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## MGA MID-GRID Quarterly Symposium Speaker Biographies

### **Suzanne Jaworowski, State of Indiana**

Suzanne Jaworowski is the Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources for the State of Indiana, appointed by Governor Mike Braun. Secretary Jaworowski brings extensive experience in energy policy as a leader in the private sector and the U.S. Department of Energy.

As the Secretary of Energy, Jaworowski will provide leadership to navigate Indiana's energy challenges and improve accessibility. Consistent with Gov. Braun's agenda, the Administration is focused on ensuring the state has enough affordable and reliable energy sources to sustain current residents and attract new development.

Jaworowski most recently served as Executive Director of Stakeholder Services at MISO Energy, overseeing stakeholder relations and client services. She previously served as Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor for Policy & Communications in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy during the first Trump administration. While at DOE, Ms. Jaworowski led the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation, as chairperson for the 65-country, government-to-government initiative on safeguards, security and development for nuclear energy. She later went on to work at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria.

Before her federal service, Jaworowski directed communications and government relations at Hallador Energy and founded Ryder Research Consulting, where she advised energy companies, utilities, and industry associations.



### **Katie Jereza, U.S. Department of Energy – Office of Electricity**

The Honorable Catherine (Katie) Jereza was sworn in as Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity (OE) on October 14, 2025. She leads the Department's research, development and demonstration programs to strengthen and modernize our nation's power grid.

Assistant Secretary Jereza returned to OE in 2025 after serving as OE's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transmission Permitting and Technical Assistance from 2017-2019. During that time, she led Department efforts to promote the reliability, security and affordability of electricity infrastructure. In between her positions at OE, she served as a Corporate Vice President for the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), providing strategic leadership for government and external engagement.



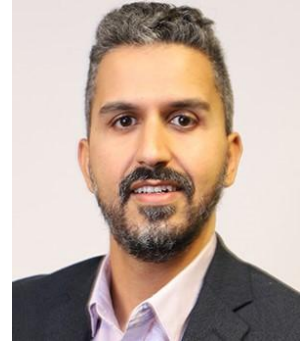
Assistant Secretary Jereza has more than 30 years of experience in the energy, water, and manufacturing industries, where she led multiple startups, turnaround and major problem-solving initiatives. Specifically, she was the Director for Infrastructure Resilience at the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), Program Director at Energetics Incorporated, and Environmental Specialist at the Maryland Department of the Environment's Water Supply

Program. She also worked as a sales engineer for GE Water and Process Technologies and the Lincoln Electric Company.

Assistant Secretary Jereza grew up in West Virginia and currently lives in Maryland with her husband. She holds an MBA from the Loyola University Maryland and a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

### **Yasser Bahbaz, Southwest Power Pool**

Yasser Bahbaz is SPP's Senior Director of Operations Support, where he leads the teams responsible for operations engineering, reliability coordination support, and operational seams management and coordination. Yasser brings 18 years of experience in energy markets and Bulk Electric System operations, with expertise in reliability coordination, market design and operations, and transmission congestion management.



### **Jessica Lin, EPRI**

Jessica Lin is a Technical Executive for the Electrification & Sustainable Energy Strategy department of EPRI. In this role, she provides global communications and marketing leadership to the Data Center Flexible Load (DCFlex) Initiative. EPRI's work in this area aims to demonstrate how data centers can support and stabilize the electric grid while improving interconnection and efficiency.



She is an energy and technology leader who has consistently driven innovation at the intersection of clean energy, product strategy, and artificial intelligence throughout her career. Most recently, she served as Head of Product for Amazon Alexa's Smart Energy team, where she defined the vision for leveraging smart devices and AI to reduce residential energy use and to decarbonize the grid. Previously, Ms. Lin was Group Product Manager at Oracle Energy and Water, where she oversaw a portfolio of data science and behavioral energy efficiency products serving millions of utility customers. She directed teams of data scientists at the National Laboratory of the Rockies and Oak Ridge National Lab for the US Department of Energy to advance Mission Innovation and to define energy affordability metrics. She developed global frameworks to scale climate technology at the World Bank, primarily across Latin America and the Caribbean.

She has also held leadership roles in finance, consulting, and as CEO and Head of Product of a wireless mesh technology startup earlier in her career. She has been honored as a Rising Star and Global Leader in CleanTech by Emerging Technology News. Ms. Lin was an advisor to the National Laboratory of the Rockies and is recognized as an inventor with patents in data science engineering.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from MIT as an Intel Fellow and a Master of Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School, as a Reynolds Fellow for Social Entrepreneurship. She volunteers her time with MIT admissions as an Educational Counselor, the MIT Angels Club of DC and serves on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation and as Secretary of the Board of the Virginia Beach Rotary Club.

