



# WIRES Spring Meeting

April 26-27, 2023  
Charleston, SC at the Mills House Hotel

## AGENDA

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

6:00 - 9:00 pm ET      **Cocktail Reception and Dinner**

### THURSDAY, APRIL 27

8:00 - 9:00 am ET      **Breakfast**

9:00 - 10:00 am      **Keynote Address**  
**FERC Chairman Willie L. Phillips**

10:00 - 11:00 am      **Panel 1 – Environmental Justice**

#### **Panelists**

**Conrad Bolston**, Senior Counsel for Environmental Justice and Equity, FERC

**Tiffany Ganthier**, Director of Governmental Issues, Van Ness Feldman LLP

**Dr. YaVonda Ulfing**, Energy Transition and Sustainability Manager, AEP

#### **Moderator**

**Daniel Moore**, Reporter, BloombergLaw

11:00 - 11:15 am      **Coffee Break**

11:15 - 12:15 pm      **Panel 2 – Interregional Transmission**

#### **Panelists**

**Liza Reed, Engagement**, Outreach and Strategic Initiatives, U.S. DOE Grid Deployment Office

**David Kelley**, VP, Engineering, SPP

**Daniel Palken**, Legislative Assistant for Energy and Natural Resources, Office of Sen. Hickenlooper

#### **Moderator**

**Stacey Burbure**, Vice President FERC & RTO Strategy & Policy, AEP & WIRES President

12:30 - 2:00 pm      **Lunch**



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## PRESENTERS

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**The Hon. Willie L. Phillips**

**Chairman, FERC**

Willie L. Phillips was named by President Biden to be Acting Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

(FERC) on January 3, 2023 and is serving a Commission term that ends June 30, 2026.

He most recently served as the Chairman of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia, named to that role in 2018. He served on the Commission since 2014. He is an experienced regulatory attorney combining nearly 20 years of legal expertise in public and private practice. He has an extensive background in the areas of public utility regulation, bulk power system reliability, and corporate governance.

Prior to being appointed to the DCPSC, Mr. Phillips served as Assistant General Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), in Washington, D.C. Before joining NERC, he also worked for two law firms, where he advised clients on energy regulatory compliance and policy matters.

Mr. Phillips has also served on the boards of several organizations, including the board of directors for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the Organization of PJM States (OPSI). He also has served as president of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (MACRUC), and he has held leadership roles on several advisory councils, including the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Advisory Council.

Mr. Phillips has a Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law, and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Montevallo. He lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife and two children.

### PANEL 1 – ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



**Panelist**

**Conrad Bolston**

**Senior Counsel for Environmental Justice and Equity, FERC**

As Senior Counsel for Environmental Justice and Equity, Conrad serves

as the Chairman's primary advisor to help the FERC further the goals of its Equity Action Plan and ensure that the Commission's policies and processes are consistent with environmental justice principles.

Prior to taking on his role at the Commission, Bolston was a Counsel in the Washington, DC Office of Vinson & Elkins LLP. There, his practice focused on environmental enforcement and litigation, ESG and sustainability counseling, and environmental justice matters. Conrad's practice regarding environmental justice centered on project development, strategic risk mitigation, sustainability reporting, and compliance strategies.

Bolston is a former defensive tackle with the Minnesota Vikings and the Green Bay Packers. He is a University of Maryland and Georgetown alum.



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## Panelist

### Tiffany Ganthier

**Director of  
Governmental Issues,  
Van Ness Feldman LLP**

Tiffany Ganthier is an experienced public policy professional providing

strategic advice and representation on local, state and federal legislative and regulatory issues. Her portfolio includes matters relating to federal energy, environmental and climate change policy. She also assists clients with federal appropriations matters, monitors major actions and emerging issues on Capitol Hill and represents the firm's coalition clients in the development and advocacy of policy solutions.

Before joining Van Ness Feldman, Ganthier worked at the Georgetown Climate Center as an Institute Associate, providing legal and policy analysis on adaptation projects at the federal, state, and local levels and leading the center's work on equitable climate adaptation and environmental justice issues. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from Howard University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from George Mason University in Government and International Politics with a focus on American Government.



