

Northwestern University Electricity Dialogue on Resilience, Reliability, and Regionality in the Western Interconnect: Bringing It Altogether

Biographies



GABRIEL AGUILERA was appointed to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission in December 2022. He previously worked at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, where he held multiple positions, including senior policy advisor, supervisory energy industry analyst, economist, and energy industry analyst. A graduate of New Mexico State University, he grew up in southern New Mexico.



İLKAY ALTINTAŞ, a research scientist at the University of California San Diego, is the Chief Data Science Officer of the San Diego Supercomputer Center as well as a Founding Fellow of the Halicioğlu Data Science Institute. She is the Founding Director of the Workflows for Data Science (WoRDS) Center of Excellence and the WIFIRE Lab. The WoRDS Center specializes in the development of methods, cyberinfrastructure, and workflows for computational data science and its translation to practical applications. The WIFIRE Lab is focused on artificial intelligence methods for an all-hazards knowledge cyberinfrastructure, becoming a management layer from the data collection to modeling efforts, and has achieved significant success in helping to manage wildfires. Since joining SDSC in 2001, she has been a principal investigator and a technical leader in a wide range of cross-disciplinary projects. With a specialty in scientific workflows, she

leads collaborative teams to deliver impactful results through making computational data science work more reusable, programmable, scalable, and reproducible. Her work has been applied to many scientific and societal domains including bioinformatics, geoinformatics, high-energy physics, multi-scale biomedical science, smart cities, and smart manufacturing. She is also a popular MOOC instructor in the field of “big” data science and has reached more than a million learners across the globe. Among the awards she has received are the 2015 IEEE TCSC Award for Excellence in Scalable Computing for Early Career Researchers and the 2017 ACM SIGHPC Emerging Woman Leader in Technical Computing Award. Dr. Altıntaş received a Ph.D. degree from the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. For a list of the more than 25 journal papers and 100 refereed scientific articles that Dr. Altıntaş has published, visit her [Google Scholar page](#).



ERIC BLANK was appointed Chairman of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission on December 11, 2020, by Governor Jared Polis for a four-year term effective January 12, 2021. His term expires in January of 2025.

Blank, a lawyer and economist from Boulder, has worked on electric utility and clean energy issues for over 35 years in a diverse range of entrepreneurial, business, and non-profit settings.

In 2000, Blank co-founded a pioneering national renewable energy development company, which he ran until three years ago. Blank helped commercialize first wind and then later solar technologies by building some of the earliest and largest clean energy projects outside of California. All told, he has developed 2,000 MW of operating wind and solar projects, representing \$4 billion in invested capital.

Blank spent most of the 1990s leading the energy work of a non-profit environmental group, now called Western Resource Advocates. Through PUC interventions in six western states, he helped develop some of the first policies that made utility clean energy investments initially feasible and ultimately cost-effective. Prior to that, Blank was a consultant preparing utility capacity expansion and dispatch modeling studies. Blank holds a law degree from Yale Law School and a master's in economics from the London School of Economics.



SCOTT BURNS As Vice President of Innovation, Scott leads and implements NRG's strategy to be a leader in Virtual Power Plants, ensuring they are a key resource as distributed energy resources grow nationally. These efforts capitalize on NRG's leading position in retail energy and the smart home. Prior to that, Scott spent the last seven years in a variety of roles including leading enterprise innovation and leading the retail innovation, customer experience, and market intelligence teams at NRG Home.

In NRG Home, Scott's team was responsible for innovating and creating the residential and small business product and service strategy and ensuring best-in-class customer experience. The team created products that included customer-facing applications based on smart meter data analytics, home energy management devices and technology, demand response and energy efficiency programs, commodity plans, home maintenance services, home security, and other services that meet the evolving needs of today's electricity consumer. He also led NRG's market research and competitive intelligence teams. Scott has been focused on consumer-facing energy product strategy since joining Reliant in 2008 and helped launch multiple products including energy emails, web portals, mobile applications, time-of-use pricing, and prepay electricity. He also served as GM of Reliant's emerging home security and home services businesses. He spent a year at Direct Energy where he led Smart Energy product strategy and served as the company's interface with British Gas and their Smart Homes team.

