



MGA-OMS 13th Annual Transmission Summit Speaker Biographies

Mark LeBel, Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)

Mark LeBel's work at RAP includes a broad range of reforms to modernize regulation of gas and electric utilities, with a focus on ratemaking, cost allocation, and rate design. He is a co-author of the policy briefs, Smart Rate Design for Distributed Energy Resources, Demand Charges: What Are They Good For? and Under Pressure: Gas Utility Regulation for a Time of Transition. He is also the editor of a book on electric cost allocation. Mr. LeBel holds a Juris Doctor with honors from New York University School of Law and a bachelor's degree with honors in applied mathematics with a focus in economics from Harvard College.



Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, North Dakota Public Service Commission

Sheri was appointed to the Public Service Commission in February 2022 by Governor Doug Burgum and was confirmed by the voters in Nov. 2022. Sheri came to the Commission after working in the Office of State Tax Commissioner as a human resource manager since 2017.

Sheri's portfolio at the Public Service Commission includes wind & solar reclamation; economic regulation-electric; pipeline safety; damage prevention and enforcement; weights & measures consumer affairs, and cybersecurity. Sheri currently serves as Treasurer on the Mid-America Regulatory Conference (MARC) Board and serves as Chair on the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute's Advisory Council.



A native of Rugby, North Dakota, Sheri earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North Dakota in 1988 and a master's degree in management from the University of Mary in 1996. Previous to her most recent position at the Tax Commissioner's office, she served as the deputy state treasurer, director of education in the North Dakota Securities Department, coordinator for the University of North Dakota's Division of Continuing Education in Bismarck and emergency service director for the Burleigh-Morton Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Sheri was elected to the board of directors of Capital Electric Cooperative in 2010 and became chair of the board in 2020. She also previously chaired the board of Central Power Electric Cooperative, a wholesale power supply and transmission cooperative whose six member co-ops include Capital Electric.

She is passionate about working with military groups on several different issues including raising awareness about PTSD and stigmas surrounding it, caring for disabled veterans, and participating in Wreaths Across America.

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.

Vice-Chair Joe Sullivan, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Joseph Sullivan was appointed to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by Governor Tim Walz, effective April 6, 2020, and appointed Vice Chair on May 21, 2020. Vice Chair Sullivan currently serves as Chair of the MISO Regional Expansion Criteria and Benefits Working Group (RECBWG) and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Organization of MISO States (OMS). He also serves as a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).



Sullivan previously served as Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Energy Resources at the Minnesota Department of Commerce. In this role, Joe led the Division and supervised the Minnesota State Energy Office and the Energy Planning and Advocacy unit.

Prior to coming to the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Joe was the Manager of Legislative and External Affairs for the Center for Energy and Environment where he worked with policy makers, regulators, utilities, energy advocates, and other key stakeholders to advance energy efficiency and clean energy policy in Minnesota.

Joe has also worked as the Regional Policy Manager for Wind on the Wires where he worked in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa to advance policies for wind power and transmission access. Joe started his career by spending six and a half years representing a municipal power agency and Greater Minnesota cities as a senior attorney at Flaherty & Hood P.A. in St. Paul, Minn. At Flaherty & Hood, Joe worked on renewable energy, transmission issues, state conservation goals, greenhouse gas reduction initiatives, net metering, nuclear waste, and utility taxation issues. Prior to joining Flaherty & Hood, Joe worked in Washington, DC at the U.S. House Committee on Science and at the Internal Revenue Service.

Brad Pope, Organization of MISO States (OMS)

Brad Pope joined the Organization of MISO States in June of 2022 following six and a half years with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. At the IURC, Brad served as Sr. Administrative Law Judge where he presided over electric, natural gas, and water proceedings and drafted orders for IURC approval. In an earlier role, he served as Assistant General Counsel where he focused on regional and federal energy issues in collaboration with OMS. Brad earned a law degree from the Indiana University McKinney School of Law with a Certificate in Energy & Environmental Law and a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Purdue University.



Steve Frenkel, Invenergy

Steve leads origination for Invenergy's transmission business where he structures commercial transactions to deliver large-scale renewable energy delivered by Invenergy's portfolio of long-distance high-voltage transmission lines, including the 5-gigawatt Grain Belt Express which is the largest renewable transmission project in the U.S. Previously, he led external affairs for the SOO Green HVDC Link project.

Marc Keyser, MISO

Marc Keyser is the Director of Seams Coordination, Member Services, and Customer Coordination for the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, focused on delivering customer solutions both inside and outside the footprint. Marc serves MISO through his broad, in-depth knowledge of MISO's operations and planning functions, and of the varying perspectives of MISO's members and stakeholders. During his sixteen years with MISO, he has held a diverse series of roles in engineering, program management, corporate strategy, and external affairs. Prior to joining MISO, he spent five years in generation operation roles with Consumers Energy, a Michigan investor-owned utility. He holds MSE and BSE degrees from the nuclear engineering program at the University of Michigan.



