
MGA Transmission Summit 2021 - Virtual November 17, 2021 Speaker Biographies

Michelle Manary, U.S. Department of Energy

Michelle L. Manary is the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Energy Resilience Division in the Office of Electricity (OE) at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Ms. Manary will help lead DOE's division focused on national transmission infrastructure policy issues in support of national clean energy objectives. Before joining OE, Manary served as executive vice president and chief financial officer (CFO) for the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), having held the position since September 2018.

Manary joined BPA in 1998. Early in her time at Bonneville, she successfully held several management positions within the agency's Corporate, Power and Transmission organizations, including as BPA's director of Strategy Integration.

Before becoming CFO, she gained extensive transmission expertise in her role as the agency's vice president for Transmission Marketing and Sales for three years. In that position, she oversaw transmission sales, customer relations and contracts, transmission commercial automated systems, products and rates, the open access tariff and available transfer capability.

Manary will apply her transmission background to oversee OE's efforts in transmission reliability, clean energy analysis and programs, and energy infrastructure and risk analysis in support of the Biden-Harris administration's priorities to enhance grid resilience.

Manary holds a Bachelor of Science in finance from Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, and Master of Business Administration and Public Administration from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.

Whitney Muse, U.S. Department of Energy

Whitney Muse was most recently a manager in Deloitte's federal energy practice, where she provided policy and regulatory analysis of domestic and international power sector projects. Previously, she worked at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners implementing capacity-building programs for energy regulators around the world. A Philadelphia native, Muse received her B.S. in Engineering from Rutgers University and M.A. in International Energy and Environment Policy from Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies.



Chairman Ted Thomas, Arkansas Public Service Commission

Ted Thomas of Conway was appointed Chairman of the Arkansas Public Service Commission by Governor Asa Hutchinson in January 2015.

Ted Thomas has served as Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the 20th Judicial District, Administrative Law Judge at the Public Service Commission, Budget Director for Governor Mike Huckabee and in the Arkansas House of Representatives, where he served as Chairman of the State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee during his final term.

Ted Thomas received a Bachelor of Arts with High Honors in Political Science from the University of Arkansas in 1986 and a Juris Doctorate from the University Of Arkansas School Of Law in 1988. He is licensed to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, the Arkansas Supreme Court, the United States Courts of Appeal for the District of Columbia Circuit and the Eight Circuit and the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas.

Chairman Thomas previously served as president of the Organization of MISO states and currently serves on the Regional State Committee of the Southwest Power Pool. He also serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Committee on Electricity. Chairman Thomas was appointed to the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission established by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

In 2021, Chairman Thomas was awarded the Ron Bell Advanced Energy Leadership Award by AAEA in recognition of outstanding contributions to the renewable power, efficiency and energy contracting industry.

Eric Vandenberg, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Eric Vandenberg is the Deputy Director of the Office of Energy Policy and Innovation at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Prior to joining the Office of Energy Policy and Innovation, Mr. Vandenberg served as the Technical Advisor to Chairman Neil Chatterjee from 2017 to 2019 with primary responsibility for wholesale electric market design, electric reliability, and cybersecurity issues. Prior to joining Chairman Chatterjee, Mr. Vandenberg served in various positions throughout the Commission in the Office of Energy Market Regulation, the Office of Electric Reliability, and as an Acting Advisor to Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur. Mr. Vandenberg joined FERC in 2009 as an Electrical Engineer in the Office of Electric Reliability. Mr. Vandenberg earned a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and Master's Degree in Business Administration from Ohio University.



Gabe Tabak, American Clean Power Association

Gabe serves as Counsel for the American Clean Power Association. As part of ACP's legal team, he represents the clean energy industry before a range of federal and state agencies, courts, and legislatures. He has experience advocating before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Department of Energy, state public utility commissions, and regional grid operators, among others. Prior to joining ACP, Gabe worked on behalf of a range of energy industry clients in private practice. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and Wesleyan University.