Prior to joining the energy industry, Scott spent eight years in a variety of product management and marketing roles at Corning, a leader in fiber optics and telecom equipment, including P&L responsibility for two of the company's product lines. He led the development of a number of key products used in the country's first large-scale Fiber-to-the-Home deployments.

Scott is a former military officer and pilot, having graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He earned his MBA from Georgia College and a graduate marketing certificate from Southern Methodist University and completed Wharton's Innovation for Growth and the University of Chicago's Mergers & Acquisitions executive programs. Scott enjoys spending time with his wife and four children.



DOUGLAS A. CANNON, 47, serves as president and CEO of NV Energy where he leads the company's daily operations and oversees NV Energy's commitment to deliver low-cost energy, expand its renewable energy portfolio and maintain industry-leading reliability for its customers.

NV Energy delivers electricity to nearly 1.4 million customers and over 56 million tourists annually throughout its nearly 46,000-mile service territory in the state of Nevada. The company also provides natural gas to 200,000 customers in the Reno-Sparks, Nevada area.

Cannon left private law practice in Nevada and joined the Berkshire Hathaway Energy family of business in 2011 working as an attorney for PacifiCorp Energy in Salt Lake City. In 2013, Cannon was the lead attorney in obtaining the regulatory approvals necessary for NV Energy to join Berkshire Hathaway Energy. At the end of 2013 with the closing of the NV Energy merger, Cannon joined the NV Energy team as senior vice president general counsel, corporate secretary and chief compliance officer and has served in various management roles with NV Energy. In his various roles Cannon has set and executed on the strategic direction of the company and managed all legal, regulatory, compliance, legislative and public relations functions for the company and its subsidiaries.

Cannon earned a juris doctor from the University of Colorado School of Law and a master's degree in environmental studies from the University of Colorado. He holds a bachelor's degree in environmental geoscience from Weber State University.

Cannon serves on the board of trustees for the Desert Research Institute and is Chair of the NV Energy Charitable Foundation.



ALLISON CLEMENTS joined the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in December 2020 following a range of public and private sector experience in energy law and grid modernization policy. Prior to her current role, she worked at Energy Foundation, Goodgrid LLC, and Natural Resources Defense Council. She began her legal career in private practice at Troutman Sanders LLP and Chadbourne & Parke LLP. Over the course of her career, her clients have included utilities, independent power producers, developers, lenders, nonprofits, and philanthropies.

Commissioner Clements has also served as a federal energy expert in several capacities, including as a member of a National Academies of Sciences committee on grid resilience and as a clinical

visiting lecturer at Yale Law School. She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctorate from The George Washington University Law School.

Commissioner Clements grew up in Dayton, Ohio and now lives in Washington, DC with her husband and two children.



TAMMY CORDOVA was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada by Governor Steve Sisolak, effective June 22, 2020.

Commissioner Cordova has three decades of experience in state government and the United States Navy. She has worked for the PUCN since 2001. Before her appointment to the Commission, Commissioner Cordova served as staff counsel of the PUCN's Regulatory Operations Staff. Previously, she also served as assistant staff counsel and as an administrative attorney, with duties in both Northern and Southern Nevada. During her tenure at the PUCN, she has focused on a collaborative and practical approach to utility regulation. Commissioner Cordova served as an

officer in the United States Navy from 1991 to 1996 and was an executive director in Europe of a branch of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Commissioner Cordova serves as Chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Committee on Gas. As Chair of the NARUC Committee on Gas, Commissioner Cordova was named to the NARUC Task Force on Natural Gas Resource Planning, the National Petroleum Council, and to the Advisory Council for the Center for Public Utilities at New Mexico State University. She is also Chair of the Committee of State Representatives for the Western Resource Adequacy Program of the Western Power Pool and a member of the Markets+ States Committee of the Southwest Power Pool. Commissioner Cordova is a founding executive committee member of the Energy, Utilities and Communications Law section of the Nevada State Bar.

Commissioner Cordova graduated with a Bachelor of Science in human and organizational development from Vanderbilt University and earned her Juris Doctorate from University of San Diego School of Law. Originally from Salisbury, Maryland, Commissioner Cordova lives in Las Vegas with her two children.



