

# Electricity Advisory Committee (EAC)

Panelist and Speaker Bios, June 2022

## Update on the DOE Office of Electricity (OE) Programs and Initiatives



### **Gil Bindewald**

Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity  
U.S. Department of Energy

Mr. Bindewald is the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Electricity and co-Chair of the Grid Modernization Initiative. He leads activities to help transform the system that powers our homes and businesses, and increasingly even fuels our cars. Mr. Bindewald is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of New York. He received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Union College, and an M.P.A. in International Development from Harvard University.

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Implementation



### **Geri Richmond**

Under Secretary for Science and Innovation  
U.S. Department of Energy

In her role as Under Secretary for Science and Innovation at DOE, Dr. Richmond oversees DOE's Office of Science, the nation's largest federal sponsor of basic research in the physical sciences, DOE's applied R&D areas of nuclear, fossil, and renewable energy, and energy system integrity, and the DOE national laboratories and their facilities. Dr. Richmond is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has been honored by numerous awards. A native of Kansas, Dr. Richmond received her B.S. in chemistry from Kansas State University and her Ph.D. in physical chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley.

## National Transmission Planning Study (NTPS) Presentation Panel



**Carl Mas**

Senior Advisor, Office of Electricity  
U.S. Department of Energy

Mr. Mas currently serves as a Senior Advisor for the U.S. DOE's Office of Electricity. Through an intergovernmental appointment, Mr. Mas provides strategic, analytic, and stakeholder engagement focused on support for the Building a Better Grid Initiative's National Transmission Planning Study. For New York State, Mr. Mas serves as the Director of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Energy and Environmental Analysis Department and has responsibility for analysis in support of policy and program planning as well as the oversight of NYSEDA's environmental research portfolio. Carl received a dual Masters in Science from the University of California, Berkeley, in Mechanical Engineering and Energy & Resources.



**Hamody Hindi**

Transmission Planning Engineer  
Bonneville Power Administration

Mr. Hindi is a Transmission Planning Engineer with the Bonneville Power Administration, currently on detail with the DOE Office of Electricity leading a National Transmission Planning Study to inform grid needs for the Administration's clean electricity by 2035 goal. He has experience with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability standards, generator and load interconnection requirements, and development of plans of service for transmission service requests. He has participated in a number of Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) and NERC working groups, including chairing the WECC Load Modeling Task Force from 2015-2017. Mr. Hindi holds a B.A. in Physics from U.C. Berkeley and an M.S.E.E. from University of Washington, Seattle. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Washington.

## DOE Authorities for Transmission Deployment



### **Lauren Azar (EAC Member)**

Founder  
Azar Law, LLC

Ms. Azar provides legal services in the electric industry including business, regulatory and policy advice, as well as project advocacy and permitting. Among other things, she is currently assisting utilities to develop a path to deep decarbonization and working within the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) footprint to improve transmission planning and cost allocation. Ms. Azar served as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Energy from 2011-13, advising him on the electric industry and its institutional barriers. She also co-led negotiations among nine federal agencies to overhaul and streamline their evaluation of electric transmission. From 2007-11, Azar was a Wisconsin Public Service Commissioner.



### **Michelle Manary**

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Energy Resilience Division,  
Office of Electricity  
U.S. Department of Energy

Ms. Manary will help lead DOE's division focused on national transmission infrastructure policy issues in support of national clean energy objectives. Before joining OE, Ms. Manary served as executive vice president and chief financial officer for the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), having held the position since September 2018. Ms. Manary will apply her transmission background to oversee OE's efforts in transmission reliability, clean energy analysis and programs, and energy infrastructure and risk analysis in support of the Biden-Harris administration's priorities to enhance grid resilience. Ms. Manary holds a Bachelor of Science in finance from Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, and Master of Business Administration and Public Administration from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.



## **Sam Walsh**

General Counsel  
U.S. Department of Energy

Mr. Walsh was sworn in as the General Counsel of the Department of Energy on August 11, 2021. Immediately prior to re-joining DOE, Mr. Walsh was a partner at the law firm Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis LLP in Washington, DC. Mr. Walsh previously served at the Department from 2010 to 2016, as Deputy General Counsel for Energy Policy, Associate General Counsel, and Senior Legal Advisor to the General Counsel. Before his former service at DOE, Mr. Walsh was an attorney in the energy group at Hogan Lovells LLP and a law clerk to the Hon. Judge David S. Tatel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Mr. Walsh holds a B.A. from Yale College, an M.P.A. from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.



## **Tracey LeBeau**

Administrator and CEO  
Western Area Power Administration

An accomplished executive with expansive clean infrastructure experience, Ms. LeBeau has more than 20 years of experience in management, energy development, public-private partnerships, utility business operations, federal policy and energy finance. At the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Ms. LeBeau has served in numerous leadership capacities, including leading the Transmission Infrastructure Program which manages WAPA's \$3.25 billion infrastructure fund, standing up and leading WAPA's Office of the Chief Administrative Officer and most recently served as Senior Vice President responsible for managing WAPA transmission system operations and maintenance as well as energy marketing in Arizona, Nevada and southern California. Before joining WAPA in 2014, Ms. LeBeau was a political appointee at DOE from 2011-2014. Ms. LeBeau received her A.B. from Stanford University and her J.D. from the University of Iowa.



