

# NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

# Speaker Biographies

## NERC Industry Workshop

### Energy Reliability Assessment Task Force Industry Update and Opportunity for Industry Comments

February 16, 2022

**RELIABILITY | RESILIENCE | SECURITY**





**Gordon van Welie**  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer  
ISO New England Inc.

Gordon van Welie, President and CEO of ISO New England since 2001, oversees New England's 32,000 megawatt power system, the multi-billion dollar wholesale electricity marketplace, and a robust system planning process.

Gordon is leading the strategic initiative to keep New England's power system reliable while it undergoes a dramatic transformation to clean energy. Before ISO-NE, Gordon was Vice President and General Manager of Power System Control for Siemens. Earlier in his career, he worked with the South African utility, Eskom.

Gordon was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2017 and currently serves on the Board on Energy and Environmental Systems. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and an MBA from the University of Witwatersrand.



**Peter T. Brandien**  
Vice President,  
System Operations &  
Market Administration  
ISO New England Inc.

Peter Brandien, Vice President, System Operations & Market Administration, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the New England bulk power system and ensuring the fair administration of the region's wholesale electricity markets. This includes the Day-Ahead Energy & Load Response Markets, the Real-Time Energy, Reserve & Regulation Markets, and the Financial Transmission Rights & Forward Reserve Market Auctions, transmission and generation outage coordination, system restoration, operator training, NERC/NPCC compliance, and development of operating procedures.

Prior to joining ISO New England, Mr. Brandien was an employee of Northeast Utilities for 17 years, where he held various management positions in transmission engineering, operations and planning. Prior to that, he served in the U.S. Navy Submarine Force and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.



**Jim Robb**  
President and Chief  
Executive Officer,  
NERC

Jim Robb, President and CEO of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) since 2018, oversees NERC's mission of assuring the reliability and security of the North American bulk power system.

Mr. Robb directs key programs affecting more than 1,400 bulk power system owners, operators, and users, including mandatory NERC Reliability Standards, compliance monitoring, enforcement, situational awareness, event and risk analysis, reliability assessments and forecasting, cyber and physical security, and government relations. Mr. Robb also oversees the operations of the Regional Entities who support the reliability mission across North America.

Mr. Robb earned a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University in Indiana and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.





**Mark Lauby**  
Senior Vice  
President and Chief  
Engineer, NERC

Mark Lauby, Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer at the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), leads the division responsible for the NERC Reliability Standards, situational awareness, events analysis, reliability assessments and performance analysis, and power risk issues and strategic management.

Prior to joining NERC in January of 2007, he was with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) for 20 years. Mr. Lauby began his electric industry career in 1979 at the Mid-Continent Area Power Pool in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Lauby is the author of more than 100 technical papers.

Mr. Lauby earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Minnesota. In addition, Mr. Lauby attended the London Business School Accelerated Development Program, as well as the Executive Leadership Program at Harvard Business School.



**Chris Pilong**  
Director,  
Operations  
Planning,  
PJM  
Interconnection

Chris Pilong, Director of Operations Planning at PJM Interconnection, is responsible for the Transmission Operations Department, Generation Department and Outage Analysis Technologies Department. These departments perform near-term transmission outage analysis and approvals, generation outage analysis and approvals, annual Black Start Unit commitments, as well as gas-electric coordination, near-term load forecasting, solar forecasting and wind forecasting. The teams also perform seasonal reliability assessments and coordinate directly with the Market Services Division and System Planning Division.

Previously, Mr. Pilong worked as the Director of the Dispatch Department and was responsible for the oversight of the dispatchers who operate and maintain the reliability of PJM's portion of the Eastern Interconnection. The team operates the grid in accordance with NERC and PJM policies. In addition, the team oversees the Real-Time Energy and Reserve markets.

Mr. Pilong has a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Lehigh University and a Master of Business Administration from Villanova University.

