16th Annual Transmission Summit | July 8-9, 2026
Speaker Biographies

Nicole Kivisto, MDU Resources Group

Nicole Kivisto is president and CEO of MDU Resources Group, a publicly traded company and member of the S&P SmallCap 600. Under her leadership, MDU Resources delivers safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible electric and natural gas distribution services to more than 1.2 million customers across the Pacific Northwest and Midwest. Additionally, the company's pipeline business operates a more than 3,800-mile natural gas pipeline network and storage system, ensuring reliable energy delivery across the Northern Plains.

Nicole has been with MDU Resources since 1995 and has held key leadership roles across the organization. Before becoming CEO, she served as president and CEO of the corporation's utility group, vice president of operations for two of the utility subsidiaries, and vice president, controller, and chief accounting officer. She brings a deep understanding of the energy industry, a strong commitment to operational excellence, and a passion for serving customers and communities.

A native of Beulah, North Dakota, Nicole holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Minnesota–Moorhead. She is also a graduate of the Carlson School of Management's Minnesota Executive Program and the Utility Executive Course at the University of Idaho.

David Mindham, EDP Renewables

David Mindham is the Sr. Director, Regulation, Markets & Stakeholders for EDP Renewables, the 4th-largest renewable energy producer globally. In this role, he oversees teams covering regulatory, legislative, and community affairs across North America. Before joining EDPR, David held key positions in RTO strategy, FERC strategy, and transmission planning at ITC Holdings Corp. He has served on the Board of Directors for Americans for a Clean Energy Grid, IEEE-USA, Clean Grid Alliance, and the Southern Renewable Energy Association.

David is enrolled in the TRIUM Global Executive MBA program and holds a master's degree in strategic management from Harvard University Extension School, an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Michigan Tech University, and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Iowa State University. Additionally, he holds a Certificate in Public Relations Strategy from Cornell University. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Michigan, a Project Management Professional, and a Senior Member of IEEE. David lives in Northville, MI, with his wife and two sons.

Hannes Pfeifenberger, The Brattle Group

Mr. Pfeifenberger is an economist with a background in electrical engineering and over 25 years of experience in the areas of electricity markets, regulation, and finance, specializing in electricity market design and energy policies, transmission planning and benefit-cost analyses, storage, renewable resource, and generation asset valuation, ratemaking and incentive regulation, strategy and planning, and contract disputes and commercial damage.
Mr. Pfeifenberger 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 US Department of Energy's National Labs.

Hannes has broad experience in transmission planning, U.S. federal and state transmission policies, transmission planning, competitive transmission, and offshore transmission. He discussed interregional transmission planning and benefits in presentations to MGA and DOE and led the Brattle teams on efforts such as the interregional transmission Action Plan for Northeastern States, developing a roadmap for interregional planning, and documenting the benefits of collaborative transmission planning for offshore wind. Hannes was a member of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Transmission Working Group (CETWG), the Technical Review Committee of DOE's National Transmission Planning Study, a report on improving regional transmission planning, analyzed transmission grid benefits in SPP, and presented to FERC and state commission staff on best practices in transmission planning and benefit-cost analysis, as reflected in numerous FERC Order 1920 citations.

Claire Wayner, RMI

Claire Wayner is a senior associate at RMI, where she specializes in researching transmission policy and regulatory reforms. She has previously worked at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the National Laboratory of the Rockies, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. She holds a bachelor's of science in environmental engineering from Princeton University, completing capstone research on energy systems modeling.

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.

Andy Berg, Missouri River Energy Services (MRES)

Andy Berg is a professional electrical engineer serving as the Transmission Planning Engineer Supervisor at Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He specializes in transmission planning, system modeling, grid operations, and utility compliance within the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and Southwest Power Pool (SPP) markets.

Prior to joining MRES in 2017 as a Transmission Engineer, he obtained his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, South Dakota. After his undergraduate schooling, he started his career in research and design at Dakota Power (based in Rapid City). In 2011, Andy and his wife moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota. It was there where Andy began his career in the utility industry with Minnkota Power Cooperative (based in Grand Forks). While in Grand Forks, he obtained his master's degree in electrical engineering at the University of North Dakota. After six years, Andy and his wife returned to South Dakota.