Raj Rajan, PhD, P.E., SOO Green

Raj Rajan is currently Vice President of Project Development for SOO Green, building a rail co-located, weather-resilient, inter-RTO, HVDC power transmission link. Raj has four decades of experience in environmental stewardship related to production infrastructure and supply chains of utility, transportation, energetics, chemical, petroleum, tourism, food, beverage, and paper industries. He most recently served as the global technical lead for corporate sustainability strategy at Ecolab. He was appointed by two Minnesota Governors as state-wide business representative to the Clean Water Council, where he served for eight years advising the Legislature.



Raj is a licensed Professional Engineer in multiple states, holds a master's degree in environmental engineering from Southern Illinois University and a PhD in Environmental Engineering from the University of Massachusetts, and is a Fellow of the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota. He currently serves on these non-profit boards: Climate Generation, Environmental Initiative, and Fresh Energy.

Drew Siebenaler, Xcel Energy

Drew Siebenaler is the Manager of the Regional Transmission Planning and Analytics group at Xcel Energy. Drew graduated from the University of Minnesota – Duluth with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical and computer engineering with a focus on power systems. Immediately after graduation, Drew began his career as a transmission planning engineer at the Midcontinent Area Power Pool (MAPP) where he focused on planning and NERC compliance for the MAPP membership in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota. Drew was also involved in the development of the MAPP-MISO and MAPP-SPP FERC Order 1000 interregional planning processes. In 2015, Drew transitioned from his role at MAPP into his current role at Xcel Energy.

At Xcel Energy, Drew and his team are involved all aspects of the regional and interregional transmission planning process. In addition, Drew provides technical expertise in local, state, and federal regulatory matters across all eight states in Xcel Energy's service territory including three regional planning effort, two RTOs and two interconnections. Drew has been an avid participant in several process reforms in MISO, from Generation Interconnection Queue Reform to Cost Allocation as well as leading several sub-regional groups to help review and identify areas of improvement in the MISO planning process. In addition to these efforts, Drew served as the Co-Executive Director of CapX2020, now Grid North Partners, from 2019 through mid-2021.

Michael Skelly, Grid United

Michael Skelly is the founder and CEO of Grid United, a transmission development company working to build out the US transmission grid. Skelly is the former CEO of Clean Line Energy. Skelly led the growth of Horizon Wind Energy, now part of EDPR. Skelly's other entrepreneurial ventures include founding partner of the Rain Forest Aerial Tram.

Skelly led the 2012 "Parks By You" campaign, which resulted in the passage of a \$150 million bond measure to fund 100 plus miles of trails along Houston's bayous. Skelly sits on the boards of Greentown Labs in Houston and Form Energy. Skelly's public service includes serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer a run for the US Congress.



Skelly is the principal protagonist in *Superpower*, a book about energy transition by Wall Street Journal reporter and Pulitzer Prize finalist Russell Gold.

Christina Hayes, American for a Clean Energy Grid (ACEG)

Christina Hayes is Executive Director of Americans for a Clean Energy Grid, a diverse coalition of independent and utility transmission developers, clean energy customers, renewable resource developers, environmental advocates, grid technology developers, and labor unions supporting the development of high-capacity transmission to cost-effectively and reliably build out the grid of the future.

She previously served as Vice President for Federal Regulatory Affairs for Berkshire Hathaway Energy, as well as an attorney with FERC, where she served as an advisor to Chairman Wellinghoff. A native Oregonian, Christina also served as an administrative law judge at the Public Utility Commission of Oregon.



Michael Goggin, Grid Strategies

Michael Goggin has worked on renewable energy, transmission, and electricity market issues for over 15 years. At Grid Strategies he serves as an expert on those topics for a range of clean energy industry and environmental advocate clients. For the preceding 10 years he was at the American Wind Energy Association, where he provided technical analysis and advocacy regarding renewable energy, transmission, and renewable integration into electricity markets. He has testified in dozens of state regulatory proceedings on those topics. Michael has previously been elected to the NERC Standards, Operating, and Planning Committees. He graduated with honors from Harvard University.



Sarah Mills, Center for EmPowering Communities, University of Michigan

Dr. Sarah Mills is the Director of the Center for EmPowering Communities at the University of Michigan's Graham Sustainability Institute and a Professor of Practice in UM's Urban & Regional Planning Program. Her research looks at how renewable energy development impacts rural communities (positively and negatively), the disparate reactions of rural landowners to wind and solar projects, and how state and local policies facilitate or hinder renewable energy deployment. She is currently working on DOE-funded research projects understanding the adoption of solar zoning ordinances, the economic impacts of solar on agricultural communities, and conducting a nationwide survey of solar farm neighbors. Through a grant from Michigan's State Energy Office, she also helps communities in incorporating clean energy in their planning and zoning. Sarah received her doctorate in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Michigan, where her dissertation looked at the intersection of farmland preservation and wind energy development. She has a master's in engineering for sustainable development from the University of Cambridge, and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Villanova University. Sarah also serves on the City of Ann Arbor Planning Commission.



