

2021 NASUCA Mid-Year Meeting – Virtual Speaker and Moderator Bios



Liz Anderson
Deputy Division Chief of Energy and
Telecommunications Division
Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura
Healey

Liz Anderson is the Deputy Division Chief of the Energy and Telecommunications Division in the Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey. During her first seven years of legal practice as an Assistant Attorney General in the Energy and

Telecommunications Division, Liz advocated for consumers in a wide range of matters concerning gas and electricity regulation, including base distribution rate cases, grid modernization, and the ratemaking impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Liz also worked on several civil investigations of electric suppliers for violations of consumer protection law, and she has advocated, in various venues, for additional transparency and oversight of the individual residential electric supply market. More recently, Liz served as an associate at the law firm Rich May, P.C., where she represented gas and electric distribution companies and municipal aggregators on matters related to energy efficiency, before rejoining the Attorney General's Office as Deputy Division Chief of the Energy and Telecommunications Division in May 2021.

Liz is a graduate of New England School of Law in Boston, MA and received her B.A. in History from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA.



Chris Ayers
Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities
Commission Public Staff

Christopher J. Ayers has served as Executive Director of the North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff since July 1, 2013. The Public Staff represents the using and consuming public and investigates electric, gas, water, wastewater, and transportation matters before the North Carolina Utilities Commission. Prior to joining the Public Staff, he practiced law in

Raleigh, North Carolina with the law firm of Poyner Spruill LLP from June 2009 to July 2013 and Hunton & Williams LLP from August 2003 to June 2009. He served a two-year term on the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission from July 2011 through June 2013.

Mr. Ayers currently serves as President of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates. He also serves on the Consumer Advocates for the PJM States Board of Directors, the Department of Energy Electricity Advisory Committee, the Critical Consumer Issues Forum Executive Committee, the Financial Research Institute Advisory Board, Keystone Energy Board, New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities Advisory Council, and is the Vice Chairman of the State Employees Credit Union Board of Directors.

Mr. Ayers graduated from Duke University in 1999 and received his Juris Doctor with Honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2002. He resides in Apex, North Carolina with his wife Rebecca.



Christina Baker
Staff Attorney, Arkansas Public Service Commission

Christina Baker currently serves the people of Arkansas as a Staff Attorney in the Arkansas Public Service Commission. Ms. Baker previously served for nine years with the Office of Public Counsel in Missouri appearing as a utility consumer advocate before the Missouri Public Service Commission. Further, she has over 12 years of experience as an environmental engineer.

Ms. Baker is licensed to practice law in Arkansas and Missouri. She also holds a Professional Engineer license in Missouri and Illinois and is in the process of seeking licensure in Arkansas.

Ms. Baker received her Juris Doctorate from St. Louis University School of Law. She holds a BS in Chemical Engineering and Masters of Law (LLM) in Dispute Resolution.



Ashley Brand – MA, MPH, CPH
System Director, Community and Homeless Health
CommonSpirit Health

Ashley Brand is the System Director, Community and Homeless Health for CommonSpirit Health, focused on addressing housing insecurities, homelessness and food insecurities across our national footprint. Her priorities include the development and implementation of the California homeless health initiative which concentrates on transforming health and our communities by strengthening the continuum of care for those experiencing housing insecurities through innovation, partnership and lasting impact.



Stefanie A. Brand
Director of New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel,
New Jersey

Stefanie A. Brand serves as the Director for the Division of Rate Counsel, a position she has held since October 1, 2007. The Division of Rate Counsel represents the interests of consumers of regulated electric, natural gas, water/sewer, telecommunications, cable TV service, and insurance (residential, small business, commercial and industrial customers).

Rate Counsel's mission is to make sure that all classes of utility consumers receive safe, adequate and proper utility service at affordable rates that are just and nondiscriminatory. Rate Counsel is a member of several state utility policy making groups and also represents consumers in setting energy and telecommunications policy that will affect the provision of services into the future. The New Jersey Legislature charged Rate Counsel with being "devoted to the maximum extent possible to ensuring adequate representation of the interest of those consumers whose interest would otherwise be inadequately represented in matters within the jurisdiction of the Division of Rate Counsel." The Division's website is <http://www.state.nj.us/rpa/>

Stefanie graduated from Columbia University School of Law in 1986, and clerked for Associate Justice Gary Stein of the New Jersey State Supreme Court.



Denise M. Buffington
Director Federal Regulatory Affairs, Evergy

Denise M. Buffington is the Director of Federal Regulatory Affairs for the Evergy Companies. In this role, she oversees Evergy's federal rates, regulatory policies and strategies and is responsible for identifying and assessing key policy issues of interest to Evergy, crafting the company's position on such issues and developing strategies for achieving Evergy's public policy objectives in matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). She is also responsible for managing the company's participation and engagement in the Southwest Power

Pool (SPP).

Denise also serves as Vice President for Transource Energy, President for Prairie Wind Transmission (PWT), and is Chair of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Executive Advisory Committee on Energy Policy. Denise chairs the EEI working group that supports the EEI SPP CEOs.

Denise joined Evergy (formerly KCP&L) in 2010 as Corporate Counsel focusing on regulatory issues before FERC and the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). In 2012, Denise was promoted to Director of Energy Policy, where she directed KCP&L's efforts related to regional transmission organization activities, including energy markets, transmission expansion, and bulk electric system matters. Denise also continued to provide legal counsel related to NERC compliance, energy markets, transmission rates, terms of service, system planning, power purchase agreements and interconnection arrangements.

Denise has a Juris Doctor degree from American University's Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. and a Bachelor of Science degree in political science, business law & law enforcement from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Additionally, Ms. Buffington completed her Master of Business Administration from University of Missouri—Kansas City, Henry W. Bloch School of Management in May 2016.



Kirk Burgee
Chief of Staff, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau

Kirk Burgee is the Chief of Staff of the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau. In his work for the Bureau, Kirk is involved in matters related to broadband deployment, including broadband data mapping and interagency coordination of broadband programs. Kirk is also a Deputy Director of the FCC's Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force, which is tasked with implementing FCC auctions to allocate universal service support for broadband in unserved areas, including the Connect America Phase II Auction and the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I

Auction. Prior to joining the FCC in 2005, Kirk practiced telecommunications in private practice in Washington, D.C.



Commissioner Allison Clements
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Commissioner Allison Clements has two decades of public and private sector experience in energy regulation and policy, representing utilities, independent power producers, developers and lenders, nonprofits and philanthropies on grid policy issues. Commissioner Clements is the founder and president of Goodgrid, LLC, an energy policy and strategy consulting firm. Previously she spent two years as director of the energy markets program at Energy Foundation. Prior to her time at Energy Foundation and Goodgrid, Commissioner Clements worked for a decade at Natural Resources Defense Council in New York, NY, as the organization's corporate counsel and then as director of

the Sustainable FERC Project. Before that, Commissioner Clements spent several years in private legal practice, with the energy regulatory group at Troutman Sanders LLP (now Troutman Pepper) and then with the project finance and infrastructure group at Chadbourne & Parke LLP (now Norton Rose Fulbright).

Commissioner Clements has served as a federal energy expert in several capacities, including as a member of a National Academies of Sciences committee on grid resilience, as co-chair of the Bipartisan Policy Center's electric grid initiative, and as a clinical visiting lecturer at Yale Law School.

Commissioner Clements grew up in Dayton, Ohio. She has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctorate from The George Washington University Law School.



Burt Cohen
Staff Attorney & Broadband Policy
Coordinator
State of Connecticut,
Office of Consumer Counsel

Following a 30 plus year career in private practice representing cable and telecommunications providers and municipalities, Burt Cohen joined the Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel

(OCC) as a staff attorney in May 2020 in the midst of the pandemic. With his depth of experience, Burt was immediately assigned to serve as Connecticut's Broadband Policy Coordinator within the Office of State Broadband which is seated in the OCC. In that role, Burt worked with the Office of the Governor, the Commission for Educational Technology and other state agencies in formulating the State's Everyone Learns Initiative to address the digital divide in public education and in developing the Governor's legislative proposal to develop a state-wide mapping program and a plan for matching federal broadband grants with the needs of Connecticut communities that are underserved and unserved. In addition to serving on NASUCA's Telecommunications Committee, Burt is active in the NTIA's State Broadband Leaders Network, the National Digital Inclusion Alliance and Broadband Connects America.



Regina Costa
Telecommunications Director
The Utility Reform Network(TURN)

Regina Costa became TURN's research director in August 1991. She is responsible for developing TURN's policy on regulatory, economic and public policy aspects of telecommunications issues, and participates heavily in TURN's legal work in telecommunications. She also serves

on the telecommunications committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA).