Shanelle Montana, Arevon

Shanelle Montana is a seasoned industry professional, with extensive experience from global, large-scale renewable energy companies and an established track record of driving project pipeline growth. As Chief Development Officer, Montana oversees the strategic and efficient expansion of Arevon's early-stage development portfolio, which currently exceeds 6 gigawatts (GW). Montana also supports the company's ongoing success and entry into new markets in the U.S. and leads the execution of the company's greenfield project development efforts. Montana has served as a Board Member of numerous clean energy associations including Clean Grid Alliance and is a Board Member and Co-founder of the Du Nord Foundation.

Before joining Arevon, Montana held several executive roles at Lightsource bp, most recently as Senior Vice President of Portfolio Management. In this position, she oversaw a 20 GW pipeline of solar and energy storage projects in the U.S. while guiding late-stage project development through to construction, including monitoring the U.S. portfolio's financial health and schedules. As Vice President of Development, Montana led a 15 GW development portfolio of clean energy projects across the eastern half of the U.S., managing a team who successfully advanced projects from greenfield origination to construction. Prior to that, she worked in key roles for BayWa r.e. and EDF Renewables, leading the development of utility-scale projects in PJM and MISO.

Montana earned a Master of Public Policy from American University, School of Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. She also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies from Hamline University in Saint Paul, MN.

Commissioner John Tuma, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

John Tuma has served on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission since 2015. He serves on the Regional State Committee of the Southwest Power Pool and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Committee on Telecommunications. Prior to his appointment, Tuma had decades of experience working on energy and conservation policy issues for a variety of non-governmental organizations. He also served in the Minnesota House from 1995 to 2002, representing south central Minnesota. He earned his B.A. from Minnesota State University, Mankato and his J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School.

Claire Vigesaa, North Dakota Transmission Authority

Claire graduated from NDSU with a BS in Ag & Bio Systems Engineering in 1982. He worked in t he electric cooperative network for 39.5 years, retiring in March of 2022.

His career began at Verendrye Electric Cooperative, Velva ND as an energy engineering advisor, working on a research project analyzing the effect of electric heat on substation loading. He had several career advancements, serving as Assistant General Manager at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative and Vice President of Development and Energy Services at Cass County Electric Cooperative. In these positions, he developed load management programs, served as rate and billing manager, managed public & member relations, key accounts, economic development programs, and served as chief lobbyist.

Later in his career he was tapped to help with a special task force at Tri-State G & T Association in Denver, facilitating the transfer of 100 kV plus assets ($145 million asset transfer) from its member systems to the G & T. Claire was named General Manager/CEO of Upper Missouri Power Cooperative in April of 2012. During that tenure, he saw the cooperative quadruple electric energy sales, the cooperative became a transmission owner in MISO and he participated in the submission of transmission assets in the Southwest Power Pool.

Throughout his career he was privileged to serve on numerous boards and committees; as President of the Carrington Economic Development Corporation, landing the Dakota Growers Pasta Company in 1992, served on ND Governor Schafer's transition team, served as an Executive Board Member and Interim CEO of the Greater Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, served on the board of Western States Power Corporation and as a board member of the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association. He also served on National Touchstone Energy Committees for over ten years and served as a NRECA mentor for new electric cooperative CEOs.

Failing at retirement, he was approached to serve as Deputy Director of the North Dakota Transmission Authority following retirement and was appointed to serve as Executive Director of the North Dakota Transmission Authority in July of 2023. In this position, he monitors electric transmission grid activities and provides support and information to the ND Industrial Commission, ND Agencies, utilities, and developers with transmission related topics.

Claire and his wife, Jill of forty-two years, built a retirement home northwest of Bismarck near the Hawktree Golf Course, have three grown children and four adorable grandchildren. He enjoys traveling, camping and helping his son with his corn/soybean farm and custom harvesting/forage chopping enterprises; driving tractors and semi-trucks!

Tricia DeBleeckere, Organization of MISO States

Tricia DeBleeckere began working with the Organization of MISO States in May 2024 following her role with 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, facility 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 is pursuing a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Katie Jereza, U.S. DOE, 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.

Steve Johnson, Southwest Power Pool

Steve Johnson joined Southwest Power Pool in August 2020 after a 20-year career with the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and was named SPP's Senior Director of Markets Administration in 2023.