## Panelist

### Dr. YaVonda Ulfig

**Energy Transition and  
Sustainability Manager,  
AEP**

YaVonda M. Ulfig (Vonda) is the Energy Transition & Sustainability Manager

for American Electric Power (AEP), where she leads the company's efforts to advance Environmental & Social Justice (ESJ) and Just Transition. Ulfig previously led efforts to educate, engage and advocate with internal and external stakeholders about the value and benefits of the company's transmission investment. Prior to that role, Ulfig supported a multi-regional project outreach team focused on developing proactive strategies to educate and engage with landowners, public officials and communities to gain support and acceptance of electric transmission projects. Ulfig's other prior roles include serving as part of AEP's human resources team, where she supported leadership and organizational development initiatives, in addition to diversity and inclusion outreach efforts. She also has worked as part of AEP's media relations group, where she supported strategies related to the company's external communication needs. Ulfig began her AEP career in 2009, supporting external and internal communications for AEP subsidiary Indiana Michigan Power. Prior to joining AEP, Ulfig was a journalist for the South Bend Tribune, where she covered business and consumer news.

Ulfig earned her Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) from Walden University in 2019 and her Master of Science in Management (MSM) from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2012. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism at Ball State University in 2006. Ulfig currently resides in Columbus, Ohio, with her husband, Mark, and their two children, 10-year-old Urijah and 5-year-old Anyaliene.



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## Moderator

**Daniel Moore**

**Reporter, BloombergLaw**

Daniel Moore is an energy reporter for Bloomberg in Washington, D.C., where he covers regulatory and legal news as it affects the electric grid, markets, natural gas infrastructure, and clean energy programs. He is fascinated by the intersection of federal policy with technology and project development needed to combat climate change and address environmental concerns. Previously, he worked as a business reporter for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and as the newspaper's Washington correspondent. He is a native of southeastern Ohio and a journalism graduate of Kent State University.

## PANEL 2 – INTERREGIONAL TRANSMISSION



## Panelist

**Liza Reed**

**Engagement, Outreach and Strategic Initiatives, U.S. DOE Grid Deployment Office**

Liza works on Strategic Initiatives within the new Grid Deployment Office in the US Department of Energy. Previously she was the research manager for electricity transmission at the Niskanen Center. She is an expert in High Voltage Direct Current, electricity transmission, and technology innovation. She holds a PhD from Carnegie Mellon University in Engineering and Public Policy and a master's degree and a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from The Ohio State University.



## Panelist

**David Kelley**

**VP, Engineering, SPP**

David Kelley is the Vice President, Engineering for Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a Regional Transmission Organization. He is responsible for the ongoing development of SPP's transmission expansion plan, tracking expansion projects, administration of generator interconnection processes, performance of engineering studies and engineering support functions. David also serves on the Board of Directors of the Division of Science and Technology of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

Kelley holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Louisiana Tech University, an MBA from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Arkansas. A native Arkansan, he and his wife have three daughters.





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## Panelist

### Daniel Palken

**Legislative Assistant  
for Energy and Natural  
Resources, Office of Sen.  
Hickenlooper**

Daniel Palken currently serves as Legislative Assistant for Senator John Hickenlooper of Colorado covering policy matters related to energy, climate, and minerals, with a focus on grid policy. Previously, Daniel served as a AAAS Fellow in the Office of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, where he wrote bipartisan energy tax reform legislation and coal-worker transition policy.

Palken completed his M.S. and Ph.D. in physics from the University of Colorado Boulder, where he applied quantum measurement techniques to a dark matter detection experiment and developed novel statistical analysis techniques for dark matter searches. He received his B.A. in physics and English from Bowdoin College in Maine.



## Moderator

### Stacey Burbure

**Vice President FERC &  
RTO Strategy & Policy,  
AEP & WIRES President**

Stacey Burbure is responsible for leading AEP's regulatory and policy efforts at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) as the company develops the electric system of the future to best serve its customers.

Prior to joining AEP in 2019, Burbure served as senior counsel, focusing on transmission issues, for an investor-owned utility. Previously, she was senior counsel to NERC where she acted as lead counsel to the Reliability Standards Committee. Burbure began her career in the energy field in 2003 in private practice.

Burbure earned her bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College and her law degree from George Washington University Law School. She is a board member of the Charitable Foundation of the Energy Bar Association.