Prior to joining TURN, Costa was a policy research specialist for the state of Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. She also worked for MCI as an analyst helping to prepare a major telecommunications anti-trust lawsuit, and served as a consultant to the British Columbia Public Interest Advocacy Center in Vancouver, BC.

Costa received an undergraduate degree and a master's degree, both in communication, from Simon Fraser University. A native of Salinas, California, Costa lived in England for one year while doing post graduate research.



Jennifer Curran
Vice President of System Planning and Chief
Compliance Officer
MISO

Jennifer Curran is Vice President System Planning and Chief Compliance Officer for MISO. In that role she oversees a broad array of functions including the company's transmission and resource planning efforts, market operations, strategic and business planning for operations, as well as the company's work to comply with state and federal electricity standards.

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 a multi-billion dollar regional transmission portfolio known as Multi-Value Projects. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of ReliabilityFirst and the Advisory Board of the Texas A&M Smart Grid Center.

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.



Tricia DeBleeckere
Planning Director
Minnesota Public Utility Commission

Tricia DeBleeckere is currently a Planning Director with the MN PUC. She has been working in the industry for 20-years, and the State of Minnesota for 12 years. Most recently her work has focused the integration of DER into wholesale markets, state distribution planning, and advanced grid infrastructure review and cost evaluations. Tricia is Chair of the Organization of MISO States DER Work Group and Chair of the MISO DER Task Force. She holds a degree in Environmental Science from the University of Minnesota.



Jeff Dennis
Managing Director and General Counsel, AAE

Jeff Dennis leads AEE's work to increase wholesale electricity market access for advanced energy technologies and provides legal advice and counsel to all of AEE's programs. Jeff is a nationally recognized expert in energy law and policy at the federal and state level, and a frequent author and speaker. Before joining AEE, Jeff spent over a decade at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, holding senior positions including

Director of Policy Development and Legal Advisor to a Commissioner. Jeff has also been a lawyer in private practice representing clients in proceedings before FERC, state public utility commissions, and in the courts. In addition to his work at AEE, Jeff is a leader in the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, and serves on the Editorial Board of the Energy Law Journal.



David E. Dismukes
Professor, Executive Director and Director
of Policy Analysis at Louisiana State
University, Center for Energy Studies

David E. Dismukes is a Professor, Executive Director, and Director of Policy Analysis at the Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana State University. He also serves as a Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, and as the Director of the

Coastal Marine Institute, both of which are in the College of the Coast and the Environment at LSU.

David's research interests are related to the analysis of economic, statistical, and public policy issues in energy and natural resources. Over the past 32 years, he has worked in consulting, academia, and government service.

David has been on the LSU faculty for over 25 years and has led research efforts on energy, economic, and environmental/natural resource-related topics. He speaks regularly to professional, trade, and civic associations on important energy issues, trends, and topics. He serves in numerous advisory positions including serving on the National Petroleum Council, a federally chartered advisory arm to the U.S. Secretary of Energy.

Dr. Dismukes received his M.S. and Ph.D. in economics from the Florida State University.



Scott E. Doyle
Executive Vice President - Natural Gas
CenterPoint Energy

With more than 25 years of utility industry experience, Scott is CenterPoint Energy's Executive Vice President - Natural Gas. He leads the company's eight-state natural gas business that serves more than 4.7 million utility customers. In addition, he oversees enterprise utility operations support as well as safety and technical training.

Prior to this role, Scott served in numerous executive leadership positions of increasing responsibility, including Senior Vice President of Regulatory, Legislative and Public

Affairs, Vice President of Natural Gas in Texas and Vice President of Natural Gas in Louisiana/Mississippi. During his career, Scott has also held leadership roles in electric operations and multiple geographic locations across the company's natural gas service territory.

Scott currently serves on the board of directors of Goodwill Industries of Houston, American Gas Association, American Gas Foundation, Southern Gas Association and Central Indiana

Corporate Partnership. He also serves on the Engineering Advisory Council of Texas A&M University.

Scott received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University.