He began his career in 1996 as an apprentice operator at Hetch Hetchy Water and Power near his hometown of Sonora, California before joining Western Area Power Administration as a power system operator. Before transitioning to SPP, he served as WAPA's Senior Vice President and Manager of the Colorado River Storage Project.

Steve has extensive real-time operations experience, including hydroelectric plant operations, transmission operations, energy marketing, scheduling and accounting, balancing authority operations, and reliability coordination throughout the Western Interconnection.

In his current role at SPP, Steve oversees the administration of the RTO's day-ahead and congestion hedging markets. He was also an integral part of the team that facilitated SPP's recent expansion of RTO operations into the Western Interconnection.

Steve holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Energy Management from Bismarck State College.

Lauren Azar, Azar Law

Lauren Azar has extensive experience with the cost allocation and long-term planning for electric transmission. From 2007-11, Azar was a Wisconsin Public Service Commissioner. In 2009, Commissioner Azar was elected as President of Organization of MISO States (OMS) and through her leadership, MISO developed a transmission plan over its footprint to develop 17 long-haul transmission lines, called Multi-Value Projects (MVPs). In 2009 and 2010, she chaired two processes – one for OMS and the other for MISO stakeholders -- developing a new cost allocation for the MVPs, which FERC approved. To this day, the MVP process is considered one of the national successes in regional long-term planning and cost allocation.

While a Commissioner, Azar also organized the states and Canadian provinces and territories within the eastern transmission interconnection to participate in interconnection-wide planning studies. As co-founder and first President of the Eastern Interconnection States Planning Council (EISPC), she sought and received $14 million dollars from the DOE. In its inaugural year, Commissioner Azar led the Council through this unprecedented joint planning effort.

Azar then served as the Senior Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Energy from 2011-13, advising him on the electric industry and its institutional barriers. She also co-led negotiations among nine federal agencies, to overhaul and streamline their siting and permitting of electric transmission and served as the DOE's representative to the precursor of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC).

After returning to Wisconsin, Azar has provided legal and consultant services primarily concerning the development of regional transmission. In 2024 following the release of Order 1920, Azar transitioned to providing educational and technical assistance to policymakers on Order 1920 through the Great Plains Institute (GPI) and is no longer providing advocacy consulting services.

Kent Chandler, R Street Institute

Kent Chandler is a non-resident Senior Fellow in energy and environmental policy at the R Street Institute. He previously led the organization's positions, strategy, and engagement on electricity policy. Kent previously held notable positions including executive director (and later, chairman) of the Kentucky Public Service Commission and assistant attorney general in the Kentucky Office of Rate Intervention, where he advocated on behalf of consumers on energy and utility issues before local, state, and federal agencies.
In his four years as a commissioner, Kent led two groups of state regulators, including the Organization of PJM States, Inc., to advocate for state interests in the Mid-Atlantic wholesale electricity market. Kent also engaged in the Midwest wholesale electricity market as a board member of the Organization of MISO States. He served in leadership roles at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and represented states' interests as part of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's Member Representatives Committee.

He holds a juris doctor degree from Northern Kentucky University and a bachelor's degree in finance from Murray State University. Kent lives outside of Lexington, Kentucky, with his wife and son.

Milica Geissler, MISO

Milica Geissler serves as Director of Cost Allocation & Interregional Planning at MISO, where she leads the organization's interregional planning efforts, cost allocation strategy and business case development. A strategic and people-focused leader, Milica is known for bringing clarity to complex regulatory, economic and operational challenges, and for fostering strong cross-functional collaboration.

With more than a decade of experience across system planning, seams coordination, external affairs, market administration and policy analysis, she has played a central role in shaping multi-regional transmission initiatives and advancing alignment among industry stakeholders.

Milica holds both an MBA and a Bachelor of Management from Purdue University's Daniels School of Business and has been recognized as a Women Energy Summit Rising Star. She is also an active mentor and speaker within the academic and professional community serving on the Daniels School Alumni Board.

Chairman Dan Scripps, Michigan Public Service Commission

As Chair, Mr. Scripps has prioritized efforts to improve the reliability, security, and performance of the power grid, leading Michigan to outperform all other states in improving outage duration during his time on the Commission. Mr. Scripps has also been instrumental in positioning Michigan as a national leader in responsibly managing the energy transition, including helping to negotiate and leading implementation of Michigan's 2023 clean energy laws, leading the nation in reducing energy waste from both the gas and electric sectors, dramatically increasing the amount of renewable energy and energy storage on the grid, expanding utilization of distributed energy resources and grid flexibility, and approving Michigan's first interstate electric transmission lines in more than 50 years.

