



Candidate Profiles

Lola Infante

**Senior Advisor, External Relations and Strategic Initiatives
EPRI**

Dr. Lola Infante is Sr. Advisor, External Relations and Strategic Initiatives at the Electric Power research Institute (EPRI) where she leads stakeholder engagement for strategic areas such as EPRI's Low Carbon Resource Initiative (LCRI).

Previously, Infante was Sr. Director, Clean Energy Technology and Policy at the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), where she focused on market and policy developments in clean and alternative energy resources as well as other critical fuels for power generation. Among other things, she launched and managed EEI's energy storage practice and led many initiatives on renewables and distributed energy resources. Before joining EEI, Infante worked at the Center for the Advancement of Energy Markets, a Washington DC think tank, and at GAB-Robins in Paris, France, where she worked in marketing and corporate finance.

Infante is a frequent speaker on these issues at many technical and policy groups, has authored several articles and papers on energy related topics, and participates in several industry committees.

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, an MA in International Economics and Finance, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance from Sciences Po Paris, France.

Ric O'Connell **Executive Director** **GridLab**

Ric O'Connell is the Executive Director of GridLab, a national non-profit that delivers technical assistance to advocates and regulators, a connectivity platform to facilitate knowledge sharing, and education on best practices for complex grid issues. Since its founding in 2017, GridLab has executed 95 projects across 30 states, working with a network of more than 65 experts and partnering with over 30 independent organizations. Ric is a recognized leader in renewable energy technology and policy, having provided engineering support for over 8 GW of utility scale solar projects worldwide, and led high profile policy studies including The 2035 Report, and the California Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative. He has a BSEE from Duke University and a Master's in Renewable Energy Policy from CU Boulder.

William D'haeseleer
Full Professor & Director
University of Leuven (KU Leuven)
Energy Institute / Energy Conversion & Applied Mechanics
Dept. of Mechanical Engineering

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.

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 Heat Transfer, Fluid Mechanics, Thermodynamics, Energy Challenges, Energy Technology & Economics, Renewable Energy, and Nuclear Engineering.

He is / has been an active member several organizations EU energy advisory committees; he is an elected member of the Belgian Royal Academy, is a Board member of ESIG and is chair of the World Energy Council – Belgium.

Beth LaRose
General Manager
GE Energy Consulting

As General Manager of GE Energy Consulting, Beth leads GE's global team of power system experts to deliver a full portfolio of techno-economic consulting services on electric power systems and grids, thermal and renewable power generation integration and power economic studies for various stakeholders in the electric power industry. She is responsible for setting the business' vision and strategy and enabling her teams for successful execution. Beth brings 30+ years of energy industry experience in 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.

Beth's participation in energy industry groups enables life-long learning, sharing of insights and furthering of collaborative research. She is a member of the CIGRE US National Executive Committee and convener of Working Group C5.24 on the market value of smart grids. Beth is on the board of directors for the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG) and is also a member of SWE, IEEE's Power Engineering Society and Women in Technology, and active in the GE Women's Network. She serves on the Engineering Advisory Committee for her undergraduate Alma Mater, Clarkson University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree. Beth also earned a Master's in Electric Power Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She has published several industry papers and articles, primarily with IEEE and CIGRE.