Jason Frost
Research Associate, Synapse Energy

Jason Frost joined Synapse in August of 2018. His work at Synapse focuses on transportation electrification, wholesale electricity markets, and building decarbonization. He currently serves as Synapse's Topic Area Manager for transportation sector work. He is a developer of two tools in Synapse's multisector decarbonization toolkit: the Electric Vehicle Regional Emissions and Demand Impacts (EV-REDI) model and the Building Decarbonization Calculator (BDC). Both tools apply a

stock turnover framework to quantify greenhouse gas emissions, electricity consumption, and fossil fuel consumption in future scenarios with varying adoption of EVs and heat pumps. Jason's work also involves in-depth analysis and evaluation of wholesale electricity market rules, including those of ISO New England and PJM. He has advised public interest clients on winter energy security initiatives in New England and the Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR) in PJM, in addition to closely following the pathways that grid operators are considering to decarbonize the electric sector. Jason holds a BS in Physics from Stanford University.



Robert Gramlich
Founder and President
Grid Strategies, LLC

Rob Gramlich is Founder and President of Grid Strategies LLC where he provides economic policy analysis for clients on electric transmission and power markets in pursuit of low-cost decarbonization. He serves as Executive Director of [Americans for a Clean Energy Grid](#), Executive Director of the [WATT Coalition](#), on the board of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy Foundation, on the Advisory Council for the Energy Systems Integration Group, and on the Advisory Board of the National Regulatory Research Institute's Regulatory Training Institute.

Rob oversaw transmission and power market policy for the American Wind Energy Association from 2005 through 2016 as Senior Vice President for Government and Public Affairs, Interim CEO, and Policy Director. He was Economic Advisor to FERC Chairman Pat Wood III from 2001 to 2005, Senior Economist at PJM Interconnection in 1999 and 2000, Senior Associate at PG&E

National Energy Group in 2000-2001, and an analyst at the FERC Office of Economic Policy, ICF Resources, the World Resources Institute, and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in the 1990s. He testifies frequently before the US Congress, US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), US Department of Energy, and state legislatures and regulatory commissions. He has served on advisory committees for the U.S. Department of Energy and the North American Energy Standards Board, on boards of a number of regional clean energy organizations, as Vice Chair of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy, and as Interim Executive Director of the Wind Energy Foundation (now Wind-Solar Alliance).



Jared Haines
Chief Assistant Attorney General, Utility
Regulation Unit
Oklahoma Attorney General's Office

Jared Haines is the Chief Assistant Attorney General for the Utility Regulation Unit at the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office. He has been an active attorney in the Utility Regulation Unit for five years, advocating for customer interests in rate cases, generation preapproval cases, and other regulatory matters. Before moving to the Utility Regulation Unit, he oversaw a licensing board oversight program and practiced appellate and administrative law within state government in Oklahoma. Jared Haines is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School and the University of Oklahoma.



JT Hand
President and Chief Executive Officer
The York Water Company

JT became the President and Chief Executive Officer of The York Water Company on March 1, 2020 after serving as the Company's Chief Operating Officer since 2008. Prior to joining York Water, he served 22 years on active duty in the United States Army, retiring in 2006 from his position as Deputy Commander and Deputy District Engineer for the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Hand holds an MBA from York College of Pennsylvania, a B.S degree in Civil Engineering from The University of Vermont, is a graduate of the Defense Language Institute (Portuguese), and the Army's Command and General Staff College. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal and Campaign Medals for service in Bosnia, Kosovo and Southwest Asia. In 2006 he was awarded the Silver de Fleury Medal for meritorious service to the United States Army Engineer Regiment. In addition to his

service as Director, National Association of Water Companies, he is the current Chairman of the Pennsylvania Chapter, NAWC and former Chairman of the York City Sewer Authority. Mr. Hand is current Chair of the Children's Home of York and President of the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County. Mr. Hand was an inaugural member of the PA PUC Damage Prevention Committee and served on the Committee until 2020.



Patricia Hoffman
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Office
of Electricity,
U.S. Department of Energy

Serving as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Electricity (OE) at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Ms. Patricia A. Hoffman also served as Acting Under Secretary for Science and Energy from January 2017 until November 2017 when the U.S. Senate confirmed Mark Menezes as Under Secretary of Energy. Ms. Hoffman served as Acting Assistant Secretary for OE from January 2017 until October 2017 when the OE Assistant Secretary was confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Ms. Hoffman was named Assistant Secretary for OE from June 2010 to January 2017, after serving as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary since November 2007. The focus of her responsibility was to provide leadership on a national level to modernize the electric grid, enhance the security and reliability of the energy infrastructure and facilitate recovery from disruptions to the energy supply both domestically and internationally.

