Speaker Biographies

TASK FORCE ON ENERGY SUPPLY
Sunday, August 4
Omni Hotel | Cumberland 1-2

8:30 – 9:45 am Workforce for the 21st Century Electric Grid

Jeanine Otte is the Associate Director of Workforce Development at Elevate Energy. In this role, she works with community organizations, contractors, individuals, and solar developers to increase access to clean energy jobs and wealth opportunities afforded through investment in clean energy. Ms. Otte runs Elevate Energy’s Clean Energy Jobs Accelerator which trains individuals and diverse contractor businesses from underserved communities by providing access to training, resources, jobs, and business and technical guidance to grow a business or career in the clean energy field. Previous Elevate Energy projects include ramping up Elevate Energy’s energy efficiency program for multifamily building owners, completing an organization-wide strategic plan, and developing outreach models for community solar.

Jeff Danielson is the Central Region Director of State Affairs for the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). AWEA defines the “Central Region” generally as states West of Ohio and East of the Rocky Mountains. This area has been called the American “Wind Belt” because it is home to some of the best wind energy resources and the largest share of U.S. installed wind capacity. Prior to joining AWEA, Mr. Danielson was the past President Pro Tempore of the Iowa State Senate, where he served four terms as an Iowa State Senator. He is a retired career professional firefighter and a past adjunct professor of public policy at the University of Northern Iowa.

Stephanie Metzler has been part of the gas industry since 2009 and joined Mears Group in 2013. She has spent her career in the Operations Group managing large scale projects and utilizing her Project Management skills to create process improvements and efficiencies within the organization. Stephanie holds her Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification and is the Director of Development for external workforce solutions and internal employee development programs. She has been instrumental in creating Mears Group’s flagship program for leadership development and their Gas Distribution Program with Northwest Lineman College. Ms. Metzler is the co-chair for the Missouri Energy Workforce Consortia and is actively involved with the Center for Energy Workforce Development.

9:45 – 10:45 am Policies for Non-wires Solutions
**Lori Lybolt** is a Director on the Utility of the Future team at Consolidated Edison, a utility that delivers electricity, natural gas, and steam to customers in New York City and Westchester County. She focuses on long-term strategy for the company’s regulated electric utility. At Con Edison she has led several initiatives that advanced the company’s thinking on topics including industry transformation, clean energy solutions, and rate reform. Most recently, she has worked on policy issues associated with New York’s Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) proceeding. Prior to joining Con Edison in 2010, Ms. Lybolt worked at Merrill Lynch in the Investment Banking practice covering the Power Sector. Before joining Merrill Lynch, she led various business development initiatives at PSEG.

**Kate Strickland** works across Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA)’s Research and Advisory Services teams, with a focus on utility business models and regulatory innovation. In addition, she is the staff co-lead for SEPA’s Energy Storage Working Group, and a team member of the Renovate Institute, a collaborative effort focused on state regulatory process innovation. Previously at SEPA, she worked with the 51st State Initiative, shaping the evolution of the utility sector, and supported the engagement facilitating the D.C. Public Service Commission’s grid modernization (MEDSIS) initiative in the District (including the Non-Wires Alternatives to Grid Investments, Microgrids, and Rate Design stakeholder working groups).

11 am – 12:15 pm Advanced Nuclear Technologies

**Kelly Lefler** is a Senior Advisor in the Office of Nuclear Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy. She works on a broad range of nuclear energy topics spanning electricity markets and the economic challenges facing the current U.S. reactor fleet, global nuclear markets, advanced reactor development, and grid modernization. She has contributed to major cross-cutting analytical efforts at the Department, such as the Staff Report to the Secretary on Electricity Markets and Reliability and the Second Installment of the Quadrennial Energy Review.

**Mason Baker** is Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems’ (“UAMPS”) Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel. Mason holds a law degree from the University of Utah and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Colorado College. He holds a certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law from the University of Utah and is the past Chair of the Board of the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance.

**Marcus Nichol** joined Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and is the Director of New Reactor Deployment. In this role, he leads industry’s efforts to improve the policy and business environment to building new reactors. Mr. Nichol leads NEI’s efforts on small modular reactors, micro-reactors, and the related manufacturing and construction activities.

12:15 – 1:30 pm Lunch Keynote

**Bill Murray** is senior vice president – Corporate Affairs and Communications for Dominion Energy. He is responsible for federal, state and local government relations; corporate communications; advertising; public relations; creative services; philanthropy; and community affairs. Murray joined the company in 2007 as managing director – Corporate Public Policy. He was named senior policy director – Public Policy and Electric Policy in 2016 and promoted to vice president – State and Electric Public Policy in May 2017. He assumed his current position in February 2019. Mr. Murray previously served as management analyst at the U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs, a senior staff member for the Virginia General Assembly, and vice president – Policy at the Virginia Hospital Association. He also held several positions in the offices of former Virginia Governors Mark Warner and Tim Kaine.

2:30 – 3:30 pm Pipeline Safety

Annmarie Robertson joined the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) in 2009. In her role at PHMSA, Annmarie works with stakeholders across the country to advance improvements in damage prevention, data collection and analysis, public awareness and related subjects. She previously worked for the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), where she served as a pipeline safety engineer/inspector and later as Director of Pipeline Safety. Previously she served as Director of Consumer Affairs for the IURC. While at the IURC, Ms. Robertson was active in the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives, serving as Chair of the organization until her move to PHMSA. She currently serves on several committees of the Common Ground Alliance, and on the Board/Steering Committee for the Cross Bore Safety Association and is a member of the Government Division of the National Safety Council.

Brian Weisker is the Vice President of Operational Excellence within the Natural Gas Business Unit at Duke Energy. He started his career as a submarine officer, serving onboard three separate fast attack submarines and as an Assistant Professor of Naval Science from 1994-2002. After leaving the military service, he held several corporate roles within Cinergy Corporation from 2002-2006. After Duke Energy completed the acquisition of Cinergy in 2006, he served as the Plant Manager at East Bend, Allen, and Marshall coal-fired power plants between 2006-2015. From 2015-2018, Mr. Weisker was the Vice President of Coal Combustion Product Operations and Maintenance, responsible for all ash basin and landfill operations and maintenance activities and all coal by-product sales and marketing across the Duke Energy fleet.

3:45 – 4:30 pm New Approaches for State Energy Resource Planning

Kathleen Spees is a principal at The Brattle Group with expertise in designing and analyzing wholesale electricity markets, state carbon policies, and utility planning. Dr. Spees’s recent work focuses on solutions for rapidly decarbonizing grid systems, meeting reliability needs in high-renewable systems, and enabling innovative technologies. For RTO/ISO clients, Dr. Spees has supported market design enhancements to reliability, and cost effectively design the next generation of capacity energy, and ancillary service markets. For regulators and emerging technology players, Dr. Spees has advised on opportunities to more effectively integrate storage, demand response, distributed resources, intermittent renewables, efficiency, and other non-traditional resources into markets and resource planning. Dr. Spees applies the most advanced toolkit in modeling electricity sector and multi-sector economic, reliability, and emissions modeling for developing the next generation of wholesale markets, integrated resource plans, and state/city decarbonization roadmaps.