Allen D. Schriver joined NextEra Energy, Inc. in 2008. Allen is currently the Senior Manager of NERC Reliability Compliance with accountability for supporting reliability and compliance activities across NextEra business units.

Mr. Schriver is currently the Chief Operating Officer of the North American Generator Forum (NAGF) where he and the members have the goal of working with FERC, NERC and the Regional Entities to enhance operational reliability by communicating information on generator technical capabilities, technical constraints and economics.

Prior to joining NextEra, he worked at the New York Power Authority's large hydroelectric plants where he was accountable for the operation and maintenance of both plant generation and regional bulk power transmission facilities.

Mr. Schriver graduated from Penn State with BSc in EE, Master Master of Science in ECE from the University of Massachusetts, and is a licensed PE.



**Allen Schriver**  
Senior Manager  
of NERC Reliability  
Compliance,  
NextEra Energy



**David Mulcahy**  
Power System  
and Market  
Model  
Consultant,  
Illuminate  
Power Analytics

David Mulcahy is a Power System and Market Modeling Consultant at Illuminate Power Analytics. He works with clients to gain insights and manage risk in electricity markets through data-driven analysis and power system models. Before starting IPA, he was the Director of Power System Modeling at Tether Energy. At Tether, he developed statistical models to trade and value energy assets in markets, evaluated investment decisions regarding power system operation, and served as the risk officer to model risk.

In addition to his work in industry, Mr. Mulcahy researches power system and economic modeling as a electrical engineering Ph.D. candidate at North Carolina State University and, previously, as an energy analyst at NREL. His research focuses on combining physical power system modeling with data-driven statistical models including transmission and distribution coordination, the value of storage and variable resources, and capacity expansion modeling.

Mr. Mulcahy earned a B.S. in physics from the University of North Carolina and a certificate in energy and environment at Duke University.



Jason Bucholtz is a Real Time Operations Manager at the Alberta Electric System Operator.

Mr. Bucholtz is a member of a technical team that provide all Albertans with a safe and reliable supply of electricity. He works with Energy Management and Operational Planning engineers to actualize and sustain operational tools that aid system controllers to enhance the operation of the power grid with greater awareness and efficiency.

For the past 20 years, Mr. Bucholtz has worked in Alberta's utility industry that also includes work in the field as a protection and control technologist for AltaLink Management.



**Jason Bucholtz**  
Real Time Operations  
Manager,  
Alberta Electric  
System Operator



**Mike Knowland**  
Manager of  
Operations Forecast  
and Scheduling,  
ISO New England

Mike Knowland is the Manager of Operations Forecast and Scheduling at ISO New England. His team is responsible for load forecasting and the current and next-days operating plans, gas-electric coordination, and operations / operations planning energy analyses.

Mr. Knowland joined ISO New England as a System Operator in 2005 after 8 years in the U.S. Navy nuclear program aboard submarines and training facilities. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Nuclear Engineering & Engineering Physics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Master's Degree in Engineering Management from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Mr. Knowland is on the ERATF and serves as the chair of the NERC Electric Gas Working Group and the chair of the IRC Electric Gas Coordination Task Force.



**Neil Millar**  
Vice President of  
Infrastructure  
& Operations  
Planning,  
California ISO

Neil Millar, Vice President of Infrastructure & Operations Planning at the California ISO, leads the division responsible for its transmission planning, infrastructure contracts, operations engineering services, and generation interconnection processes.

Prior to joining the California ISO in November of 2010, he was with Alberta's Utilities Consumer Advocate, the Alberta Electric System Operator, and TransAlta Utilities, then a vertically-integrated utility.

Mr. Millar earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree at the University of Saskatchewan and is a Professional Engineer registered in Alberta, Canada.

Rodney O’Bryant joined Southern Company in 1994 as an Engineer in Southern Company Transmissions Energy Management Systems department. Rodney worked in a variety of jobs within Energy Management Systems and provided leadership during the replacements of 2 Transmission SCADA Systems.