Mr. Scripps also chairs the Midcontinent Independent System Operator's (MISO) Advisory Committee, a forum that advises the grid operator's Board of Directors and Executive team on policy matters. He previously chaired MISO's Regional Expansion Criteria and Benefits Working Group, leading the process around cost allocation for the two largest portfolios of backbone electric transmission projects in U.S. history. He has also served as president (among other roles) for both the Mid-America Regulatory Conference (MARC) and the Organization of MISO States (OMS) and currently leads OMS engagement on distributed energy resources.

Mr. Scripps is a member (and past Board member) of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). An active participant in NARUC's international programs, Mr. Scripps has participated in regulatory engagements on four continents on topics involving cybersecurity, grid resilience, and regional market and transmission development, among others, and currently serves as NARUC's representative to the Planning Committee for the World Forum on Energy Regulation, to be held September 2026 in Tblisi, Georgia. He also serves as Co-Vice Chair of NARUC's Committee on International Relations and is a member of NARUC's Committees on Critical Infrastructure and Gas, as well as NARUC's Washington Action Program. In 2022 Mr. Scripps was honored by NARUC with the Terry Barnich Award for Promoting International Cooperation Among Utility Regulators and Development of Professional Regulation.

Mr. Scripps is a former member of the Michigan House of Representatives, where he chaired the Banking and Financial Services committee and served on committees dealing with energy, telecommunications, and environmental protection. He has also worked with state and national clean energy trade and philanthropic organizations and practiced law in the Washington D.C. office of a leading global law firm, where he advised project developers, utilities, and financial institutions on cutting edge domestic and international energy projects.

During his tenure with the MPSC, Mr. Scripps has served on a number of state and national initiatives and task forces, including NARUC's Gas-Electric Alignment for Reliability (GEAR) initiative (2023-25); the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission (2021-24); the NARUC Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, Recovery, and Resiliency (2019-21); and the NARUC-NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning (2019-20). At the state level, Mr. Scripps has been an active participant in multiple energy advisory groups, including the Michigan Council on Climate Solutions, the Upper Peninsula Energy Task Force, the Michigan Dam Safety Task Force, and an Interdepartmental Workgroup on Propane Security.

Mr. Scripps is a graduate of Alma College and the University of Michigan Law School. He lives with his family in northern Michigan.

Commissioner Jill Kringstad, North Dakota Public Service Commission

Jill Kringstad was appointed to the Commission in Jan. 2025 by Governor Kelly Armstrong. She fills the position vacated by U.S Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak.

She heads the pipeline, electric transmission and energy conversion siting; gas economic regulation; railroad safety and regulation portfolios and is the state's liaison to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and the Organization of MISO states (OMS).

Jill's passion for public service began at a young age when she started volunteering in elementary school for local charities and political causes. She served as a Legislative Page-for-a-Day, interned in Washington, D.C., for Senator John Hoeven and worked in Congressman Rick Berg's North Dakota office.

Jill has a longstanding interest in the energy industry and began her professional career at Basin Electric Power Cooperative working in financial services and internal auditing. In 2016, she joined the ND Public Service Commission to serve the citizens of North Dakota as a budget specialist. In 2019, Jill was named the Manager of Business Operations, which included expanded responsibilities for agency operations and leadership on planning, agency mission, and strategic initiatives.

A North Dakota native, Jill was born in Bismarck, began elementary school in Dickinson, before returning to Bismarck and graduating from Bismarck Century High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in accounting and minor in economics from Minnesota State University Moorhead. Jill is a Certified Public Accountant.

Jill is married to Ben Kringstad who teaches and coaches at New Salem-Almont High School. They have three children and reside in Bismarck.

Juliet Homer, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)

Juliet Homer is a Chief Systems Engineer at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), where she leads technical assistance projects supporting state public utility commissions and energy offices on transmission and distribution system planning, cost allocation, and policies that advance grid resilience and affordability amid large load growth. She is a licensed professional engineer and holds a master's degree in civil and environmental engineering from Arizona State University. Prior to PNNL, she served as a staff member at the Oregon Public Utility Commission and as a consulting water engineer in the Phoenix area.

