



Candidate Profiles

Rashid Abdul

WEG Transformers USA

Rashid Abdul is currently an employee of WEG Transformers USA. He has been in the electric power industry in the US and internationally for 44 years. He has nearly 25 years of experience in the clean/renewable energy market sector. He was previously employed at Raytheon Engineers and Constructors, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Gamesa Energy and CG Power Solutions USA, now owned by WEG Transformers USA.

Rashid has participated in ESIG (formerly UWIG/UVIG) for the past twenty years and currently serves as Treasurer on the ESIG Board of Directors. He also is a member of the ESIG Marketing Committee, among other various roles. In the past he served on the AWEA Board of Directors, as Chairman of both the Legislation and Transmission committees.

He received his BSEE, MSEE, MSEM all from Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mark Ahlstrom

VP, Renewable Energy Policy

NextEra Energy Resources

Mark Ahlstrom is Vice President of Renewable Energy Policy for NextEra Energy Resources. He serves on NERC's Reliability Issues Steering Committee, chairs the SPP Future Grid Strategy Advisory Group, and has worked for two decades on the reliable integration of variable generation into power systems and markets. Earlier, he was founder of two software companies, CEO of WindLogics, and served on the NERC Essential Reliability Services Working Group and the NERC Integrating Variable Generation Task Force. Today, Mark is focusing on grid transformation pathways that are accelerated by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 with emphasis on reliability, economics, and innovation.

A biochemistry and engineering graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Mark is a senior member of the IEEE Power & Energy Society and a member of CIGRE. Before joining WindLogics in 2000 and devoting himself to energy systems, he was founder of two software companies. Early in his career he worked on artificial intelligence research at the Honeywell Computer Sciences Center. Mark was elected to the ESIG Board in 2015 and has been President of the Board since December 2016.

Obadiah Bartholomy
Manager – Distributed Energy Strategy
Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Obadiah Bartholomy is the Manager of Distributed Energy Strategy at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. His team is responsible for enterprise strategy for building and transportation electrification, load flexibility, virtual power plants, distributed solar and storage. He has worked at SMUD for 20 years in research, policy, and strategy functions. Obadiah is also the chair of the DER Working Group at ESIG and has been a board member for 9 years as well as serving as vice president on the board. Obadiah has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Cal Poly, and an MS in Transportation Technology and Policy from UC Davis. He is a registered professional engineer in the state of California.

Jennifer Curran
Senior Vice President, Planning & Operations and Chief Compliance Officer
Midcontinent Independent System Operator

Jennifer Curran is Senior Vice President, Planning & Operations and Chief Compliance Officer for MISO. In that role she oversees a broad array of functions including the company's transmission and resource planning efforts, market operations and system operations, as well as the company's work to comply with state and federal electricity standards.

Ms. Curran has spent the last twenty years focused on delivering reliability and economic value to customers through wholesale electricity markets, operations and infrastructure planning. Since joining MISO in 2004, she has served in various strategic, business planning and operational oversight roles. Notably, Ms. Curran was a leader in the development of the industry leading Multi-Value Project transmission planning approach. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Texas A&M Smart Grid Center as well as the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG) board of directors.

Prior to joining MISO, Ms. Curran was Manager of Power Generation & Supply Strategy for MISO and PJM at Reliant Resources. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Rice University and a Master of Business Administration from Duke University.

Tracey Kutney
Deputy Director, Homes and Communities, Office of Energy Efficiency
Natural Resources Canada

Tracey Kutney has 18 years of experience in renewable energy in both the public and private sectors. At Natural Resources Canada, her division is responsible for regulations, codes, compliance, programs, policies, partnerships and engagement to reduce emissions in the residential sector. In her prior roles, Tracey led the design and development of the Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways program (SREPs) and the Smart Grid program. Tracey was the Canadian lead on the North American Renewable Integration Study (NARIS). While at the CanmetENERGY research centre, Tracey led the Marine Energy Technology team. She was the Canadian delegate on the International Energy Agency (IEA) Ocean Energy Systems Executive Committee and contributed to the development of International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards. Before joining the Canadian public service, Tracey was a renewable energy consultant at Garrad Hassan (now DNV GL) and was on the Marine Renewables Canada Board of Directors.

Cristin Lyons
Partner & Energy Practice Leader
ScottMadden

Cristin Lyons is a partner with ScottMadden and leads the firm's energy practice. Since joining the firm in 1999, Cristin has consulted with myriad clients on issues ranging from process and organizational redesign to merger integration to project and program management. Cristin led the firm's grid transformation practice for three years before becoming the energy practice lead. She is a frequent speaker and panelist at conferences across the country. Cristin earned a B.A. in political science and Spanish from Gettysburg College and an M.B.A. from the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University. She is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa.