Northwestern Electricity Dialogue

Biographies

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN is Chairman of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) appointed in 2017 by Gov. John Hickenlooper to a four-year term.

Prior to his appointment, Jeff served as executive director of the Colorado Energy Office (CEO). On behalf of the governor, CEO promoted clean energy policies and markets through programs and advocacy, including at the PUC.

He has more than three decades of experience in state government and the energy sector. Previous to his CEO appointment, Jeff led the policy research efforts at the PUC, assisting the commission prepare for changing markets and technologies. Jeff also served as an advisor to the commissioners on energy efficiency (demand-side management). Jeff also worked in product development in the utility sector, focusing on renewable energy as a voluntary product offering.

Jeff started his professional career in the service of low-income energy consumers, twice as director of the state's energy efficiency assistance program (weatherization) as well as an advocate for energy consumers with the state's nonprofit energy assistance fund.

Jeff earned a bachelor's degree from Albion College and a master's degree in non-profit management from Regis University.
ADAM L. BENSHOFF is Executive Director, Regulatory Affairs for the Edison Electric Institute, where he oversees EEI’s engagement and strategy on economic regulatory issues at both the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and state public utility commissions. Prior to his current role, Adam served as Deputy General Counsel, State and Federal Regulatory, where he represented EEI and its members in proceedings before state utility commissions on issues such as distributed generation, rate reform, smart grid, and storage. Adam also represented EEI members in front of federal regulatory agencies, including FERC, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency on important industry issues.

Prior to joining EEI, Adam worked for National Grid, where he provided general regulatory and compliance counsel on matters before FERC, North American Electric Reliability Corporation, and other federal and state agencies for all of National Grid’s US subsidiaries. Adam has also spent time in private practice with the law firm of McNees Wallace and Nurick where he represented the interests of commercial and industrial end users in electric, natural gas, and water proceedings before a number of state utility commissions as well as at FERC.

Adam holds dual Bachelors Degrees in English and Speech Communications from The Pennsylvania State University and a Juris Doctorate from the Boston University School of Law.

STEVE BERBERICH is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Independent System Operator (ISO). The ISO is one of the world’s largest transmission organizations, managing the electric grid and wholesale power markets for 30 million Californians.

2019 marks Mr. Berberich’s fourteenth year with the ISO and his eighth year as CEO. During his tenure, he has navigated the ISO through a series of major changes underway in the energy industry. He has been instrumental in facilitating the transformation of the power grid to lower its reliance on fossil fuels, and driving energy policy to foster new ways to produce and consume electricity. Recognized as one of the nation’s 10 most influential energy leaders in 2014, Mr. Berberich has overseen the integration of more renewable energy than any other region in the world. Most recently, Mr. Berberich directed the deployment of the nation’s first Energy Imbalance Market, which welcomed several additional western states into the ISO’s bulk power markets. He is a frequent speaker nationally and internationally about the 21st Century Grid.
He has served in a series of executive capacities at the ISO, including Vice President of Technology, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Berberich brings more than 25 years of experience from fields such as utility leadership, business consulting, financial services, banking and finance. He holds a bachelor’s degree in finance and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Tulsa.

Mr. Berberich currently serves on the Folsom Police Foundation Board of Directors. In addition to having previously served on the NERC Member Representatives Committee, he was formerly Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Sacramento-based Jesuit High School.

STEFAN BIRD is president and CEO of Pacific Power, a division of PacifiCorp. For more than 100 years, Pacific Power has been delivering energy to households and businesses across Oregon, Washington and California. The company draws on its pioneering heritage and proud track record of partnership to deliver cleaner, safer and more reliable energy to 764,000 customers in 243 communities.

In addition to overseeing Pacific Power’s distribution, customer solutions, regulation, legal and government affairs teams, Bird oversees several departments that serve PacifiCorp’s wholesale and retail customers across six states, including: PacifiCorp Transmission, the largest private grid operator in the Western U.S. encompassing 16,500 miles of high voltage transmission; renewable resource operations that include hydro, solar and the largest utility-owned wind fleet in the Western U.S.; natural gas and wholesale power risk management; information technology; customer service; communications; and finance.

