



WIRES Fall Meeting

October 26-27, 2022
Washington, DC at the Willard Hotel

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

6:00 - 9:00 pm ET **Cocktail Reception and Dinner**
Mastro's Steakhouse

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

8:00 - 9:00 am ET **Breakfast**

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

10:00 - 11:00 am **Panel 1 – Interconnection Issues for Transmission**

Panelists

Tristan Kessler, Economist, Office of Energy Policy and Innovation (OEPI), FERC

Cynthia Bothwell, Ph.D, Grid Integration Engineer, Wind Energy Technology Office, DOE

Scott Wright, Executive Director, Resource Adequacy and Resource Utilization, MISO

Kenneth Jennings, General Manager of Renewable Integration and Operations, Duke Energy

Moderator

Amanda Conner, VP, FERC & RTO Strategy & Policy, American Electric Power

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

11:15 - 12:15 pm **Panel 2 – Advanced Technologies and Transmission**

Panelists

Jay Caspary, Senior Consultant, DOE

David Townley, Director of Public Policy, CTC Global

Terron Hill, Clean Energy Director, National Grid

Moderator

Pete Behr, E&E News

12:30 - 2:00 pm **Lunch**



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PRESENTERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Willie L. Phillips

Commissioner, FERC

Commissioner Willie L. Phillips was nominated to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by President Biden. He

was confirmed to the post by the United States Senate on November 16, 2021.

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 – INTERCONNECTION ISSUES FOR TRANSMISSION



Panelist

Tristan Kessler

Economist, Office of Energy Policy and Innovation (OEPI), FERC

Tristan Kessler is an Economist in the Office of Energy Policy and

Innovation at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Kessler is the team lead for the Commission's proposed rulemaking on improvements to generator interconnection procedures and agreements (RM22-14). At the Commission, Kessler has covered a broad range of interconnection topics, as well as electricity market design and market power mitigation issues. Prior to joining the Commission, Kessler worked as an energy economics researcher and environmental consultant. Kessler has a M.ESc. from Yale University and a M.S. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Maryland College Park.



Panelist

Cynthia Bothwell, Ph.D

Grid Integration Engineer, Wind Energy Technology Office, DOE

Cynthia Bothwell is a Professional Electrical Engineer serving the

industry for over 35 years. The first 25 years were working for electric utilities in all areas of planning, culminating in directing Integrated Resource Planning for a utility in a state with aggressive renewable and energy efficiency goals and being the technical expert for regulatory approvals. Dr. Bothwell then started an academic, research, and government phase - examining the system impacts of high penetration renewables. She currently



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supports the Department of Energy's Wind Energy Technologies Office focusing on systems integration. She is particularly interested in maintaining resource adequacy during the grid transformation.



Panelist

Scott Wright

**Executive Director,
Resource Adequacy and
Resource Utilization,
MISO**

Scott Wright specializes in the clean energy transition for utilities and ISO/RTO markets and MISO's response to the reliability imperative. In his role, he oversees resource adequacy and reforms related to MISO's adoption of a seasonal construct and enhanced accreditation. He is also responsible for overseeing the resource interconnection and retirement processes, both having unprecedented pace and scale.

Prior MISO leadership roles include Market Development/Design and Corporate Strategy. These roles involved tracking near- and long-industry trends, identifying critical implications, and working closely with stakeholders and industry partners to develop market reforms.

Before MISO, Wright was the Vice President of Corporate Development at ProLiance Energy – overseeing strategic planning, market analysis, capital investment, and financial planning and analysis. Additional industry experience includes A.T. Kearney Management Consulting, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and Pacific Gas and Electric. He holds a Master of Science from M.I.T. and a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in Mechanical Engineering.



Panelist

Kenneth Jennings

**General Manager of
Renewable Integration
and Operations, Duke
Energy**

Ken Jennings is the General Manager of Renewable Integration and Operations and works out of the Duke Energy Raleigh Office. Jennings is a graduate of Northern Kentucky University where he studied Manufacturing Engineering. He later finished his Master's degree in Business Administration after starting his career at Cinergy Corporation, which was ultimately acquired by Duke Energy in 2006.

Jennings started his career working in the environmental engineering field on Federal Superfund Sites in North America and also managed thermal systems which recovered residual wastes at industrial sites. When he joined Cinergy Corporation, he worked as an engineer and then later moved into business roles and ultimately landed in the regulatory policy field. Throughout his career, he has developed new generating facilities, managed business analytics teams, testified in numerous rate proceedings in multiple states and before moving to Raleigh, he managed market policy relating to the PJM markets and FERC for the Duke Midwest Commercial Business. Jennings has been working in renewable energy since 2014 when he joined the Raleigh Team. His most recent accomplishment was the development and redesign of Duke's interconnection process in the Carolinas, converting from a "first come, first served" serial process to a "first ready, first served" cluster process.



