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PURPA Informational/Educational Workshop

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Speaker Biographies

FERC Speakers Information:

Loni Silva is an attorney in the Office of General Counsel

Thomas Bayly is an energy industry analyst in the Office of Energy Market Regulation

Mark Byrd is an energy industry analyst in the Office of Energy Market Regulation

Stan Wolf is an economist in the Office of Energy Policy and Innovation



David Kelley, P.E., is the Director of Seams and Tariff Services for Southwest Power Pool, a Regional Transmission Organization. He is responsible for overseeing SPP's generation interconnection and transmission service study processes while also cultivating highly effective relationships between SPP, its members, and its neighbors. David also serves on the Board of Directors of the Division of Science and Technology of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

David 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.

Michael Kessler, Managing Assistant General Counsel, Midcontinent Independent System Operator, LLC

For over forty years, Michael has been actively engaged in a broad range of regulatory and policy matters aimed at removing barriers to the development of competitive electric generation and transmission facilities and encouraging the development of competitive power markets. Michael currently serves as Managing Assistant General Counsel for the Midcontinent Independent Service Operator, Inc. (MISO). Michael previously represented MISO as outside counsel for over ten years, and joined the organization as in-house counsel in June 2012. Since that time, Michael has been engaged extensively in a wide variety of issues relating to the implementation and development of MISO's markets, including matters relating to market design, price formation, resource adequacy, and renewable energy and distributed energy resource integration and regularly represents MISO in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), state utility regulatory agencies, and various stakeholder forums. Michael recently has been focused on a variety of strategic and policy issues, including MISO's Grid of the Future, Resource Availability and Need, and Distributed Energy Resource initiatives.

Michael also has broad experience in the development and finance of electric generation and energy efficiency projects, both domestic and international. He provided strategic and policy advice on a wide range of energy matters as both a lawyer and policy advisor to the FERC, has been a partner and served in a variety of leadership positions in private legal practice, and has served as in-house general counsel for a start-up retail energy services company. Michael's experience provides him the interdisciplinary skills necessary to work effectively with senior management and to manage technical staff and other counsel in complex regulatory proceedings and on major projects.

Michael currently serves as Vice President of the Energy Bar Association Midwest Chapter, as well as serving as a member of the Energy Bar Association Masters Council and Energy Professional Council.



Elliott J. Nethercutt is a Principal Researcher at the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI) where he specializes in state and federal energy policy issues. Previously, he advanced market design enhancements at the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), developed reliability assessments at the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), and supported transmission siting efforts and smart grid funding programs at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Elliott earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Colorado and a master's degree in applied economics from the Johns Hopkins University.

Jon Peeples is a Vice President with U.S. Bank and business development officer with the U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corp. In his current role Jon originates renewable energy equity investment opportunities, as well as renewable energy debt opportunities across the country. U.S. Bank is one of the nation's most active renewable energy tax equity investors, having invested over \$12 Billion of equity into renewable energy facilities since 2008. Prior to joining the origination team, Jon was a Sr. Project Manager for the renewable energy investments group at U.S. Bank. In that role, Jon closed and underwrote investments in solar and wind facilities that total over 2 GWs of installed capacity.

Jon has been working in energy finance since 2008, previously holding positions at TradeWind Energy and the Laclede Gas Company. Jon holds a B.S. in Business Administration, double emphasis in finance, marketing and a minor in economics from Truman State University. Jon also holds an MBA, emphasis in Finance, from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Chris Villarreal is President at Plugged In Strategies which provides consulting services across the electricity industry to state utility commissions, governmental agencies, consumer advocates, and other non-governmental advocates and organizations. He focuses on grid modernization, advanced metering infrastructure, distributed energy resources, rate design, data access and privacy, and rate design. He spent 11 years working for state regulatory commissions in California and Minnesota prior to starting Plugged In Strategies. He has a BA in History from Baylor University.