## **DL Oates, MISO**

David Luke (“DL”) Oates leads the Markets and Grid Research group at the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). DL’s teams provide analytic and research support that inform MISO’s strategic direction and prepares the organization for a rapidly evolving grid. His team collaborates with MISO staff and stakeholders to support the continued development of MISO’s markets, operations, and planning functions. DL also helps guide MISO’s work with stakeholders on the reliable integration of large loads through his role as liaison to the Large Load Working Group.

Before joining MISO, DL established and led the power-markets research function at RESurety. At the Brattle Group, he supported electricity market operators, utilities, and asset owners on market design, asset valuation, and regulatory matters.

DL holds a Ph.D. in Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University.

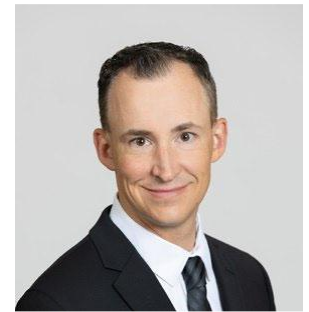


## **Brian Thiry, ReliabilityFirst**

Mr. Thiry leads ReliabilityFirst’s Entity Engagement and External Affairs program that enhance reliability, resilience, and security through outreach, training, and education. This includes our state outreach program, workshops and webinars, assist visit program, certifications, appraisals, and self-assessment tools. In this role, he leads a dedicated team that works to identify, communicate, and mitigate risks to the grid.

Mr. Thiry came to ReliabilityFirst with over 11 years of electrical utility experience from his time at FirstEnergy Corp., mostly in transmission operations. Mr. Thiry also has a background in substation and transmission line design. In previous roles at ReliabilityFirst, he has worked in Compliance Monitoring and Events Analysis & Situational Awareness.

Mr. Thiry holds a Professional Engineering License in the state of Ohio and has a Bachelor’s Degree of Electrical and Computer Engineering from The Ohio State University.



## **Chairman Andy Zay, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission**

Andy Zay was appointed to the Commission on Jan. 12, 2026, by Governor Mike Braun.

Previously, Zay represented Indiana Senate District 17 starting in 2016, which included all of Grant, Huntington, and Wabash counties. During his time in the Senate, Zay was a ranking member of the Senate Committee on Environmental Affairs and also served on the Senate Committees on Commerce and Technology; Pensions and Labor; and Utilities.

Chairman Zay is a graduate of Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and in May 2023, received a Master’s from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He owns and operates Zay Leasing and Rentals, Inc. in Huntington, which was founded in 1953.

Outside of work, Zay served on and has supported the Regional Board of Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana for 20 years and is involved with local school and church development committees. His hobbies include being outdoors, spending time with his family, and enjoying his kids’ sporting events.

He and his wife, Cindy, live in Huntington and have three sons, two daughters, and four grandchildren.



## **Eric Koch, Indiana State Senator, District 44**

State Sen. Eric Koch has served Senate District 44 since 2016. The district includes Brown, Jackson, Lawrence and Orange counties and a portion of Monroe County. Before his election to the Indiana State Senate, Koch served District 65 in the Indiana House of Representatives from 2002-2016.



Koch serves as chairman of the Senate Committee on Utilities, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and the Senate Committee on Commerce and Technology, and as a member of the Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law. He also serves on the Indiana Supreme Court's Commercial Courts Committee, Indiana Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys and the Indiana Probate Code Study Commission.

Professionally, Koch is Of Counsel with Gutwein Law. He represents Indiana as a commissioner on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Koch also serves as a member of the NCSL Executive Committee, the Indiana Geological and Water Survey Advisory Council, National Council on Electricity Policy's Executive Committee, the Council of State Governments' Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee, and on the Boards of Directors of Mid-Southern Savings Bank, FSB and its holding company, Mid-Southern Bancorp, Inc.

From 2018-2022, Koch served as a member of the Consumer Advisory Committee at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

He was named a Sagamore of the Wabash by Gov. Mike Pence and a Kentucky Colonel by Gov. Ernie Fletcher. Koch and his wife, Connie, have three adult sons and live in Bedford.

## **Merle Madrid, Amazon Web Services**

Merle Madrid serves as Senior Manager of Public Policy for Amazon Web Services. In that capacity he represents the world's most adopted cloud computing company in front of governors, state legislatures, and local governments. Madrid previously served as legislative director to the governor and chief of staff to the secretary of state in Ohio. He lives in Columbus, Ohio, with his wife and daughter.