STACEY CROWLEY is the Vice President of External Affairs for the California Independent System Operator (CAISO). She is responsible for delivering the organization's communications strategy, developing strategic partnerships and overseeing governmental affairs at the state, regional and federal levels. She also manages coordination with the WEIM Governing Body and its committees to facilitate quality engagement and dialogue with stakeholders on a variety of western energy issues.

Ms. Crowley's strength in developing partnerships and fostering consensus grew in her previous role as the Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Energy and advisor to Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval. There, she implemented state and federal energy-related grant programs, and discovered her passion for regional energy issues while serving as Chair of the Western Interstate Energy Board and on the board of the National Association of State Energy Officials.

Before moving into the energy industry, she practiced as an architect who specialized in environmental sustainability and client engagement. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture from the University of Michigan and Masters of Architecture from the University of New Mexico. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Tahoe Fund, a non-profit dedicated to enhancing the extraordinary environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin, which spans across the Nevada/California state lines.



JULIE FEDORCHAK Commissioner of the ND Public Service Commission. Julie Fedorchak has served on the Commission since 2012. She heads the pipeline, electric transmission and energy conversion siting; railroad; MISO/OMS; and economic regulation-gas portfolios.

Julie is the first vice president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), past president of the Organization of MISO States (OMS), vice-chair of the NARUC Gas Committee and vice president of the Gas Technology Institute's advisory board. She is a member of the Aspen Institute's Rodel Class of 2015.

A North Dakota native, Julie was appointed to the Public Service Commission in December 2012 by Gov. Jack Dalrymple. She was confirmed by voters in 2014 and was elected to a full six-year term in 2016 and again in 2022.

Julie's overarching priority is to make government more responsive to North Dakota citizens. With her leadership, North Dakota became the first state to mitigate the light pollution caused by continuous red blinking lights on wind generators spanning the

state's open landscape. She has pushed for innovative ways to connect rural areas to natural gas service and led efforts to enhance the Commission's pipeline reclamation program and tree and shrub mitigation plans. Julie developed and received legislative approval for a state rail safety program and is a tireless advocate for reliable, affordable utility services. She also reinstated the Commission's consumer affairs portfolio to provide greater public awareness, participation, and transparency in the work of the PSC.

Julie graduated with honors from the University of North Dakota and is married to Mike Fedorchak of Minot. They have three children and live in Bismarck. Julie is a trustee for the University of Mary, board member of the Missouri Valley United Way and is a regular volunteer for her local homeless shelter. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking, entertaining, swimming and biking.



KARA FORNSTROM is the Director of the Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis at the School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming. Prior to joining SER, Kara was the Director of State Regulatory Policy at the Southwest Power Pool where her efforts focused on expansion of SPP's energy markets to the Western Interconnection. She was appointed to the

Wyoming Public Service Commission in 2013 by Governor Mead and re-appointed by Governor Gordon in 2019 at which time she became Chairman. Before being appointed, Kara practiced water law in Wyoming for 17 years. Kara received her Bachelor's degree in Small Business Management from the University of Wyoming and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Nebraska- Lincoln College of Law.



MELANIE M. FRYE, President and CEO, oversees WECC's mission to effectively and efficiently reduce risks to the reliability and security of the Western Interconnection's Bulk Power System. Melanie achieves this work through active interactions with members and key stakeholders, by managing relationships with key regulatory and policy-setting bodies, and ensuring WECC contributes to a positive relationship with NERC and the ERO.

Melanie leads the WECC organization and works to strengthen the developing leadership culture. She created the framework for WECC's Invented Future and shaped the transformation within the organization. She has profoundly influenced the development of the internal organizational culture to inspire alignment with the "why" of WECC.

Prior to this role, Melanie served as Vice President of Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis, overseeing WECC's technical and analysis functions, including

events analysis, situation awareness, reliability planning and assessments, performance assessments, and standards development. Melanie also served as WECC's Vice President of Shared Services, overseeing Human Resources, Accounting and Finance, Information Technology, Project Management, and Administrative Services functions and staff. She joined WECC in 2007 as Director of Human Resources.

