local regulation of basic public service, has been tasked with adopting and enforcing administrative regulation of local services, worked to solve public service disputes, and represented individuals and businesses navigating government regulation.

Commissioner Deters is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC) and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). In June 2024, Commissioner Deters was elected as First Vice President of MACRUC. In addition, he currently serves on the NARUC Committee on International Relations, which manages outreach activities across the globe, including partnerships with numerous countries in Eastern Europe, Africa and Bangladesh. He also serves on the NARUC Committee on Critical Infrastructure, which discusses protection of the nation's energy and telecommunications infrastructure. Deters focuses extensively on cybersecurity as it relates to utility services. Commissioner Deters is a current board member of the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI), an organization of 14 state commissions in the service area of PJM, the regional transmission operator. Commissioner Deters has earned his Bachelor of Arts, English and government from the University of Notre Dame, and his law degree from the University of Cincinnati.



Rob Gramlich, Grid Strategies, LLC

Rob Gramlich is President of Grid Strategies LLC, a Washington DC-based consultancy focused on transmission and power markets for a reliable, affordable, and sustainable power system. He co-founded Americans for a Clean Energy Grid, Working for Advanced Transmission Technologies (WATT Coalition), Advancing Modern Powerlines, the Macro Grid Initiative, and the Future Power Markets Forum. Rob has been invited to testify by both parties before Congress, FERC, and state agencies. He has earned awards from FERC as Exemplar of Public Service, the Energy Systems Integration Group for contributions to market design and transmission planning, The Hill Magazine for lobbying, and the American Wind Energy Association for Technical Achievement.



Rob previously oversaw transmission and power market policy for the American Wind Energy Association as SVP and Interim CEO, served as Economic Advisor to FERC Chairman Pat Wood III, and was Senior Economist at PJM Interconnection.

Rob has a Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree from UC Berkeley and a BA with Honors in Economics from Colby College.

Hwikwon Ham, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Hwikwon Ham was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission by Governor Walz, on January 3, 2024. Commissioner Ham has spent 20+ years in state government working on energy issues. Most recently, he was the supervisor for the regional energy program within the Commission. Prior to his tenure with the PUC, he was an energy rates analyst with the Minnesota Department of Commerce.



His expertise lies in ensuring grid reliability, fostering efficient energy markets, guiding transmission planning, and advocating for equitable transmission cost allocation. Commissioner Ham has defended Minnesota interests within the complex landscape of federally regulated Regional Transmission Organizations and engaged in the MISO stakeholder process. He has served as a staff member of the Organization of MISO States and led the Market Work Group.

Commissioner Ham is married and has two adult children. He earned an M.A. in economics from the University of Minnesota, and a B.A. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Sarah Moskowitz, Citizens Utility Board (CUB) of Illinois

Sarah Moskowitz is Executive Director of the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) of Illinois, a statewide group that advocates for consumer protections, lower utility bills, and equitable, consumer-friendly climate solutions in Springfield, at the Illinois Commerce Commission, and in the courts. Sarah started at CUB in the summer of 2000 and has served there in a variety of roles, from counseling individual consumers with utility complaints to building CUB's outreach program into a national leader that staffs hundreds of free events a year. She became CUB's Deputy Director in 2019 and filled that role until 2023, when she stepped in as Executive Director. Sarah earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Chicago.



Chairman Doug Scott, Illinois Commerce Commission

Doug Scott was appointed Chair of the Illinois Commerce Commission by Governor J.B. Pritzker on June 17, 2023. This is Scott's second stint as Chair, having served in that position from 2011-2015. Between engagements with the ICC, Scott was Vice President of the Great Plains Institute, where he worked on decarbonization efforts with States, utilities and other interested parties. His team at GPI focused on utility business models, transmission and clean energy/climate plans. As part of that work, Scott served as an advisor to the Illinois Governor's Office on energy and environmental issues, including development of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.



Before his first session with the ICC, Scott served in a variety of public sector positions for over twenty-five years, including Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Mayor of the City of Rockford, State Representative and City Attorney for Rockford. A native of Rockford, Scott received his Bachelor of Arts with honors from the University of Tulsa, and a Juris Doctorate with honors from Marquette University.

Doug and his wife Tammy have been married since 1985 and reside in South Beloit, Illinois.

Benjamin Stafford, Great Plains Institute

Benjamin Stafford joined the Great Plains Institute in 2024 as senior policy manager for the Energy Systems program. Benjamin leads work on utility regulatory innovation and transmission deployment.

Benjamin brings over 20 years of experience in the energy industry to GPI. Most recently, he provided strategy consulting to address regulatory and business model challenges to a clean energy transition. Benjamin's past clients include investor-owned electric and gas utilities, environmental interest groups, and federal and



state agencies. Benjamin also has worked extensively in government affairs, advocating for legislative and regulatory policy changes. Benjamin also brings experience in state regulation of public utilities.

Benjamin is a graduate of Ohio State University with a BA in business administration, a Master of labor and human resources, and a MA in public policy and management, and a MSc in business research from the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management.