Since joining the company in 2007, Bird has spearheaded PacifiCorp’s transition to a cleaner, more resilient and affordable energy future. Since 2007 the company has added over 3,000 megawatts of owned and contracted renewable capacity, and is currently completing the $3 billion Energy Vision 2020 project, the largest investment in the company history, to expand PacifiCorp’s renewable resources and transmission grid capacity to deliver long-term customer savings.

Bird championed the company’s partnership with the California ISO in 2014 to develop a transformative Western U.S. energy market that continues to grow. The market has saved customers across the West over $650 million to-date while maximizing renewable energy supply and improving grid operator situational awareness critical to grid reliability.

Prior to his current position, Bird served as senior vice president, commercial and trading, PacifiCorp; president and CEO, CalEnergy Generation U.S.; vice president, development and acquisitions for what is now Berkshire Hathaway Energy; and in his
early career served in various energy and financial sector positions across the United States and as an expatriate based in Europe, Mexico and South America.

Bird serves on the boards of several nonprofit or service organizations including as chairman, PacifiCorp Foundation; chairman, Oregon CTE-STEM Employer Coalition; director, Oregon Business Council; member of board of trustees, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry; and as a member on the Governor’s Wildfire Response Council.

Bird holds a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Kansas State University. He lives in Portland, Oregon, with his wife Valerie and their two children.

**BRIAN D’AGOSTINO** is the Director of Fire Science & Climate Adaptation for SDG&E. As director, D’Agostino is responsible for meteorology, fire science, the Community Fire Safety Program and climate adaptation initiatives. D’Agostino joined SDG&E in 2009 and oversaw the development of SDG&E’s weather network, one of the nation’s largest and most sophisticated weather networks. D’Agostino serves as an advisor and former chair of the American Meteorological Society’s National Energy Committee and sits on several advisory committees specializing in climate adaptation and fire science. D’Agostino is a graduate of Plymouth State University with a bachelor of science in meteorology.

**LINCOLN L. DAVIES** is the 20th dean of the Michael E. Moritz College of Law. Davies comes to the college following 12 years of service at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, where was the associate dean for academic affairs and the Hugh B. Brown Presidential Endowed Chair in Law. At Utah, he was recognized with awards for excellence in both teaching and research and held leadership positions with responsibility for both the curriculum and faculty research. Davies also has served as a visiting professor at leading international law schools, including Seoul National University and the University of Sydney.

Davies earned his BS in natural resources and environment from the University of Michigan, where he graduated with honors and distinction and was ranked first in his class, and his JD from Stanford University, where he was a member of law review, served as editor-in-chief of the environmental law journal, and earned the Olaus & Adolph Murie Award for the most thoughtful written work in environmental law.

Recognized internationally as an expert in energy law and policy, his research portfolio spans a broad array of energy topics, including renewables and alternative energy,
utility regulation, carbon capture and sequestration, nuclear power, and regulatory and technology innovation

JENNIFER E. GARDNER is an attorney and policy analyst with an LL.M. in Natural Resources and Environmental Law and Policy. Her practice focuses on Western Interconnection grid reliability, regional electricity markets, distributed generation resources, and rate design. Presently, Ms. Gardner is a Senior Staff Attorney with the Clean Energy Program at Western Resource Advocates (WRA). In this capacity, she represents WRA as an attorney and policy advocate before western state public utility commissions, regional energy planning forums, legislative bodies, and regional stakeholder processes addressing issues of both market design and governance.

Prior to joining Western Resource Advocates, Ms. Gardner was the State Energy Program Manager for the Utah Governor’s Office of Energy Development. In this role, she managed a team responsible for increasing the adoption of energy efficiency and conservation measures within Utah’s agriculture, industrial, buildings, and alternative transportation sectors. Ms. Gardner also previously worked as an attorney and policy analyst with the Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB). At WIEB, Ms. Gardner advised FERC and NERC on grid reliability standards and outage prevention and mitigation in the Western Interconnection. She also advised the Boards of Directors of WECC and Peak Reliability on issues pertaining to grid reliability, funding, and data sharing.