## **Michael Skelly**

Chief Executive Officer  
Grid United

Mr. Skelly is a renewable energy entrepreneur and pioneer in the US wind industry. Mr. Skelly is the founder and CEO of Grid United, an early-stage transmission development company. Mr. Skelly was previously the founder and president of Clean Line Energy, a company that successfully permitted some of the longest transmission lines in the U.S. in the last 50 years. Mr. Skelly also serves as a senior advisor at the investment bank Lazard. He holds a B.A. in economics from the University of Notre Dame and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.



## **Jeff Cook**

Vice President of Planning and Asset Management  
Bonneville Power Administration

Mr. Cook oversees the transmission planning and asset management program to promote the reliability, efficiency and economical use of the transmission-related physical assets. Planning and Asset Management is responsible for the development of an asset management system framework that informs decisions on near and long-term activities and strategies to meet the predicted future demands on BPA's transmission system, achieves its desired performance levels and realizes the lowest life-cycle costs for these assets. Prior to BPA, Mr. Cook worked for several utilities and communication companies, including CenturyTel and Pacific Power and Light. Mr. Cook earned his bachelor's in Electrical Engineering from Colorado State University. He holds a professional engineering license in Oregon.

## Supply Chain Considerations for Energy Storage



### **Lola Infante (EAC Member)**

Executive Director, Government and External Affairs  
Electric Power Research Institute

At the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Dr. Infante focuses on stakeholder engagement for strategic areas such as EPRI's Low Carbon Resource Initiative, a vital project that will help bring hydrogen, ammonia, biofuels, and other energy carriers to market so our nation can achieve its long-term clean energy and national security objectives. Prior to joining EPRI, she spent 13 years at Edison Electric Institute working on market and policy developments in clean and alternative energy resources as well as other critical fuels for power generation. Dr. Infante holds a PhD with Distinction in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins University, an MA in Energy, Environment, Science and Technology from the School of Advanced International Studies division of Johns Hopkins University, and a bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance from Sciences Po Paris, France.



### **Benjamin Shrager**

General Engineer, Office of Electricity  
U.S. Department of Energy

Mr. Shrager is an engineer with DOE's Office of Electricity Advanced Grid Research & Development Division, where he works on and manages electric grid modernization R&D projects. While at DOE, Mr. Shrager has led several Congressionally directed reports on grid-enhancing technologies, led the Energy Storage response to the February 2021 Supply Chain executive order, and served as the topic manager for an SBIR subtopic on advanced conductors for electricity delivery system applications. Mr. Shrager is also managing the Energy Storage Grand Challenge project, designing a framework for optimizing energy storage R&D portfolios. Mr. Shrager received his B.S. and M.S. from Case Western Reserve University in Systems & Control Engineering.



## Haresh Kamath

Director for Distributed Energy Resources and Energy Storage  
Electric Power Research Institute

Mr. Kamath manages EPRI's research into the development, assessment, and application of energy storage technologies for grid storage applications as well as the implementation and integration of storage, distributed generation, smart inverters, microgrids, and other distributed resources into the grid. During his tenure at EPRI, he has conducted research in energy storage, electric transportation, energy efficiency, DER integration, nanotechnology, and technology innovation. Before joining EPRI, Mr. Kamath worked at Lockheed Martin Space Systems as a product engineer responsible for spacecraft batteries. Mr. Kamath received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in chemical engineering from Stanford University.



## Julia Perrier

Director  
Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners

Ms. Perrier joined Copenhagen Infrastructure Partner's (CIP) investment team in 2021 and is responsible for originating, evaluating and executing transactions and projects across North America. Prior to joining CIP, Ms. Perrier was the Chief Commercial Officer at 8minute Solar Energy, a large-scale PV + Storage development company. At 8minute, she was responsible for origination, project finance, and legal operations. Prior to 8minute, Ms. Perrier was a project finance attorney at Chadbourne & Parke LLP (now Norton Rose Fulbright). Ms. Perrier received her BS in Finance from NYU's Stern School of Business and her law degree from Cornell.





## **Bill Malee**

Vice President for Operations Support, Safety, and Emergency Planning  
National Grid

Mr. Malee has worked for National Grid for 19 years and has held various senior positions, including roles in Regulatory, Electric Transmission, Gas Distribution, Control Center Operations and Business Development. His accomplishments at National Grid have included delivery of a \$1.0 billion dollar gas distribution network investment plan, leading multiple electric and gas rate cases which shifted the regulatory framework to performance based rates, increasing the company's wholesale customer satisfaction by nearly 25 percent, and leading National Grid's efforts on the first US offshore wind farm off the coast of RI. Mr. Malee holds a degree in Engineering and Computer Science from The Ohio State University and earned the distinction of becoming a North American Electric Reliability Corporation Certified Transmission System Operator and Reliability Coordinator.



## **Matt Stitch**

General Manager for TMNA Battery Lifecycle Solutions  
Toyota Motor North America

As General Manager of Business Development, Mr. Stitch is responsible for developing Toyota's strategic roadmap for creating a sustainable, closed loop battery eco-system. Prior to his role in Business Development, Mr. Stitch has held various positions within the Purchasing Supplier Development Division and Flying Mobility.





## Roger Lin

Vice President of Global Marketing and Government Relations  
Ascend Elements

Mr. Lin has nearly two decades of experience in the lithium-ion battery industry. He has served on the board of directors at the US Energy Storage Association and California Energy Storage Alliance, and has held executive roles in technical marketing, corporate strategy, and product management at organizations including LS Energy Solutions, NEC Energy, and A123 Systems. Mr. Lin holds a Master's in Materials Science from MIT and a Bachelor of Science in Ceramic Engineering from Rutgers University, and is an inventor on ten United States patents.