Rodney assumed the role of Balancing Authority Manager in 2015, where he is currently responsible for real-time management of the Southern Balancing Authority Area. This responsibility provides oversight of generation resources required to meet demand and the movement of electricity into and out of the balancing area.

Rodney attended the University of Alabama and earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering. In addition, attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he earned a Master of Business Administration.



**Rodney O’Bryant**  
Bulk Power Operations –  
Balancing Authority  
Manager,  
Southern Company

Scott Winner, Operations Research Analyst with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Mr. Winner has worked for BPA during the past 15 years. His prior experience includes working in the oil and gas industries. Currently, Mr. Winner is a project manager for BPA and is an Agency external representative.

In addition, he is a representative for BPA at the Federal, commercial and regulatory forums specifically as it relates to Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) hourly generation scheduling and renewables integration.



**Scott Winner**  
Operations Research  
Analyst,  
Bonneville Power  
Administration





**Dr. Chunlian (Julie) Jin**  
Lead Planning  
Engineer,  
ERCOT

Dr. Chunlian (Julie) Jin is a lead planning engineer at ERCOT. Her focus is on long-term capacity expansion analysis, resource adequacy assessment and modeling of electricity market and ancillary services. She also has extensive experience in energy storage control and optimization.

Prior to joining ERCOT in 2014, she led development of energy production cost models and multiple energy storage projects at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Dr. Jin holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of South Carolina and is a Senior Member of IEEE.

With over 10 years of experience in the power system industry, focusing primarily on resource adequacy, Anna Lafoyiannis known for her passion and vision in Ontario's electricity transition. Her dedication to transparency led to the creation of Ontario's Annual Planning Outlook and the complementary Annual Acquisition Report.

She currently supervises the IESO's Reliability Assurance group, where her team proactively identifies risks and develops strategies to ensure Ontario's power system continues to be reliable in the future. Ms. Lafoyiannis has held leadership roles in the development of the IESO's first capacity auction design and implementation, as well as the implementation of the IESO's Market Renewal Program (Energy); previous positions include resource planning and reporting, day-ahead operations, design of the export of capacity from Ontario, improvements to the DR auction, and enforcement of reliability standards. She is chair of NERC's Reliability Assessment Subcommittee.

Ms. Lafoyiannis holds a B.A.Sc. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Waterloo and M.Eng. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Toronto.



**Anna Lafoyiannis**  
Supervisor,  
Reliability Assurance,  
Independent  
Electricity System  
Operator



**Kayla Messamore**  
Senior Director,  
Long-Term Planning,  
Evergy

Kayla Messamore is the Senior Director of Long Term Planning for Evergy and is responsible for generation resource planning, transmission and distribution planning, operations compliance and operations technology for Evergy's operations across Missouri and Kansas. Through these responsibilities, Kayla leads the creation of Evergy's Integrated Resource Plans, transmission and distribution investment plans, operations compliance processes, grid automation deployments (including both software and hardware), distribution standards, and unmanned aircraft system (UAS) programs.

Prior to this position, Ms. Messamore was responsible for Operations Strategy at Evergy and has worked as a strategy consultant in the power and utilities sector.

Ms. Messamore graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in business administration and a concentration in mechanical engineering.

Branden Sudduth, Vice President of Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis, is responsible for WECC's technical and analysis functions, including Reliability Planning and Assessments, Standards Development, Performance Analysis, Event Analysis, and Situation Awareness.

Mr. Sudduth also held various engineering and management roles within WECC's Reliability Planning department. In these roles, he gained extensive experience in bulk power system modeling and analysis.

Mr. Sudduth holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Brigham Young University, a Master of Engineering degree in electrical engineering from the University of Idaho, and an MBA from Weber State University.