Prior to joining OE, she was the Program Manager for the Federal Energy Management Program within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at DOE.

Ms. Hoffman holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Ceramic Science and Engineering from Pennsylvania State University.



Pete Holmgren
Civil Engineer, Madison Water Utility

Pete is currently serving as a Civil Engineer who specializes in projects featuring water infrastructure growth and renewal at Madison Water Utility (Madison, WI). Madison Water Utility ultimately became the first major utility in the nation to replace all lead service lines in their system, and Pete oversaw a number of lead service replacement projects in the years leading up to that milestone. With a renewed focus nationwide on lead removal from water systems in the years since, Pete has discussed a variety of plans, specifications, and projects with other water utilities seeking a similar approach to Madison's. Pete has been a registered Civil Engineer for over nine years and is also a certified Municipal Waterworks Operator in Wisconsin. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Ronald Keen
U.S Department of Homeland Security,
National Risk Management Center

Serves on the executive committee of the National Council on Electricity Policy, member of the Federal Communications Commission's 706 Joint Board, served as chairman of the FCC's Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations, and served on the board of the National Association of State Energy Officials. Elected to three terms in the Idaho House of Representatives where he served from 1994 to 1995 on a number of committees including the House State Affairs, Judiciary and Rules, Ways and Means, Local Government and Transportation, and served as chairman of the House Majority Caucus in his final term. Former Director of Boise State University College of Applied Technology Distance Learning, program head of broadcast technology, station manager of BSU Radio Network, director of the Special Projects Unit for BSU Radio, and BSU Radio's director of News and Public Affairs.



Commissioner Paul Kjellander
NARUC President
Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Serves on the executive committee of the National Council on Electricity Policy, member of the Federal Communications Commission's 706 Joint Board, served as chairman of the FCC's Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations, and served on the board of the National Association of State Energy Officials. Elected to three terms in the Idaho House of Representatives where he served from 1994 to 1995 on a number of committees including the House State Affairs, Judiciary and Rules, Ways and Means, Local Government and Transportation, and served as chairman of the House Majority Caucus in his final term. Former Director of Boise State University College of Applied Technology Distance Learning, program head of broadcast technology, station manager of BSU Radio Network, director of the Special Projects Unit for BSU Radio, and BSU Radio's director of News and Public Affairs.



Mark Newton Lowry
President, Pacific Economics Research, LLC

Mark Newton Lowry, President of Pacific Economics Research LLC, has been active in the field of PBR since 1989. He is best known for his pioneering research and testimony on statistical benchmarking and multiyear rate plans. Work for regulatory commissions, consumer and environmental groups, and government agencies (e.g. Berkeley Lab) as well as utilities

has given him a reputation for objectivity and dedication to good regulation. His practice is multinational and has included many projects in Canada. He holds a PhD in applied economics from the University of Wisconsin and taught energy economics at the Pennsylvania State University before becoming a full-time consultant. Contact Dr. Lowry at 44 East Mifflin St., Suite 601, Madison WI 53705 mnlowry@pacificeconomicsgroup.com.



Bill Malcolm
Senior Legislative Representative, AARP

Bill Malcolm's 44-year utility industry career has included work for utilities, an interstate natural gas pipeline, a power grid operator, and as an advocate at AARP. He began his career as an intern at Seattle City Light then worked as a cost of service analyst for Pacific Power in Portland, Oregon doing cost studies for rate filings. Bill worked for 12 years at PG&E which included helping implement the low-income rate program which was linked to the LIHEAP program via one application with eligibility verified by the state. He then joined ANR Pipeline in Detroit in state regulatory affairs representing the company throughout the Midwest. In 2000, he joined MISO as employee number 64 where he created the state regulatory affairs department. In 2014, Bill joined AARP's national office where he works with state offices on to advance AARP's policy priorities which include that utilities are ensuring that utilities are affordable and reliable for older adults. He has a BA in economics from UC Santa Cruz and a MA from the University of Washington. He can be found on LinkedIn and Facebook and his twitter hashtag is @RTOWatchdog. In his spare time, he is an advocate for passenger rail and bicycling as well as public transit and is a travel writer.



