







Training on Distribution System Planning and Resilience Planning March 20-21, 2024 - Nashville, Tennessee

Speaker Bios



Avery Ashby is the Electrical Engineering Manager at Middle Tennessee Electric with over 20 years of experience in the power business. His past responsibilities at Middle Tennessee Electric include distribution automation, distributed generation and SCADA development. Avery is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Tennessee. He holds a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Kansas State and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University.

Ben Bolton, Senior Energy Programs Administrator, is embedded at the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency as the Primary Emergency Services Coordinator for Energy. Since 2018, he has served as chair of the National Association of State Energy Officials' Energy Security Committee. He also serves on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Mitigation Framework Leadership Group. Ben has a B.S. in biology and B.A. in English from Birmingham-Southern College and has completed the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy. He lives in Nashville.





Cody Davis is Senior Manager, Distribution & Grid Modernization, at Electric Power Engineers. A power systems engineer, he focuses on distribution system planning and integration of distributed energy resources (DERs) on the distribution system. He works with a wide variety of utilities and stakeholders on complex regulatory issues and has authored reports and testimony filed in several states on smart inverter impacts and modernization of distribution planning and operations. Previously, he served as an engineer at Ameren Illinois in the DER Integration & Strategies and Regional Engineering departments.

Natalie Mims Frick is a Deputy Leader and Energy Policy Researcher in the Energy Markets and Policy Department at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab). She conducts and manages research and technical assistance for states on energy efficiency and DER policies, regulations, and programs. Before joining the lab, Natalie was a consultant on demand-side management regulatory proceedings across the country. She also served as an Energy Efficiency Director at the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and a Senior Consultant at Rocky Mountain Institute. Natalie holds a B.A. in English and Political Science from Pennsylvania State University and an M.S. in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School.





Kari Heinrich is the Energy Security Lead for the Office of Energy Innovation within the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. She maintains the energy security plan and practices energy emergency planning, mitigation, response, and recovery activities required of the State Energy Office. Kari is responsible for resiliency-related federal grant program management and technical assistance and coordination, supporting stakeholders in obtaining funding for projects that address critical energy infrastructure. She has more than 20 years of experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating a wide range of energy efficiency,

demand response, and renewable energy programs and projects throughout the country.

Dr. Gayathri Krishnamoorthy is a Researcher in the Grid Planning and Analysis Center at National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Her research focuses on large-scale power distribution grid modeling and analysis, transmission and distribution co-simulation, DER planning, integration and impact assessment, and distribution grid resilience valuation. She holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Electrical Power Engineering from Washington State University.





Dr. Julieta Giraldez is a Principal of Customer Solutions at Kevala, where she contributes to solving challenges facing energy market participants interacting with the evolving electricity grid. She worked for a decade at NREL, where she led smart grid and grid integration projects addressing emerging technologies such as PV, energy storage, and microgrids for distribution systems. She holds a Bachelor's degree from the Polytechnic

University of Madrid (Spain) in Technical Mining Engineering, a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Colorado School of Mines, and a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering from Colorado State University.

Cynthia Klein is Director of Strategic Initiatives at Duke Energy Corporation. She leads disciplined, cross-functional and roadmap-driven initiatives, which have included topics such as offshore wind, hydrogen, enterprise-wide response to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and climate resilience and adaptation. Prior to joining Duke Energy in 2020, she held a variety of roles including engineering, program management, and business development positions at Siemens Energy over her 13-year tenure. She has a B.S. in Materials Science & Engineering from University of Florida.





Dr. Peter Larsen is a Staff Scientist and Leader of the Energy Markets and Policy Department at Berkeley Lab. He conducts research and analysis on the economics of electricity reliability and resilience, the energy service company industry, longterm electric utility planning, risk to infrastructure from extreme events, and islanded power systems. Earlier in his career, he worked at the Institute of Social and Economic Research in Anchorage, the Societal Impacts Program at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and Stratus Consulting (now Abt Associates). Peter holds a Ph.D. in Management Science and Engineering from Stanford University, M.S. degrees from Stanford University (Management Science and Engineering) and Cornell University (Natural Resource Economics), and a B.A. in

Economics from the University of Montana at Missoula.