**Branden Sudduth**  
Vice President  
of Reliability Planning  
and Performance Analysis,  
WECC



**Jeff Dagle**  
Chief Electrical Engineer,  
Electricity Infrastructure  
Resilience,  
Pacific Northwest  
National Laboratory

Jeff Dagle has worked at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland Washington, operated by Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), since 1989. He has expertise in power system modeling, analysis, and advanced measurements, supporting or leading numerous projects in the areas of transmission reliability and security. Recent project highlights include leading the North American SynchroPhasor Initiative and serving on the leadership team of the DOE Grid Modernization Laboratory Consortium, leading the multi-laboratory system operations and control technical area.

Mr. Dagle is the co-director of the Advanced Grid Institute, a joint institute with Washington State University. He is a Senior Member of the IEEE and currently serves as the vice president for the eastern region of the Washington Society of Professional Engineers. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Washington State University in 1989 and 1994, respectively, and is a registered professional engineer in the State of Washington.



Dr. Ibanez joined GE Energy Consulting in 2015 and currently leads the reliability and resource adequacy initiatives. He is an expert in power system modeling and high-penetration renewable-energy integration.

Prior to joining GE in 2015, Dr. Ibanez was a Supervisor at the Transmission and Integration Group in the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). There, he contributed to numerous high-profile studies and developed new methodologies for power system analysis in the presence of renewables, including two of the largest wind and solar integration analyses performed to date: Phase 2 of the Western Wind and Solar Integration Study (WWSIS-2) and the Eastern Renewable Generation Integration Study (ERGIS), where he provided key input on production-cost modeling and analysis. He developed the reserve methodology used in these studies, which has been subsequently established as a *de facto* standard used in studies across the United States.

Dr. Ibanez is a Senior Member of IEEE and has co-authored over fifty journal papers, conference papers and technical reports and has presented in international venues such as the IEEE Power and Energy Society General Meeting, and the AWEA Wind Power conference.



**Dr. Eduardo Ibanez**  
Principal Engineer,  
Power Economics  
GE Gas Power



**Dr. Julia Matevosyan**

Chief Engineer,  
Energy Systems  
Integration Group

Dr. Julia Matevosyan is a Chief Engineer at the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG) and has more than 20 years of experience in the power industry.

Prior to joining ESIG, Dr. Matevosyan was the Lead Planning Engineer of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). In her time with ERCOT, she worked on adequacy of system inertial response, system flexibility, frequency control and performance issues related to high penetration levels of inverter-based generation and ancillary services market design.

Dr. Matevosyan received her BSc from Riga Technical University in Latvia, and her MSc and PhD from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Sweden.

Josh Novacheck is a research engineer in the Grid Planning and Analysis Center at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Over his seven years at the lab Josh has been a technical lead on many of NREL's high-impact grid integration research projects, including the recently released North American Renewable Integration Study.

In his role, he seeks to identify, anticipate, and plan for risks to the power system posed by the transition to a decarbonized system and disseminate that information to industry and policy makers.

Mr. Novacheck holds a bachelor's degree in Physics from St. John's University in Minnesota and master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Natural Resources and Environment from the University of Michigan.



**Josh Novacheck**  
Electricity System  
Research Engineer,  
National Renewable  
Energy Laboratory



**Dr. Aidan Tuohy**  
Program Manager,  
Grid Operations  
and Planning,  
Electric Power  
Research Institute

Dr. Aidan Tuohy is a Program Manager at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI).

He joined EPRI in 2010 and works in the Grid Operations and Planning group. He is the program manager for the EPRI research program on Bulk System Integration of Renewables and Distributed Energy Resources. He has worked in flexibility assessment, resource adequacy, the impact of variable generation on power system scheduling, integration of renewable generation forecasting, the value of new flexible resources such as demand response and energy storage, and other variable generation integration issues. He has led several large DOE and utility funded efforts in these areas during his time at EPRI.

Dr. Tuohy received his doctoral degree at the University College Dublin Electricity Research Centre in 2009.