COMMISSIONER RICHARD GLICK was nominated to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by President Donald J. Trump in August 2017 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on November 2, 2017.

Before joining the Commission, Commissioner Glick was general counsel for the Democrats on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, serving as a senior policy advisor on numerous issues including electricity and renewable energy.

Prior to that, Commissioner Glick was vice president of government affairs for Iberdrola’s renewable energy, electric and gas utility, and natural gas storage businesses in the United States. He ran the company’s Washington, DC, office and was responsible for developing and implementing the U.S. businesses’ federal legislative and regulatory policy advocacy strategies.

Commissioner Glick previously served as a director of government affairs for PPM Energy and before that was director of government affairs for PacifiCorp. He served as
a senior policy advisor to U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, and before that was legislative director and chief counsel to U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers of Arkansas. From 1988-1992 Commissioner Glick was an associate with the law firm of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand.

Commissioner Glick is a graduate of George Washington University and Georgetown Law. He and his wife Erin have a son.

**GARY HOOGEVEEN** is President and Chief Executive Officer of Rocky Mountain Power. He is responsible for the company’s transmission and distribution operations, customer service, regulatory and legislative affairs in Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. Hoogeveen is additionally responsible for PacifiCorp’s coal fueling and mining operations as well as thermal generation operations

Prior to his current position Hoogeveen served as Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer of Rocky Mountain Power and President and Chief Executive Officer of Kern River Gas Transmission company for four years. He joined Kern River after serving as Vice President of Customer Service and Business Development for Berkshire Hathaway Energy subsidiary Northern Natural Gas Company. Prior to joining Northern Natural Gas, he held various management positions at Berkshire Hathaway Energy.

Hoogeveen currently serves on the Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors and the EDCUtah Board of Advisors. While in Omaha, he served as a member of the Executive Board of Directors of the Omaha Metropolitan YMCA, and was a Charter Board member of the non-profit CREATE Foundation based in Omaha. He dedicates his time to others within the company through both formal and informal mentoring.

Hoogeveen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from the University of Northern Iowa, and a Ph.D. in space physics from Rice University.

**LYNNE KIESLING** is a Visiting Professor in the Department of Engineering and Public Policy, Co-Director of the Institute for Regulatory Law & Economics, and a Faculty Affiliate in the Wilton E. Scott Institute for Energy Innovation, at Carnegie Mellon University. She also provides advisory and analytical services as the President of Knowledge Problem LLC. Her research in grid modernization and transactive energy uses transaction cost economics to examine regulation, market design, and technology in the development of retail markets, products and services and the economics of smart grid technologies in the electricity industry. She served as a member of the National
Institute of Standards and Technology's Smart Grid Advisory Committee, and is an emerita member of the GridWise Architecture Council. Her academic background includes a B.S. in Economics from Miami University (Ohio) and a Ph.D. in Economics from Northwestern University.

LORENZO KRISTOV is an independent consultant focusing on power system transition to integrate high levels of renewable generation and distribution-connected energy resources (DER). Areas of expertise include: wholesale market design; DER participation in wholesale markets; coordination of transmission & distribution operations, markets and planning; distribution system operator (DSO) models; distribution-level markets; energy resilience strategies and microgrids; whole-system grid architecture.

From 1999 to 2017 Lorenzo worked at California ISO as a principal in market design and infrastructure policy. In that position he was a lead designer of the locational marginal pricing (LMP) market system the ISO implemented in 2009. He later led initiatives to redesign the transmission planning and new generator interconnection processes to accommodate rapid growth of renewable energy projects triggered by California’s renewable portfolio standards. Over the past several years he worked on initiatives to integrate DERs into markets, operations and planning, to advance transmission-distribution coordination between the distribution utilities and the ISO, and has written papers and participated in national and international forums on power system evolution, DSO models and grid architecture.

Prior to joining the California ISO Lorenzo was Energy Economist at the California Energy Commission (1995-9) and Fulbright Scholar in Indonesia (1993-4). He has a BS in mathematics from Manhattan College, MS in Statistics from North Carolina State University, and PhD in Economics from University of California Davis.