## **VINCE Parisi, NIPSCO**

Vince Parisi serves as President and Chief Operating Officer at NIPSCO. He has profit and loss responsibility for the company and oversight of risk management, regulatory, legislative and external strategies. He oversees the delivery of safe, reliable energy to 859,000 gas customers and 483,000 electric customers in northern Indiana.

Previously, Parisi served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Columbia Gas of Ohio, President of U.S. Utilities for AES Corporation, General Counsel for Gas Natural, Inc., and General Counsel for IGS Energy.

Parisi has more than 20 years of experience in the regulated utilities industry. He served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Dayton Power and Light Company and Indianapolis Power and Light Company, where he was responsible for overall business results for each utility, enhancing customer and stakeholder experience, and providing leadership for the company's strategic plans. Parisi also served as General Counsel for Gas Natural, Inc., a publicly traded parent company to multiple state natural gas distribution companies. He also served as General Counsel for IGS Energy, a competitive energy company operating across the U.S. based in Dublin, Ohio.



Most recently, he served as the President and Chief Operating Officer of Columbia Gas of Ohio, focused on delivering safe, reliable and efficient natural gas to 1.4 million customers across the company's service area. During his previous tenure with Columbia Gas, Parisi served as Vice President, External and Customer Affairs for Columbia Gas of Ohio, in charge of leading customer and stakeholder experiences, economic development, large customer relationships, government affairs, regulatory affairs, customer care and compliance, energy efficiency, community affairs, and communications.

Some of Parisi's board involvement includes the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the Indiana Energy Agency, One Region Inc. and the Capital University Board of Trustees.

Parisi has a bachelor's degree in economics from The Ohio State University. He also earned both a Juris Doctorate and his LL.M. in business and tax from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.

### **Jon Ford, Indiana Office of Energy Development**

Jon Ford currently serves as the Executive Director of the Indiana Office of Energy Development (OED). In this role, Jon is responsible for overseeing the state's energy policies and initiatives, ensuring the reliability, affordability, and sustainability of Indiana's energy resources. He provides policy guidance to executive branch agencies, the legislature, and the public, and administers federal grants to support the state's energy priorities.



Jon brings a wealth of experience in the energy sector, particularly in nuclear energy. Before joining the OED, he was the President of Reliable Energy, Inc. (REI), where he successfully promoted policies aligned with state and federal energy experts to better position Indiana's energy priorities with economic growth. His leadership at REI included managing operations related to coal, natural gas, solar, and recycled battery storage.

Jon's extensive background also includes his tenure as a republican state senator from the 38th District, where he advocated for Indiana's coal communities, carbon capture and storage and other forms of energy. His commitment to energy development and policy has made him a key figure in advancing Indiana's energy landscape.

### **Jennifer Curran, MISO**

Jennifer Curran is Senior Vice President, Planning & Operations for MISO. In that role she oversees a broad array of functions including the company's transmission and resource planning efforts, market operations and system operations.

Ms. Curran has spent the last twenty years focused on delivering reliability and economic value to customers through wholesale electricity markets, operations and infrastructure planning. Since joining MISO in 2004, she has served in various strategic, business planning and operational oversight roles. Notably, Ms. Curran was a leader in the development of the industry-leading Multi-Value Project transmission planning approach.

She currently serves on the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG) Board of Directors, and the Community Health Network Foundation Board of Directors.



Prior to joining MISO, Ms. Curran was Manager of Power Generation & Supply Strategy for MISO and PJM at Reliant Resources. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Rice University and a Master of Business Administration from Duke University.

## **Shelby Butz, NACo**

Shelby leads the environment and land use portfolio within the County Practices and Innovations department at NACo. Prior to joining NACo, Shelby served as a coastal management specialist with NOAA's Office for Coastal Management working with the National Estuarine Research Reserves, State Coastal Management Programs and Margaret A. Davidon Fellowship. She was the Science and Research Portfolio Coordinator for NOAA's National Centers for Ocean Coastal Science. Shelby is skillful at conducting interagency coordination, group facilitation, technical writing and supporting partners in understanding policy and regulatory requirements to advance their priorities, promote policy making and build confidence in decision making and collaboration. Shelby holds a master's in marine science, focused on ecotoxicology and marine ecology, and a Ph.D. in environmental and health sciences focused on analytical chemistry and nanoscience from the University of South Carolina.



## **Bryan Law, NCSL**

Bryan Law oversees NCSL's Energy Program. Prior to joining NCSL, Law worked extensively as a legislative staffer in the Texas and Rhode Island state legislatures on energy and health policy respectively. Dedicated to the ideals of state sovereignty and representative democracy, Law strongly believes in the mission of NCSL. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in education and holds bachelor's and master's degrees in government and political science.