Morgan Putnam, NextGen Highways and DNV

Dr. Morgan Putnam leads transmission development projects as a Principal Consultant in the Power System Advisory team at DNV. Morgan is additionally an advisor to the NextGen Highways initiative (which he founded). Previously, Morgan held roles as VP of Solar Products at REsurety, Co-Lead of the Minnesota Solar Pathways project, Director of Business Development at Clean Power Research, and VP of Cell Fabrication at Caelux. In these roles, Morgan has constantly worked to develop products and policies at the leading edge of the energy transition.



Cynthia Stump, ITC Michigan

Cynthia Stump is the Regional Manager – Local Government & Community Affairs for ITC Michigan. She leads a professional team responsible for building relationships and securing approvals with local, county and state leaders, and agencies for ITC's electric transmission capital and maintenance projects. Throughout her career, Cynthia has worked to develop long lasting public-private partnerships to gain support of large-scale infrastructure projects. She has fostered relationships with community organizations, associations, and industry groups to educate on the importance of electric transmission projects and promote an understanding of ITC's role in the communities it serves. Cynthia joined ITC in 2003 and continues to work with various industry and community groups to advance the vision and mission of ITC. She holds a Masters degree in Human Resources and Organizational Development from Eastern Michigan University and a Bachelors of Business Administration degree in International Business and Management from Northwood University. Among her professional and community affiliations, Cynthia currently serves on the following boards: Michigan Agriculture and Energy Council, Michigan Economic Development Foundation, and the Washtenaw Economic Club Advisory Board.



Ginger Hodge, Customized Energy Solutions

Ginger joined Customized in 2010 as a Regulatory Affairs Specialist. Ginger provides reporting services regarding ongoing developments in the policies and rules of MISO markets. Previously, she worked at MISO as a Stakeholder Relations Specialist. In that role, she stayed familiar with wide-ranging MISO developments, policy and procedural issues, and stakeholder views.

Ginger earned a BS in Political Science from Malone College in Canton, OH and completed her MBA at Kelley School of Business.

Marcus Hawkins, Organization of MISO States

Marcus Hawkins was promoted to Executive Director of the Organization of MISO States effective January 1, 2019, after serving as Director of Member Services & Advocacy since September 2016. Prior to OMS, he was a Senior Engineer in the Division of Regional Energy Markets at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. He has additional power market experience from working as an Analyst at PA Consulting Group. Marcus received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Nuclear Engineering and a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. He also earned certificates in Technical Communication and Energy Analysis & Policy while at UW.



Mitchell Myhre, Alliant Energy

Mitchell Myhre is a Senior Manager of Business Planning and Regulatory Strategy at Alliant Energy focusing on system planning, strategy and policy development for regional and federal matters. Mitchell is involved with many facets of transmission planning and RTO processes including generation interconnection and retirement, local and regional planning, and congestion management. He is active in the MISO stakeholder process and involved with numerous FERC proceedings regarding transmission and RTO matters. At Alliant Energy he leads a team working to help transform the company's generation fleet and find ways to better utilize and optimize the use of the transmission system. He is also currently assisting with the interconnection of approximately 1.5 GWs of solar and the integrating of storage resources.

Prior to joining Alliant Energy in 2010, Mitchell worked in public accounting and for an engineering and consulting firm where he was involved in the analysis of on-site generation projects and energy efficiency program potential. Mitchell has also performed work for the Wisconsin Focus on Energy Program and has published energy related research work. Mitchell holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Accounting and in Finance, a Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in Environment and Resources and a Certificate Degree in Energy Analysis and Policy from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Hilary Pearson, LineVision

Hilary Pearson has been working on clean energy policy for nearly two decades. Passionate about the technology and policy solutions needed to accelerate the clean energy transition, she currently works as Vice President of Policy & External Affairs at LineVision, a rapidly growing climate tech company, helping utility partners around the world lead the energy transition by enabling enhanced grid flexibility, resilience and security. She is also the Board Chair of the Working for Advanced Transmission Technologies (WATT) Coalition, which represents companies interested in bringing technology solutions to the US electric transmission system to improve reliability and efficiency for American citizens and businesses.



Hilary has served in key roles in the utility sector, the solar industry, and the US Senate, starting her career working for the former Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works committee, where she held a variety of legislative and field-based roles.

Hilary holds a BA in Political Science from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo as well as a Program Certificate from U.C. Berkeley in Corporate Social Responsibility.

Trish Demeter, Advanced Energy United

Trish Demeter leads Advanced Energy United's work in the central and midwestern region of the U.S. , including state-level work to advance and defend renewable energy and energy efficiency policies. Prior to joining Advanced Energy United, Trish's 20 years of experience encompassed work on climate and energy policy, state legislative advocacy, government affairs, and issue advocacy campaigns, including various roles with the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC), and the OEC Action Fund, part of the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) network. Prior to her energy policy experience, Trish worked as a political consultant for candidacy and ballot issue campaigns, as a policy analyst in the Ohio Senate, and as Deputy Director of External Affairs for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