Natalie McIntire, Natural Resources Defense Council's Sustainable FERC Project

Natalie McIntire is a Senior Advocate with the Natural Resources Defense Council's Sustainable FERC Project, where she focuses on policies to modernize the U.S. electric grid and support a reliable, affordable clean energy transition. She represents NRDC and allied organizations in regional grid operator stakeholder processes and before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, with a focus on expanding the transmission grid and improving electricity market rules.

Natalie brings more than 20 years of experience across both RTO and non-RTO regions, working at the intersection of policy, markets, and planning. Prior to joining NRDC, she worked with clean energy industry nonprofits on regional and interregional transmission planning, cost allocation policy, interconnection queue reform, and market design. She has significant experience engaging in stakeholder and regulatory proceedings at various RTOs, individual utilities, state public utility commissions, and FERC.

Natalie holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a Master of Arts in the History of Science and Technology from the University of Minnesota, and a graduate certificate in Applied Energy Economics and Policy from Portland State University.

Chairman Doug Scott, Illinois Commerce Commission

Doug P. Scott was appointed Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission by Governor J.B. Pritzker on June 17, 2023 to serve out the remainder of former Chair Carrie Zalewski's term. Scott previously served as Chairman of the ICC from 2011 to 2015, helping Illinois expand its renewable energy usage and saving consumers hundreds of millions of dollars on their utility bills.

Before rejoining the ICC, Scott was Energy Systems Vice President for 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 and 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.

Michael Skelly, Grid United

Michael Skelly is a pioneer in the U.S. renewable energy industry and is the founder and CEO of Grid United, an early stage transmission development company.

Skelly was previously the founder and president of Clean Line Energy, a company that successfully permitted some of the longest transmission lines in the U.S. in the last 50 years. Prior to Clean Line, Skelly led the growth of Horizon Wind Energy, now part of EDPR, one of the largest renewable energy companies in the US.

Skelly applies his expertise in developing infrastructure projects to enhance transportation options and increase access to parks in his adopted hometown of Houston, Texas. In 2012, he led the "Parks By You" campaign, which resulted in the passage of a $150 million bond measure to fund over 100 miles of trails along the city's bayous, an effort in which Skelly remains deeply involved. Skelly sits on the boards of the Houston Bike Share, the Houston Parks Board, LINK Houston, Greentown Labs Houston, and Form Energy.

He holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Notre Dame.

Chairman Randy Christmann, North Dakota Public Service Commission

Randy Christmann was elected to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in November 2012 and re-elected in 2018 and 2024. He brings to the Commission a background in agriculture, telecommunications, and 18 years in the North Dakota Senate representing energy country. Most of all, he brings what the Minot Daily News called a "let's work together attitude."

Outside of government service, Randy operated an over 100-year-old third generation cattle ranch west of Hazen, North Dakota. His wife, Bethanie, is a mortgage underwriter with Bravera Bank. Before graduating from Hazen High School in 1978, Randy enlisted in the North Dakota Army National Guard. He also enrolled at North Dakota State University and graduated from there in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Randy was elected to the North Dakota Senate in 1994, helping Republicans achieve majority status in the North Dakota Senate. Governor Ed Schafer appointed Randy to serve as one of the two legislative appointees on the Lignite Research Council. He continued to serve in that position under Governors Hoeven and Dalrymple. Following the statewide general election in 2000, Senate Republicans chose Randy to serve as their Assistant Majority Leader. He was re-elected to that post every two years through 2012. He also served on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

From 1999 through 2012 the members of West River Telecommunications Cooperative elected Randy to serve as a director. During part of this time Randy also served as the president of the North Dakota Association of Telecommunications Cooperatives.

Randy now brings his agriculture, telecommunications, and energy industry background to the Public Service Commission. He has led the effort to implement rules for future decommissioning and reclamation of wind farms and solar farms, serves as a PSC representative on the Lignite Research Council, and serves as a PSC representative for the multi-state Southwest Power Pool. He is the current chair and his portfolios include:

- Business Operations
- Coal mining, reclamation, and abandoned mine lands
- Telecommunications
- SPP/RSC