Geoff Marke, PhD
Chief Economist, Missouri Office of the Public Counsel

Geoff is the Chief Economist for the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") within the Missouri Department of Commerce and Insurance. In this position, he manages a technical staff that advocates for Missouri ratepayers in utility regulatory and legislative filings involving electric, gas and water/sewer companies. He has provided expert testimony on a variety of issues including, but not limited to lead line replacement. Geoff has been a frequent speaker at NARUC, NASUCA and Michigan State's Institute of Public Utilities conferences/seminars. He was a guest speaker on "Cybersecurity Planning and Regulation" to thirteen Baltic Countries at a USAID Conference in North Macedonia in 2019 and was the runner-up in his fantasy football

league this past year.



Svetlana Matt
Legislative Director
Office of Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-09)

Svetlana Matt serves as Legislative Director in the Office of Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-09), where she handles telecommunications and technology policy and the Congressman's work on the House Energy and Commerce Committee (including his work on the Communications and Technology Subcommittee). She also handles the Congressman's work in his role as co-chair of both the Congressional Wi-Fi Caucus and the Congressional Artificial Intelligence Caucus. Svetlana's experience includes working at the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative,

and the World Bank. She holds a J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, and a B.A. in Economics and International Political Economy from the University of Puget Sound.



Mitchell Myhre
Manager of Transmission Planning and
Regulatory Relations, Alliant Energy

Mitchell Myhre is a Manager of Transmission Planning and Regulatory Relations at Alliant Energy. In his current role Mitchell focuses on strategy and policy development regarding regional and federal matters including transmission planning and cost allocation. Mitchell has represented the MISO Transmission Dependent Utility "TDU" Sector at MISO including on the MISO Advisory Committee. He participates in several MISO stakeholder committees and is the current chair of the MISO Finance Subcommittee. He is also engaged with the retirement and addition of generation resources onto the transmission system and is assisting with

the interconnection of over 1 GW of new solar resources in Wisconsin.

Prior to joining Alliant Energy in 2010, Mitchell began his career working in public accounting. He has also worked 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 Focus on Energy Program in Wisconsin 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.



Ron Nelson
Director, Strategen

Ron Nelson is a Director at Strategen, focusing on advanced rate design and cost of service studies. Prior to Joining Strategen, Ron worked as an Economist for the Minnesota Attorney General's Office where he represented consumers on topics including community solar gardens, the costs and benefits of grid modernization, cost modeling, rate design, and utility business models. He has also worked as an economic researcher for two universities and the United States Geological Survey where he researched the quantification of environmental externalities. He earned two undergraduate degrees from Western Washington University in Environmental Economics and Mathematics, and a Master's of Science in Resource Economics from Colorado State University.



Mark Raymond
Chief Information Officer - State of Connecticut

CIO Mark Raymond has been a member of the State of Connecticut leadership team since 2011. As CIO, Mr. Raymond oversees the Department of Administrative Services' Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology as well as the operational responsibilities for the state's technology infrastructure. During his tenure, Connecticut has reduced spending on technology, focused on sharing of technology solutions across government and improved the security and availability of state systems. Mr. Raymond is currently focused on transformation improvements in Digital Government and Optimization of Technology across agencies.

A native of Connecticut, Mr. Raymond graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Degree in Computer Science and Engineering.

Beyond his work with the state, Mr. Raymond serves as the past president for the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers, previously holding rolls as Secretary/Treasurer, Vice-President and President.



Steve Roalstad
Communication and Marketing Manager, Platte River Power Authority

Steve Roalstad has more than 30 years of experience in local, regional and national TV news, local and state government communications, and utility industry communications. He has successfully rebranded organizations and effectively protected brand reputations from significant risk. A recipient of numerous regional and national awards, Roalstad has direct experience with every facet of organizational communications, from speech writing and presentations to social and news media campaigns to strategic planning and analysis. For more information about Roalstad, visit his [webpage](#).



Gabriela Sandoval
Director of Strategic Initiatives at The Utility Reform Network (TURN)

Gabriela Sandoval serves as Director of Strategic Initiatives for TURN – The Utility Reform Network where she led the Power@Home—a campaign to reduce utility shutoffs in California. This campaign culminated in June 2020, when the California Public Utilities Commission voted unanimously to require the investor-owned utilities to cut electric disconnections in half by 2024. Gabriela works with community-based organizations throughout the state—with a focus on communities struggling to make ends meet and communities of color—to build coalitions to improve energy security, broadband access and protect consumer privacy.



Michael A. Sappington, J.D.
Assistant Attorney General, Arkansas Attorney General

Michael Sappington is an Assistant Attorney General with the Arkansas Attorney General's Office practicing public utility law. Prior to joining the Arkansas Attorney General, he was employed with the Arkansas Public Service Commission as a Staff Attorney, and also served as the Secretary of the Commission from 2014-2017. Before joining the Commission, Michael was a deputy prosecuting attorney.

Michael received his Juris Doctorate from the William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He also holds a BA in Psychology with a minor in Legal Studies from the University of Arkansas.



Susan Satter
Chief of the public Utilities Bureau
Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul

Susan L. Satter is the Chief of the Public Utilities Bureau at the Office of Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul. She has been representing residential consumers before the Illinois General Assembly and state and federal administrative and judicial authorities since 1990 in connection with energy, telecommunications, and water

utility services and markets. She has participated in contested proceedings involving cost-of-service ratemaking, performance-based or formula ratemaking, telecommunications alternative regulation, rate design, rulemakings, retail energy supply, federal energy market design and pricing, and appellate review.



Jay Shepherd
Founder, Shepherd Rubenstein

Jay Shepherd is the founder and senior lawyer at Shepherd Rubenstein, a Toronto law firm specializing in regulatory law. He has spent much of his 40+ year legal career appearing before the Ontario Energy Board, representing clients as diverse as the School Energy Coalition, the HVAC Coalition, the Association of Power Producers of Ontario, and the Ontario Geothermal Association. He has also written extensively in a number of areas, including taxation, energy policy and regulation, and fiduciaries, the later including his book *The Law of*

Fiduciaries, published in 1981. For eleven years he also taught tax at Osgoode Hall Law School. His blog, which includes a number of articles on energy regulation, can be found at <https://jayshepherdwriting.wordpress.com/author/jayshepherd2014/>



Julie Soderna
General Counsel, Citizen's Utility Board

Since 2007, Julie Soderna has led the Citizen's Utility Board's legal team in representing Illinois consumers in electric, gas and water regulatory matters, advocating for lower rates and improved service from the state's electric, gas and water providers. She litigates complex administrative regulatory proceedings at the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) such as electric and gas delivery service tariff filings, natural gas procurement and rider reconciliation proceedings, renewable energy issues, rulemakings, complaints, and mergers/acquisitions, as well as litigating appeals at the Illinois Appellate Courts.

Julie Soderna graduated from Washington University in 1993 with a bachelor degree in Anthropology. Julie graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1998 with a Certificate in Environmental & Energy Law. After a 2-year stint as an Executive Consultant for an environmental insurance consulting firm, where she performed in-depth investigations of legal, technical and policy issues surrounding hazardous waste sites and other environmental claims, Julie came to CUB as Legal Counsel in November 2000.



Kelly Speakes-Backman
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable
Energy, and Acting Assistant Secretary at the U.S.
Department of Energy

Kelly Speakes-Backman is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), and Acting Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Energy. In her role, Speakes-Backman leads and directs the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, focused on creating and sustaining American leadership in the transition to a global clean energy economy. She oversees the planning and execution of the organization's \$2.8B portfolio of research, development,

demonstration, and deployment activities in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation.

Speakes-Backman most recently served as the first CEO of the Energy Storage Association, the national trade organization for the energy storage industry. She has spent more than 20 years working in energy and environmental issues in the public, NGO and private sectors. In 2019, Speakes-Backman was honored by The Cleanie Awards as Woman of the Year.



Jeff Stein
Senior Policy Advisor, API

Jeff Stein is a Senior Policy Advisor in the American Petroleum Institute's Natural Gas Markets group. At API he leads domestic power and gas market policy and is part of a cross-functional team leading API's promotion of low-carbon fuels such as hydrogen and sustainably produced natural gas.

Prior to joining API, Jeff worked in various policy and consulting roles covering energy, economics, and foreign affairs. He most recently worked with a global energy consulting firm on macroeconomic research and forecasting for clients in the refining sector. He also previously worked at AIPAC and at David Gardiner & Associates, an energy policy firm where he worked on electric transmission regulations and clean energy legislation.

Jeff holds an MA from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a BA in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin.