## **Sarah Spence, Conservative Energy Network**

Sarah Spence has built a career in policy development, government affairs and political campaign expertise. Sarah has worked on and managed political campaigns at the local, state and national levels and brings more than 15 years of government affairs and policy experience. She previously served as a legislative director under Governors Mike DeWine and John Kasich, worked in the legislative branch in the Ohio Senate for the office of Ohio State Senator Gary Cates, and was a regional field director under Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell. Sarah also served on the executive boards of the Ohio Young Republicans and Young Republican National Federation.

Currently, Sarah serves as the Midwest Regional Director for the Conservative Energy Network, providing oversight and support for the ten-state Midwest region. Previously, Sarah was the Executive Director of the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum (OHCEF), a member organization of the Conservative Energy Network. She has been a member of the OHCEF Leadership Council since its creation in 2015, and has been working on energy policy for nonprofits since 2017.



Sarah is a graduate of Ohio University and lives in Columbus, OH. When not nerding out over energy policy, Sarah enjoys hiking, kayaking, exploring new places and watching football.

### **Troy Weary, ITC Holdings**

Troy Weary serves as the Director of Local Government and Community Affairs (LGCA) for ITC Midwest. Troy began his utility career with Alliant Energy in an account management position and joined ITC Midwest as an LGCA Area Manager in 2008. In 2019, he was promoted to LGCA Regional Manager to lead the community affairs team.

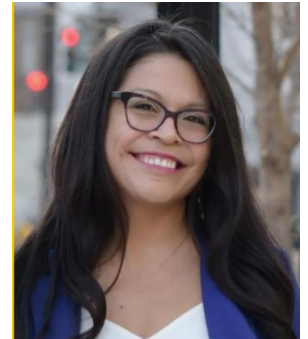


Among other organizations, Troy serves as an Empower Rural Iowa Task Force Member, an Iowa Rural Development Council Board Member, and serves on the Living Roadway Trust Fund Technical Advisory Committee. He also is a member of the Nevada Economic Development Board and the Ames Regional Economic Alliance Board.

Troy and the ITC Midwest LGCA team support work with local communities as well as obtaining the necessary permits from various government agencies to allow for the construction of capital projects. Local Government and Community Affairs works with local city councils, county boards of supervisors, township officials, natural resource districts, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, department of transportation staff members and others to coordinate ITC project communications, work activities and transmission system projects.

### **Maria Redmond, State of Wisconsin**

Maria serves as the Director of the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy and has worked for the State of Wisconsin for 23 years. In addition to helping with the development and implementation of the recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, Maria is leading the implementation of the state's first-ever Clean Energy Plan. Maria leads policies, projects and partnerships centered on environmental justice and multi-sector deep decarbonization and supports the state's bustling clean energy economy that ensures a diverse workforce and technology innovation.



### **Aileen Cole, Great Plains Institute**

Aileen Cole is a manager of utility and regulatory innovation on the Energy Systems team at the Great Plains Institute. GPI is a Minnesota-based nonprofit organization that specializes in convening, facilitating, and otherwise supporting complex stakeholder engagement processes related to energy- and climate-related challenges and initiatives. Aileen works with utilities and commissions nationwide on complex regulatory topics spanning both the electric and gas sectors. Her areas of work include performance-based regulation, DER interconnection, resource planning for both gas and electric utilities, and thermal energy networks. Aileen also has a background in environmental planning for large energy infrastructure projects.



Aileen has a BA degree in Zoology and Spanish at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MS in Science, Technology & Environmental Policy from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

### **Camille Kadoch, Regulatory Assistant Project (RAP)**

Camille Kadoch is a Principal with the Regulatory Assistant Project, where she is the Midwest Lead and General Counsel. Kadoch has worked in the utility regulatory industry since 2010, and has focused most recently on high-impact load considerations, performance-based regulation, and all aspects of utility planning. Prior to joining the organization, she worked in private practice litigation.



### **Ed Soliday, Indiana State Representative, District 4**

Representative Ed Soliday has represented Indiana District 4 since 2006.

He has chaired the Utilities, Energy and Transportation Committee since 2019 and previously chaired the Roads and Transportation Committee from 2011 thru 2018. Representative Soliday retired from United Airlines as a Captain and Vice President of Safety, Quality Assurance and Security after 35 years of service.

Representative Soliday served 12 years on the Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board at the National Academy of Sciences and numerous other aviation boards and committees.



Representative Soliday has been recognized a number of awards and decorations to include the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, the Bendix Trophy, the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Government Official trophy, the Sagamore of the Wabash, and is a member of the Indiana Aviation Hall of Fame.

### **Benjamin Stafford, Great Plains Institute (GPI)**

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.