THAD LEVAR was appointed to the Public Service Commission of Utah by Governor Gary R. Herbert on December 20, 2012, and was appointed Commission Chair by Governor Herbert on June 19, 2015. He had been with the Utah Department of Commerce since 2004, and at the time of his appointment he was the agency’s deputy executive director. While in that role Thad was appointed to be a member of the steering committee for Governor Herbert’s 2011 Utah Business Regulation Review, a project that resulted in over 300 changes to Utah state government including streamlining and eliminating rules and regulations.

Previously in his career Thad held jobs first as an administrative law judge, and then as division director, with the Utah Division of Consumer Protection. He also worked as an
associate general counsel to the Utah Legislature. Before law school, Thad taught in secondary schools in Texas and Arkansas.

At the PSC, Thad has been involved with issues including an overhaul of Utah’s Universal Service Fund and significant updates to Utah’s PURPA requirements. He has served as a member of the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment of the National Association of Regulatory Commissions (NARUC), and currently serves on NARUC’s Committee on Telecommunications. Thad also served as an inaugural member of the Body of State Regulators for the Western Energy Imbalance Market.


Immediately prior to her appointment as commissioner, Dr. Mathews was the executive director of the PSC. She had previously served the PSC as a policy advisor and as staff economist. Commissioner Mathews also has served Kentucky as an economist in the state Office of Energy Policy, as executive director of the Governor’s Office of Energy Policy, and in the Department for Energy Development and Independence as director of the Division of Energy Generation, Transmission and Distribution.

In addition to nearly two decades of government service, Commissioner Mathews has worked in the private sector with an engineering consulting firm and served as the director of member services and advocacy at the Organization of MISO States. She has held several adjunct teaching positions in economics and public policy.

Commissioner Mathews is a member of the National Association of Utility Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC) and serves on its board of directors, as co-vice chair of the Committee on Electricity, and as a member of the Committee on Critical Infrastructure and the Subcommittee on Clean Coal and Carbon Management. She is president of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, vice president and treasurer of the Organization of PJM States, a member of the Board of Directors of the Organization of MISO States, and a member of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners. Commissioner Mathews serves on the advisory board of the Financial Research Institute at the University of Missouri and the advisory council of the Center for Public Utilities at New Mexico State University.

Commissioner Mathews earned a Doctor of Philosophy and a Master of Arts in economics from the University of Kentucky. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics and mathematics from Berea College.
MIKE MILLER is the acting Vice President of Transmission Field Services at the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), a federal power marketing agency, located in Vancouver, Washington; with executive accountability for one-third of BPA’s workforce responsible for field operations, maintenance, emergency response and construction for BPA’s 15,200 circuit miles of transmission lines at voltages from 115-kV through 500-kV over the Northwest states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. BPA also operates a Balancing Authority Area with a peak load of 10,500 MW.

Mike’s permanent role at BPA is the Vice President of Engineering and Technical Services but recently volunteered to cover the field roll when the previous VP was promoted to the Chief Administration Officer. Mike started at BPA in 1992 as an Electrical Engineer after graduating from Central Washington University. He has worked in many positions over his 27 years in the electric utility industry, gaining business knowledge and leadership experience. In 2018, Mike earned his Master’s Degree in Management and Leadership. Mike has been married for 25 years and has three children.

CLAIR J. MOELLER As MISO president and chief operating officer, Clair Moeller leads all aspects of Operations for the Regional Transmission Organization, including grid operations, forward markets and system planning. Moeller also has executive responsibility for the compliance and external affairs teams at MISO.

Mr. Moeller is a respected industry expert with experience in the operation of power systems throughout the Midwest. He is skilled at identifying and implementing the best practices in transmission planning and system operations.

Under his guidance, transmission planners in the region have begun to explore transmission infrastructure value by using techniques borrowed from generation and strategic planners in an effort to give policymakers context for the decisions they will face as the electric energy future unfolds.

Before joining MISO in 2004, Moeller was with Xcel Energy for 25 years.