Andrew Slater
Public Advocate, State of Delaware

Andrew C. ‘Drew’ Slater was appointed by Governor Carney and confirmed by the Senate as the Public Advocate on January 25, 2017. The Public Advocate’s role is to advocate for the lowest reasonable rates for consumers consistent with the maintenance of adequate utility service and principally on behalf of residential and small commercial consumers. He also can, at times, advocate for commercial and industrial consumers. He appears before the Public Service Commission, State of Delaware courts, Federal courts, and Federal administrative and regulatory agencies on behalf of the interests of consumers regarding rates, service, and practices of public utilities.

In his role as the Public Advocate, Drew serves on the executive committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (“NASUCA”), GTI Public Interest Advisory Committee, Board of the Sustainable Energy Utility, a.k.a. Energize Delaware, Renewable Energy Task Force, National Association of Regulated Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”) Subcommittee on COVID-19, Critical Consumer Issues Forum (“CCIF”) Advisory Committee, and several other organizations.

Before joining the Division of the Public Advocate, he served the public as Kent and Sussex County Coordinator for Congressman Carney. In that role, his major responsibilities included representing the Congressman at meetings and events, and being the liaison with the public on a multitude of issue areas.

Drew graduated from Washington College in 2005 and received a Master’s degree from Wilmington University in 2011. He lives in Camden with his wife Laura, and two children.



Paul Suskie
Executive Vice President, Regulatory Policy
and General Counsel

Paul Suskie serves SPP as executive vice president of regulatory policy and general counsel. He is responsible for managing the organization's legal and regulatory policy groups and serves as corporate secretary.

Prior to joining SPP, Suskie was appointed by Gov. Mike Beebe as chairman of the Arkansas Public Service Commission and a member of the Governor's cabinet — positions in which he served from 2007-2010. At the time of his appointment to the Commission, he was in his third elected term as North Little Rock's city attorney. Prior to joining the city attorney's office, Suskie worked for former

United States Sen. David Pryor and for Arkansas Attorney General Winston Bryant. Suskie is a retired colonel in the U.S. Army where he served in the JAG Corps. He has served as a military judge for the Arkansas Army National Guard and is a veteran of both wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Rebecca L. Tepper
Chief, Energy and Environment Bureau
Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General

As the Chief of the Energy and Environment Bureau in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO), Rebecca serves as the Attorney General's chief advisor on energy and environmental policy.

Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Rebecca was the General Counsel to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU). Prior to the DPU, Rebecca served as the Director of the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting

Board.

Before joining the State in 2009, Rebecca had 15 years of experience in the private sector, representing developers throughout the Northeast in siting, permitting, financing and contracting of renewable, distributed generation and conventional energy facilities. She also advocated on behalf of various stakeholders before state public utility commissions and the FERC in proceedings involving rates, energy efficiency, demand response, and the ISO-NE markets and rules.

Rebecca is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Boston University Law School and received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin/Madison.



Lynn Thorp
National Campaigns Director, Clean
Water Action and Clean Water Fund

Lynn Thorp is the National Campaigns Director for Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund. Clean Water works in over a dozen states on local, state and federal issues with an emphasis on water quality and drinking water issues. Lynn serves on the Steering Committee of the Source Water Collaborative and the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative. She has served on

the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC), and on NDWAC Work Groups and Federal Advisory Committees around Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory issues.



Mark Toney
Executive Director
The Utility Reform Network (TURN)

As executive director since 2008, Mark aligns the TURN legal, organizing, legislative and communication staff to fight for affordable, sustainable and safe energy, broadband and phone service for all California residents, with a special focus on low-income households, communities of color, immigrants, and rural communities.

Mark was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the California State Bar, and serves on the boards of ACLU Northern California, National Whistleblower Center, and California Shakespeare Theatre.

Mark served as executive director of Center for Third World Organizing for four years, and for Direct Action for Rights & Equality for eight years. He holds a B.A. from Brown University, a Sociology Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, and his leadership has been recognized as a Kellogg National Leadership Fellow, National Science Foundation Fellow, Mother Jones *Heroes for Hard Times*.



**Rachelle Reyes Wenger, MPA
System Vice President of Public Policy and
Advocacy Engagement
CommonSpirit Health**

Rachelle Reyes Wenger is the System Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy Engagement for CommonSpirit Health. Ms. Wenger is primarily responsible for advancing the organization's Public Policy & Advocacy Priorities at the local, state, national, and international arenas. She manages policy issues core to CommonSpirit Health's commitment to its foundational priorities focused on social and environmental determinants of health.