Before joining WECC, Melanie spent several years with PacifiCorp as a Senior Human Resources Consultant where she was responsible for providing advice and counsel to the leadership team of eight thermal and three natural gas power generation facilities in Utah and Wyoming. She provided support to over 2,500 union and non-union employees located across the company's six-state service territory.

Melanie holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, and a Utility Executive Course Certificate from the University of Idaho.



ROBERT S. KENNEY is president of Xcel Energy's Colorado Operating Company.

In this role, he is responsible for the utility's overall operations. He is responsible for executive leadership and strategic guidance of state and local governmental and regulatory affairs, as well as customer and community relations, and charitable giving for the many Colorado communities Xcel Energy serves. In partnership with enterprise-wide teams, Robert is accountable for the strategic, commercial, financial, regulatory, and operational leadership of Xcel's Colorado Operating Company.

Robert leverages more than 30 years of regulatory, legal, governmental, and public affairs experience to deliver outstanding energy service to the people of Colorado, while maintaining Xcel Energy's unwavering commitment to keeping customer bills low. At the same time, he leads his Colorado team in working with public policy makers, regulators, and community stakeholders to deliver strategic plans and customer programs, which will drive the state's and Xcel Energy's continued leadership in the clean energy transition, including transportation electrification.

Prior to joining Xcel Energy, Robert served as senior vice president of regulatory and external affairs for Pacific Gas & Electric where he led state and federal regulatory affairs, local government affairs, and community relations and charitable giving. He has had an extensive career in the legal and regulatory sectors, including serving as Chairman of the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC). He is a nationally recognized leader in public utility law and regulation and public policy development and implementation. Among other significant past experiences, he served on the Board of

Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and as President of the Organization of MISO States (OMS).

Prior to his appointment to the Missouri PSC, Robert served as Chief of Staff to the Missouri Attorney General. Previously, Robert was a shareholder at the Polsinelli law firm, where he practiced in the commercial and business litigation practice group.

Robert holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Hampton University and a law degree from Saint Louis University School of Law.



LYNNE KIESLING is an economist focusing on regulation, market design, and the economics of digitization in the electricity industry. She is Director of the Institute for Regulatory Law & Economics in the Center on Law, Business, and Economics, and is an Adjunct Professor in the Master of Science in Energy and Sustainability program, both at Northwestern University. She is also a Research Professor at University of Colorado Denver. Her academic background includes a B.S. in Economics from Miami University (Ohio) and a Ph.D. in Economics from Northwestern University.

Lynne's academic interests have long been focused on technology, the economic history of technological change, and how regulation and other institutions shape incentives to innovate. Her academic publications include *Deregulation, Innovation, and Market Liberalization: Electricity Restructuring in a Constantly Evolving Environment* (Routledge, 2008) and journal articles and book chapters on competition, market design, and the important role that market prices play as communication mechanisms in complex, decentralized networks. More recently, she and co-authors analyzed incomplete markets in risk in ERCOT in light of the 2021 Winter Storm Uri outages in "Private Risk and Social Resilience in Liberalized Electricity Markets," *Joule* (2022), and she and Stephen Littlechild used a decentralized market process framework to analyze policy responses to Winter Storm Uri and recommend alternatives in "Hayek and the Texas Blackout," *Electricity Journal* (2021).

Lynne has also contributed to the development of transactive energy systems since collaborating on the GridWise Olympic Peninsula Testbed Demonstration Project in 2006-2007. She is currently working in collaboration with David Chassin (SLAC National Laboratory, Stanford University) and Post Road Foundation on a U.S. Department of Energy Connected Communities research grant to test transactive energy in rural communities.

In addition to her academic research, Lynne is currently a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee, which provides advice to DOE on modernizing electricity infrastructure. She has also served as a member of the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology's Smart Grid Advisory Committee, and

was a member of the GridWise Architecture Council 2005-2010, where she remains an emerita member.



ELIZABETH KRONK WARNER is the Jefferson B. & Rita E. Fordham Presidential Dean and Professor of Law at the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah.

