



Candidate Profiles/Statements

Ric O’Connell
Executive Director, GridLab
Oakland, CA USA

I have been in the energy industry for nearly 20 years, and have a passion for finding solutions to complex, multidimensional problems. I recently founded GridLab, a non profit dedicated to providing technical solutions to clean energy integration challenges. Previously, I was with Black & Veatch for 12 years where I started and grew the solar energy engineering consulting practice. I am an electrical engineer with a degree from Duke University, as well as a master’s degree in energy policy from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

The energy industry is going through a dramatic transformation, and UVIG has been at the forefront of convening in-depth discussions on how to navigate that transformation. I believe that sharing information and collaboratively solving problems is what has made UVIG a successful organization, and I look forward to helping chart the course of the organization as it grows and evolves.

Elizabeth (Beth) LaRose
General Manager, GE Energy Consulting
GE Power
Schenectady, NY USA

I lead GE’s Energy Consulting global team of power system experts to deliver a full portfolio of techno-economic consulting services on electric power systems, thermal and renewable power generation, and power economic studies for various stakeholders in the electric power industry. I bring almost 30 years of energy industry experience on electric power markets, investment decision analysis and asset valuation, integrated resource planning and scenario analysis, generation plant operational analyses and the impact of energy policy and environmental regulations.

My participation in energy industry groups enables life-long learning, sharing of insights and furthering collaborative research. I have published several industry papers and articles, primarily with IEEE and CIGRE, and currently convene CIGRE WG C5.24 on the market value of smart grids.

My career and industry involvement thoroughly supports the mission UVIG to “chart the future of wind and solar power integration and operations.” As a board member I will promote UVIG activities across my broad professional network, share my expertise and experience to help inform UVIG activities, and act as a liaison between GE and UVIG.

AFFILIATIONS and EDUCATION

- Member, CIGRE US National Committee, Convener WG C5.24
- Engineering Advisory Committee for Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY
- Member, IEEE's Power Engineering Society and Women in Technology
- Co-lead GE Women's Network US East Region
- Member and Past Vice Chairperson, Society of Women Engineers, NY Capital Region Professional Chapter
- M.S. Electric Power Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- B.S. Electrical Engineering, Clarkson University

William D. D'haeseleer
Full Professor ('Ordinarius') & Director
University of Leuven (KU Leuven)
Energy Institute / TME
Leuven (Heverlee), Belgium

William D'haeseleer is professor at KU Leuven and director of its interdisciplinary Energy Institute.

His education and industrial experience reflect multidisciplinary interest in energy and the drive to understand the underlying physical phenomena. He obtained an MS in Electro-Mechanics (option Power Engineering), after which he pursued out of curiosity an MS in Nuclear Engineering (both at KU Leuven). At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he subsequently studied plasma transport phenomena, obtaining another MS in (formally) EE and his PhD.

Before joining KU Leuven, he spent several years at the Max-Planck Institute in Munich and at Tractebel, the engineering company advising the Belgian utilities.

His research concentrates on energy systems, energy management and energy policy, with emphasis on multidisciplinary facets, particularly energy-system integration, encompassing energy-scientific/technical possibilities and boundary conditions, ecological aspects and economics. He teaches courses on Energy Science & Technology, Thermal Systems, Energy Management, Renewable Energy, and Nuclear Engineering.

William D'haeseleer insists to be technology agnostic/neutral. After a full-scope system evaluation, hopefully the best technology mix may survive and win.

He is an active member of organizations such as the EU's Energy Advisory Committee, iiESI, the World Energy Council – Belgium (chair), and the Belgian Royal Academy.

ESI is the challenge of the next decades. I therefore welcome the merger of iiESI with UVIG/ESIG, as reference vehicle for promoting profound reflection on ESI and to emphasize important issues. With my broad background, I can help UVIG/ESIG address strategic energy-system issues and look forward to a constructive contribution in the Board.

Will Kaul

**Consultant, recently retired from Great River Energy
Afton, MN USA**

I fully support the strategic direction of UVIG, soon to become ESIG. Integration is the key to evolving the energy system in a way that is economical, reliable, resilient, and sustainable. As the new proposed name suggests, integration across systems and platforms, as well as across energy resources and the grid, is critically important. We are at a point where this evolution can be successfully achieved; everything we need is within our grasp. Yet there is much work to be done. UVIG is uniquely positioned as an important forum for information sharing and networking for those who are doing that hard work.

I had a 40 year career in the electric utility industry with Great River Energy, the last 20 years as vice president and chief transmission officer. I led the highly successful \$2 billion regional grid expansion effort in the Upper Midwest called CapX2020. When that was complete I led the Grid Modernization activity at Great River Energy for several years.

I am currently serving as board chair of The Great Plains Institute, as a director on the UVIG board, and as a consultant to Fresh Energy, a non-profit environmental organization that supports electrification of the economy and further grid expansion to integrate more and more renewable energy into the grid.

Mark McGranaghan

**Vice President, Integrated Grid, EPRI
Knoxville, TN USA**

I am currently Vice President of Integrated Grid research at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). I coordinate our research that is focused on the integration of renewables and distributed resources. This includes integration of flexibility resources and energy systems integration, as well as the information and communication infrastructure that will support the integrated grid. I am also responsible for coordinating our international research team and I split time between Knoxville and our Dublin office.

I have over 35 years of experience in the industry and I have been involved in industry activities throughout that time. I am an IEEE Fellow and a member of the CIGRE USNC Executive Committee. I have worked with NIST, IEEE, CIGRE and IEC to help define the technologies and architecture to support the smart grid. I have numerous technical publication and co-authored the book Electrical Power Systems Quality.

I have been involved with the formation of the International Institute for Energy Systems Integration (iiESI) since its beginning and have supported UWIG and UVIG for many years through EPRI participation. I am very excited about the opportunity to help provide guidance for the ongoing strategy at UVIG as a combined organization.