Ronny Sandoval is a Principal at the Regulatory Assistance Project. He works with regulators and stakeholders to develop strategies and best practices to increase efficiency of electricity systems and maximize opportunities for a sustainable energy transition. His experience in the electric utility sector includes distribution engineering, DERs, grid modernization, and customer engagement. Previously, Ronny was business strategy manager at Accenture, regulatory director at Vote Solar, president at ROS Energy Strategies, and senior director of grid modernization at Environmental Defense Fund. He also worked at Con Edison as an engineer and

senior specialist, performing technical studies, developing long-range system plans, and expanding the role of DERs. Ronny holds a B.S. in Mathematics from New York University, a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, and an M.B.A. from New York University Stern School of Business.

Josh Schellenberg is a Berkeley Lab Affiliate with more than 15 years of experience in the electric utility industry. His expertise includes benefit-cost analyses for utility resilience plans and major transmission investments designed to mitigate the risks of climate change, natural disasters, physical security, and other threats. He also has expertise in the value of reliability, including development of Berkeley Lab's Interruption Cost Estimate (ICE) Calculator, which has informed over \$50B of grid modernization investments. In addition, he has conducted studies of more than 20 DER pilots and programs, including traditional demand response, dynamic pricing, electric vehicles, energy storage, and Independent System Operator market integration. Josh holds an M.B.A. from The Wharton School and an M.A. in Internation



integration. Josh holds an M.B.A. from The Wharton School and an M.A. in International and Development Economics from the University of San Francisco.



Lisa Schwartz is a senior Energy Policy Researcher in Berkeley Lab's Energy Markets and Policy Department. She directs work spanning integrated distribution system planning, utility regulation, and state energy policy. In 2018, she received the Mary Kilmarx award from the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. The award recognizes "individuals who have gone above and beyond in the name of good governance, clean energy, and the environment." Before joining the lab, she was Director of the Oregon Department of Energy, where earlier in her career she was a Senior Policy Analyst. At the Oregon Public Utility Commission, she led staff work on resource planning, resource procurement, distributed and renewable energy resources, and climate planning. She also served as a Senior Associate at the Regulatory Assistance Project and

Assistant Administrator of Oregon State University's Extension Energy Program.

Dr. Samir Succar is a Senior Director in ICF's utility consulting practice. His work focuses on distribution system planning, grid modernization strategy, and DER integration. He works with clients to evaluate the impacts of DERs and implications for utility business models and system planning processes. His work also includes distribution system operations and aspects of DER aggregation, optimization, and orchestration. Samir's work with the U.S. Department of Energy includes participating in the NARUC-NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning, the Transmission-Distribution-Customer



Operational Coordination initiative, the NARUC Utility Data Sharing Collaborative, integrated distribution planning studies, and state technical assistance. He has a B.A. in Physics from Oberlin College and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Princeton University.

Dr. Tom Wall is the Director of Argonne National Laboratory's Center for Climate Resilience and Decision Science. The Center combines Argonne's deep capabilities in climate science and modeling, advanced computing, infrastructure risk analysis, and decision science to translate climate science and model data into actionable information for decision-makers. This information drives proactive resilience planning and investment for industry partners, the engineering and planning sectors, state and local governments, and local communities. Tom also has extensive experience in critical infrastructure analysis



and protection and leads infrastructure-focused projects for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, and state and local governments. Tom has an Honors B.S. in Civil Engineering from Oregon State University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech.



Neil Weisenfeld is a Senior Energy Resilience Expert at ICF, with 39 years in the energy industry. In his current role, he assesses vulnerabilities and manages risks to energy infrastructure due to changing climate and extreme weather conditions, both in the U.S. and abroad. He translates climate science into practical information for decision-makers, conducts risk assessments for assets and operations, analyzes costs and benefits of resilience actions, and supports long-term planning for climate adaptation and resilience. Neil previously worked as Director of Strategic Planning for

Con Edison of New York. He holds an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Manhattan College and a B.S. Engineering from City College.