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Moderator

Amanda Conner

Vice President, FERC & RTO Strategy & Policy, AEP

Amanda Riggs Conner is vice president, FERC and RTO Strategy and Policy. She is responsible for representing AEP's generation and grid development businesses in policy matters at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO).

Previously, Conner served as managing director in AEP's Washington, D.C., office, focusing on FERC and federal legislative issues. She began working for AEP in 2012 as a senior counsel in the Legal Department, representing AEP in PJM transmission owners committees and handling transmission formula rate and market based rate issues before FERC.

Prior to joining AEP, Conner spent eight years as an associate attorney with Wright & Talisman, where she represented Southwest Power Pool and the MISO transmission owners in numerous FERC matters, including those involving energy market implementation and compliance with open access transmission directives. Later, in her role as counsel with Orrick, Conner represented renewable developers in project finance and related matters before FERC, including market-based rate applications, qualifying facility self-certifications, applications for approval of transactions involving jurisdictional facilities, and interconnection of renewable generation.

Conner received her bachelor's degree from Purdue University and her law degree from Indiana University.

PANEL 2 – ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES AND TRANSMISSION



Panelist

Jay Caspary

Senior Consultant, DOE

Jay Caspary is a Senior Consultant in the Grid Deployment Office of the U. S. Department of Energy focusing on

outreach to grid operators, key stakeholders and affected parties to ensure that DOE funded studies are effective. Caspary will be ensuring that existing and new initiatives at DOE create value and drive changes that are needed for a clean grid.

Prior to joining DOE in September 2022, Jay was Vice President at Grid Strategies where he provided policy makers, grid planners, utilities, market participants, environmental groups, state and many other entities with sound engineering analysis to help transform our grid for the evolving resource mix. Caspary was instrumental in supporting policy papers to promote regulatory reform as well as performing assessments to quantify the merits of new Advanced Transmission Technologies to accelerate the integration of new renewable resources, leveraging new Grid Enhancing Technologies and the capabilities of Advanced Conductors.

Caspary joined Grid Strategies in September 2020 after almost a 20 year career at Southwest Power Pool where he was responsible for Research, Development & Tariff Services. During his tenure at SPP, Caspary held a 13 month assignment at the US DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability as a Senior Policy Advisor focusing on grid modernization efforts. Caspary started his career with SPP in Little Rock in 2001 and was instrumental in developing effective transmission expansion plans for SPP, collaborative long-range plans with Entergy, MISO, and TVA, as well as proposed projects with neighboring systems



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in ERCOT and WECC. He started his career with Illinois Power/Dynegy in 1981 where he held diverse management positions in System Planning, Rates, Customer Solutions and Transmission Services. Caspary graduated from the University of Illinois-Urbana with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and has completed course requirements for a Master of Engineering Degree from Iowa State University. He has served on several industry committees, including NERC's Integration of Variable Generation Task Force, and EPRI's Grid Planning, Operations and Renewable Integration program. Caspary served for over a decade on the Board of Directors for the Utility Variable-generation Integration Group (UVIG) which has evolved to become the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG).



Panelist

David Townley

Director of Public Policy, CTC Global

David Townley works with CTC Global Corporation as Director of Public Policy where he communicates

with Federal and State policy makers about the benefits of using high performance transmission conductors to increase electric grid efficiency, capacity, and resilience. With over 40 years of experience in energy service and technology companies, his experience has been in both the regulated electric utility industry as well as the fast-paced electric technology development world. He is an executive with S&P 100 managerial experience, has been an adviser to multiple electric technology startup companies, and participated in the White House Executive Exchange Program. David has a Bachelor of Nuclear Engineering (Georgia Tech); Bachelor of Arts – Religion, Psychology (Lee University); MBA Studies at Georgia State University; and International Business Studies at Harvard University.



Panelist

Terron Hill

Clean Energy Director, National Grid

Terron Hill is director of Clean Energy Development at National Grid. In this role, he is responsible for

facilitating a clean energy future for National Grid's electric delivery networks in the US, moving forward transmission innovations and new investments to support renewable energy development, energy storage, and fleet electrification of transport. Hill has held various roles over the last 15 years at National Grid in transmission business development, regulatory strategy, RTO tariffs, wholesale electricity markets, technology innovation, NERC and reliability compliance, and corporate strategy. He is a graduate of Cornell University.



Moderator

Pete Behr

Reporter, E&E News

Peter Behr is a senior energy reporter for Energywire covering power grid reliability, climate policy and cybersecurity.

He also has covered shale gas development and nuclear power issues for E&E. Before joining E&E in 2009, he was principal energy reporter for The Washington Post. During his 23 years at The Post, he was also assistant managing editor for business and financial news and a business columnist and reporter. A graduate of Colgate University, he was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center.