Dean Kronk Warner is a nationally recognized expert in the intersection of Environmental and Indian law. She has taught courses in Property, Indian, Environmental and Natural Resources Law, and supervised the Tribal Judicial Support Clinic at the University of Kansas School of Law. She also teaches and coaches several moot court competition teams. She has received several teaching excellence awards, co-authored several books on environmental issues and Native Americans, and has over 40 articles and book chapters to her credit. Dean Kronk

Warner, a citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, served as an appellate judge for the Tribe and as a district judge for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe.

Dean Kronk Warner actively engages in activities related to legal education and the profession nationally. She currently serves as chair of the AALS Deans Steering Committee, chair of the AALS Membership Review Committee, and will co-chair the 2023 ABA New Deans Workshop. She serves as a Trustee on the LSAC Board of Trustees, as well as on the LSAC DEI and audit committees. As dean, she also has the privilege of serving as an ex officio member of the Utah Bar Commission. She previously was an active member of the Federal Bar Association, serving on its national Board of Directors. In 2014, she received the Federal Bar Association President's Award for leadership and extraordinary service, commitment, and guidance to the Federal Bar Association and its members. She holds a J.D. from the University of Michigan, a B.S. from Cornell University, and also studied at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.



THAD LAVAR was originally appointed to the Public Service Commission of Utah in 2012 and was appointed Commission Chair in 2015. He was reappointed in 2021 by Governor Spencer J. Cox. Since his appointment as Chair the PSC has gone paperless and redesigned its internet presence, streamlined numerous administrative rules and processes, modernized its administration of Utah's Universal Service Fund and Relay program, made substantive updates to Utah's PURPA requirements, implemented a new rate structure for customer generation, initiated investigations into grid modernization and advanced rate design, and established rules for a community renewable energy program.

In addition to his duties at the PSC, Thad provides public service on the Body of State Regulators for the Western Energy Imbalance Market. He is also a member of the Advisory Council to the Center for Public Utilities at New Mexico State University, the Committee on Telecommunications of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission. He has done volunteer work with USAID to provide workshops to international regulators on topics including cross border electricity trading, flexibility of coal generation facilities, and natural gas infrastructure regulation.

Before his appointment to the PSC Thad served as Deputy Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce, Director of the Division of Consumer Protection, administrative law judge, and associate general counsel to the Utah Legislature. He was a member of the steering committee for the Governor's Office 2011 Business Regulation Review, a project that resulted in over 300 changes to streamline state government. Before attending law school Thad was a public school teacher in Texas and Arkansas.



MICHAEL LEE has worked in the renewable energy industry for more than a decade and currently serves as CEO of Octopus Energy U.S. After earning his MBA from Harvard, Michael quickly unlocked his passion for cleaner and cheaper electricity, working on some of the first battery storage projects and developing solar solutions for global Fortune 500's. He spent nearly a decade in the IPP industry helping finance some of the earliest batteries, wind and solar projects before the industry matured to its current form. He then launched an energy retailer in Texas called Evolve Energy, with the idea that customers can optimize energy usage to ease grid tensions and save money on their bills through AI and IOT. Through a shared mission to

decarbonize energy using tech and smart rates, Evolve Energy was acquired by Octopus Energy in 2020. Octopus Energy U.S. wants to enable a more modern, reliable and resilient grid across the country, starting in Texas. Octopus Energy is currently valued at more than \$5 billion in 2023 and is backed by some of the largest global energy players such as Al Gore's Generation Investment Management, Origin Energy, Tokyo Gas and CPP.



LEA MÁRQUEZ PETERSON was elected to the Arizona Corporation Commission in November 2020. She was sworn-in on January 4, 2021 and elected by her fellow commissioners to lead the Commission as Chair which she served for two years.

Prior to November 2020, Commissioner Lea Márquez Peterson was appointed to the Commission by Governor Doug Ducey in May 2019. With her appointment, she became the first Latina to serve in a statewide office in the state of Arizona. She is the only commissioner who is not from Maricopa County. Her first term ends in 2025. She will be eligible to run for a second in 2024.

