

MGA MID-GRID Quarterly Meeting – Virtual

January 28, 2025
Speaker Biographies

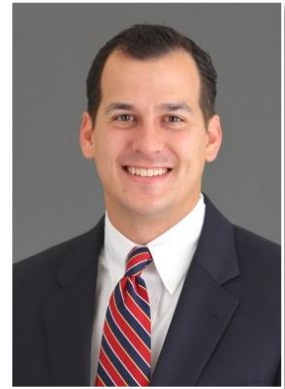
Tim Burdis, PJM Interconnection

As director of state policy solutions, Burdis manages a team of professionals who endeavor to harmonize emerging state electricity policies with wholesale market design and transmission system planning policies. His organization specifically focuses on: offshore wind development; clean energy development; resource adequacy evolution; grid modernization; and, grid security maintenance.

Before his current post, Burdis served as the business operations manager to PJM's General Counsel / Senior Vice President of Law, Compliance and External Relations. Here he managed a portfolio on matters relating to corporate governance, regulatory filings, development of policy and messaging, long-term corporate strategy and the day-to-day management of the executive office.

Prior, Burdis served as manager of policy analysis & strategy, managing a team of economists focused on the outreach and strategy development for state government engagement; focusing on policy assessment, market design and transmission planning. Additionally, he managed PJM's engagement with the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI) and its interaction with the company's Executive Team and Board of Managers.

Burdis started his career as an engineer working in PJM's markets and operations divisions. He is a graduate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and holds a Master of Science in Engineering from West Virginia University.



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 Raheem is the Director of System Planning at Southwest Power Pool. With extensive experience in strategic plan development, research, and transmission planning optimization, Sunny oversees critical transmission planning assessments and policy improvement efforts. Sunny's previous roles include work in generator interconnection, transmission modeling, and transmission planning. 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 power systems and engineering management.



Chairman Andrew French, Kansas Corporation Commission

Andrew J. 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 and was re-elected Chairperson on September 14, 2023. French was reappointed to the Commission for a second term and confirmed by the Senate on February 21, 2024. His second term expires March 15, 2028.

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.

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 oversaw local regulation of basic public service, adopted and enforced 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), the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the Organization of PJM States, Inc (OPSI). In June 2024, Commissioner Deters was elected as First Vice President of MACRUC. In October 2024, he was appointed Vice President of OPSI by the PJM States. 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 is also a member of the NARUC Committee on Critical Infrastructure, which analyzes and supports protection of the nation's energy and telecommunications infrastructure. Deters focuses extensively on cybersecurity as it relates to utility services.

Recently, Commissioner Deters was selected by his peers to work with on a new Federal and State Current Issues Collaborative, a joint effort between NARUC and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission made up of 10 Utility Commissioners from across the United States. This Collaborative, the N10, is working to find solutions to challenges created by multijurisdictional regulation of the Nation's energy systems and markets.

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.

Commissioner Hwikwon Ham, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Hwikwon Ham was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission by Governor Walz, on January 3, 2024. Commissioner Ham is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) where he serves on the Committee on Electricity, and the Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest.



Prior to his appointment, Commissioner Ham 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.

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.