Moeller completed the Oxford Advanced Management and Leadership course at Oxford Said Business School, the Executive Management program at the Carlson School of Business, University of Minnesota, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State University.
LAURA NELSON Governor Gary R. Herbert appointed Dr. Laura Nelson as his energy advisor in May 2016. She also continues to serve as the executive director for the Governor's Office of Energy Development, a position she has held since 2014. Prior, Dr. Nelson served as the vice president of government and regulatory affairs for Potash Ridge, Corp., the vice president of energy and environmental development for Red Leaf Resources, and the energy advisor for Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman. For two decades, Dr. Nelson has been proactive in defining and supporting balanced and sustainable energy solutions, including providing Congressional testimony, participating in regional collaborations, working with counties and cities, and coordinating across diverse stakeholders to deliver positive policy, regulatory and commercial results. As part of her current duties, she serves as the Chair of the Western State Energy Board, the treasurer of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, and Vice Chair of the National Association of Energy Officials. Dr. Nelson holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Utah and resides with her family in Salt Lake City, where she is active in the arts community, with non-profits to advance quality of life for women and children and creating positive outcomes for Utah’s underserved citizens.

LETHA TAWNEY was appointed to the Oregon Public Utility Commission by Governor Kate Brown in June 2018. Commissioner Tawney represents Oregon on the Electricity and the Critical Infrastructure committees for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). She serves on the Energy Imbalance Market Board of State Regulators (EIM-BOSR), engaging closely on Western electricity market development in several forums. Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Tawney was an expert on electric utility business models, state regulation, clean energy development, and large customer buying strategies for World Resources Institute (WRI). As the WRI Polsky Chair for Renewable Energy, she propelled innovation in business and regulatory models in the power sector. Commissioner Tawney has a deep understanding of the constraints and interests driving both utilities and their customers as technology creates large-scale change in the sector.

Commissioner Tawney holds a Master’s of Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from George Fox University in business and computer science.
JORDAN WHITE was appointed to the Utah Public Service Commission in 2015. At the time of his appointment he was serving as the Commission’s legal counsel.

Prior to joining the Commission, Jordan practiced at the law firm Fabian VanCott in Salt Lake City where he represented clients on energy and natural resource matters. Jordan later worked as in-house counsel for energy companies including PacifiCorp and NextEra Energy, Inc., where his work focused on electric utility operations, competitive transmission development and regulatory matters.

Jordan previously served as President of the National Conference of Regulatory Attorneys, Chair of the Western Energy Imbalance Market Body of State Regulators, and as a Class 5 Representative on Peak Reliability’s Member Advisory Committee. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body, Regulatory Liaison to RC West, and President of the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners.

Before law school, Jordan practiced as a mental health therapist, working primarily with children and adolescents. He currently serves on the boards of YMCA of Northern Utah and Futures Through Choices, a non-profit organization that strives to enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. He received his undergraduate, masters of social work, and law degrees from the University of Utah.

HAYLEY WILLIAMSON was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada by Governor Steve Sisolak, effective April 29, 2019.

Commissioner Williamson has worked at the PUCN since 2013 and has more than a decade of public utility law experience. Before her appointment to the Commission, Commissioner Williamson served as senior assistant general counsel, having also served as acting general counsel.

During her time with the PUCN, Commissioner Williamson successfully represented the agency in the Nevada Supreme Court and at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Commissioner Williamson also was instrumental in drafting the PUCN’s comments on the Clean Energy Plan. Prior to working at the PUCN, Commissioner Williamson taught environmental law and environmental science at the University of Wisconsin and at Sierra Nevada College.

Commissioner Williamson graduated magna cum laude from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, where she earned her bachelor’s degree; and magna cum laude from Vermont Law School, where she earned her Juris Doctorate. At Vermont
Law School, Commissioner Williamson was an editor of the Vermont Law Review. She also holds a Master of Philosophy degree from the University of Cambridge, where she wrote her master's thesis on renewable energy and land use issues on the West Coast. Commissioner Williamson was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, and lives in Stateline, Nevada, with her husband and son.