Lea has been an entrepreneur in Arizona for many years and supports Arizona's small business community and economic development. She was honored to be selected as the 2022 Hispanic Business Woman of the Year by the United States Hispanic Chamber. She served as the President/CEO of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber from 2009 until November of 2018 and the Executive Director of Greater Tucson Leadership (GTL) from 2005 to 2009. While Lea was serving as President/CEO of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber in 2013, the Tucson Hispanic Chamber was recognized by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as the Hispanic Chamber of the Year.

From 2005 to 2009 Lea owned and operated a Business Brokerage Firm and from 1998 to 2005, she built and operated a chain of six gasoline stations/convenience stores with 50 employees in the Tucson region.

In her capacity as Commissioner, Lea serves on the board of EPRI, the Electric Power Research Institute. Additionally, she serves as co-Vice Chair of the Water Committee and on the nuclear power subcommittee for the National Association of Regulated Utility Commissioners. She also serves on the Advisory Council to the Center for Public Utilities at New Mexico State University.

Lea has been appointed to serve on the Arizona Judicial Council, which advises the Arizona Supreme Court and the Arizona Finance Authority, the state's bonding authority. She chairs the Tenet Health Board of Directors of Carondelet's St Mary's and St Joseph's Hospitals in Tucson and is the former Chair of the Pima Association of Governments' Economic Vitality Committee. She serves on the Board of the Pima County Workforce Investment Board and is the past President of the National Association of Women Business Owners in Tucson. She also chairs the Board of the

national Small Business Development Council for the U.S Small Business Administration.

She has been recognized as the 2022 United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Business Woman of the Year, a 2021 Most Influential Women in Arizona Business Recognition by AZ Big Media, 2022 Woman of Influence in the Region by Biz Tucson Magazine, 2021 Jack Jewett Award by Arizona Center for Civic Leadership, as well as a University of Arizona Distinguished Alumni Award.

She received her undergraduate degrees in Marketing and Entrepreneurship from the University of Arizona, and her Master of Business Administration from Pepperdine University. She resides in Tucson and is married with two children.



PHILIP D. MOELLER is Executive Vice President, Business Operations Group and Regulatory Affairs at the Edison Electric Institute (EEI). EEI is the association that represents all of the nation's investorowned electric companies.

Mr. Moeller has significant responsibility over a broad range of issues that affect the future structure of the electric power industry and new rules in evolving competitive markets. He has responsibility over the strategic areas of energy supply and finance, environment, energy delivery, energy services, federal and state regulatory issues, and international affairs.

EEI's member companies increasingly are focused on delivering innovative solutions that meet customers' changing expectations. Mr. Moeller works with EEI's member companies to identify policy solutions and business opportunities to better serve customers.

Prior to joining EEI in February 2016, Mr. Moeller served as a Commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), ending his tenure as the second-longest serving member of the Commission. In office from 2006 through 2015, Mr. Moeller ended his service as the only Senate-confirmed member of the federal government appointed by both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. At FERC, Mr. Moeller championed policies promoting improved wholesale electricity markets, increasing investment in electric transmission and natural gas pipeline infrastructure, and enhancing the coordination of the electric power and natural gas industries.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Moeller headed the Washington, D.C., office of Alliant Energy Corporation. He also served as a Senior Legislative Assistant for Energy Policy to U.S.

Senator Slade Gorton (R-WA), and as the Staff Coordinator of the Washington State Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee in Olympia, Washington.

Mr. Moeller was born in Chicago and raised on a ranch near Spokane, Washington. He received a BA in Political Science from Stanford University.



HILARY PEARSON has been working on clean energy policy for nearly two decades. Passionate about the technology and policy solutions needed to accelerate the clean energy transition, she currently works as Vice President of Policy & External Affairs at LineVision, a rapidly growing climate tech company, helping utility partners around the world lead the energy transition by enabling enhanced grid flexibility, resilience and security. She is also the Board Chair of the Working for Advanced

Transmission Technologies (WATT) Coalition, which represents companies interested in bringing technology solutions to the US electric transmission system to improve reliability and efficiency for American citizens and businesses.

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

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



LETHA TAWNEY was appointed to the Oregon Public Utility Commission by Governor Kate Brown in June 2018. Commissioner Tawney serves on the Energy Trust of Oregon Board of Directors, and as Chair of 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). 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.

First Term: June 18, 2018 – May 31, 2020
Second Term: June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2024



HAYLEY WILLIAMSON was reappointed Chair of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada in 2023 by Governor Lombardo. She was first appointed Chair in 2020 by Governor Sisolak.

Previously, Chair Williamson served as a Commissioner and as Senior Assistant General Counsel and Acting General Counsel for the PUCN. As a Commissioner, Chair Williamson has been responsible for developing rules to implement many important pieces of legislation, including Nevada's Renewable Portfolio Standard, renewable natural gas requirements, and Natural Disaster Protection Plans.

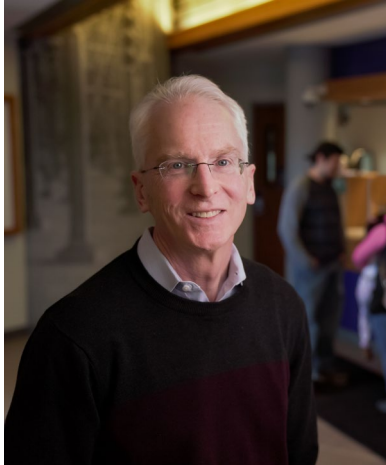
Chair Williamson has worked at the PUCN since 2013 and has more than a decade of public utility law experience. As an attorney for the PUCN, Chair Williamson represented the agency before Nevada district courts and the Nevada Supreme Court, and she appeared on behalf of the agency at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

In addition to her role at the PUCN, Chair Williamson is a member of the Nevada Transmission Task Force. In 2023, she also was elected Chair of the Body of State Regulators, after serving as Vice Chair of that board since 2020 following her election to the position by Commissioners across the western United States.

Chair Williamson is also the Vice Chair of Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, a bistate agency leading the regional effort for Lake Tahoe's conservation and restoration. Additionally, Chair Williamson was elected by her national peers to serve on the Board of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners in 2022.

Chair 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, Chair 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.

Chair Williamson lives in Stateline, Nevada, in the Lake Tahoe area with her family.



STEVE WRIGHT graduated from the University of Oregon with a Master's degree in public administration. He began his professional career at the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in the energy conservation division in 1981. He held a number of positions within BPA, the last 12 years as Administrator/CEO. BPA provides roughly one-third the electricity and 70% of the high voltage transmission in the Pacific Northwest. At BPA he was in charge during the west coast energy crisis and the resulting financial recovery, completed a 10-year agreement for salmon restoration in the Columbia River basin, oversaw substantial increases in energy efficiency investments, established new transmission expansion and integration

strategies to support wind power development, and new 20-year power sales contract for all of BPA's supply. He retired from BPA in 2013.

As General Manager at Chelan Public Utility District from 2013-2021, Steve led the development of two community based Strategic Plans with the most recent plan finalized in October 2019. In a 2020 survey, 86% of customers indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with their Chelan PUD service.

Under Steve's leadership Chelan PUD and PGP developed studies to identify a least cost path for achieving greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the Pacific Northwest electric sector. Also, Chelan PUD and the National Hydropower Association coauthored an agenda for public policy actions to reinvigorate the hydropower industry.

Steve was appointed to the Southwest Power Pool Board in 2022. SPP manages electricity markets and the transmission system from northern Texas through North Dakota. He has the lead on the Board for western systems expansion and market seams. He is chair of the Interim Markets+ Independent Panel overseeing SPP's day ahead market developments in the West.

Steve was a member of the Boards of the American Public Power Association and the Alliance to Save Energy, on the Steering Committee for the Large Public Power Council (25 largest public power utilities in the country) and Past Chair of the Public Generating Pool (public power generators in Washington and Oregon). He is a past co-chair of the APPA Climate Change Task Force. He has been awarded the Presidential Rank Award for distinguished service as federal government executive, APPA Alex Radin award for distinguished service (APPA's highest award), ASE Charles Percy award for public service (ASE's highest award), APPA Alan Richardson award for Statesmanship, Washington PUD Association, Oregon PUD Association and Northwest Public Power Association Lifetime Achievement Awards among others. He has testified before the United States Congress more than a dozen times.