



## **U.S. Department of Energy Regional Initiatives: Kick-Off Webinar November 29, 2021**

### **Speaker Bios**

#### **Hon. Ted Thomas, Arkansas Public Service Commission (Moderator)**

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

He 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.

Chairman 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 Appeals 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 is past president of the Organization of MISO States (OMS) and continues to serve on the Executive Committee. He also serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Committee on Electricity.

#### **Christian Bato, Regional Intergovernmental and External Affairs Specialist for the Southwest**

Christian Bato most recently worked for U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto in her Las Vegas office. Previously, he was the Nevada Coalitions Director for the Biden-Harris campaign. He began his career working for SEIU's iAmerica, which advocated for immigrant justice in the AAPI and Latino communities. Bato is originally from Rancho Cucamonga, CA and holds a B.A. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

#### **Rose Stephens-Booker, Regional Intergovernmental and External Affairs Specialist for the West**

Rose Stephens-Booker was most recently a Senior Associate at BlocPower, where she developed and managed their partnership strategy to bring clean energy technology solutions

to the most vulnerable and underserved communities across America. She previously led efforts focused on energy efficiency and market transformation through public-private partnerships as a Program Manager for the U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR Program. Rose began her career working as an environmental consultant at the nexus of climate, energy, and the business community on issue-based awareness campaigns for a variety of stakeholders. A Virginia native, she received her B.A. in Environmental Policy from Roanoke College and an MBA from UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School.

**Torend Collins, Regional Intergovernmental and External Affairs Specialist for Appalachia**

Torend Collins most recently served as a Program Coordinator in the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Florida office, synthesizing issue research and performing policy analysis to advance EDF's clean energy agenda and strategic communications across the state. Previously, she worked as an Environmental Coordinator with the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District implementing programs and initiatives focused on improving air quality in Louisville.

Collins earned a Bachelor of the Arts in Political Science from Spelman College and a Juris Doctor and Masters of Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School.

**Carla Frisch, Principal Deputy Director, Office of Policy, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)**

Carla Frisch is the Acting Executive Director and Principal Deputy Director in the Office Policy at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Previously, she led the US Program at Rocky Mountain Institute, where she focused on federal and state clean energy and climate policy, continuing a career-long focus on using analysis to inform policymaking. Carla has testified in Congress and been featured by NPR and numerous other outlets discussing the groundswell of subnational climate action in the United States.

Prior to RMI, Carla worked at the US Department of Energy for ten years under three different administrations. She directed policy and analysis offices focused on climate and environment, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation. She led large, collaborative teams and multi-million-dollar portfolios, resulting in better designed national energy and climate policies. Carla worked extensively on climate vulnerabilities and solutions, including on the National Climate Assessment and US Midcentury Strategy. Carla also has experience working in local government.

Carla holds a Master of Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University and a bachelors from UNC Chapel Hill. She serves on the board of the Beneficial Electrification League.

**Whitney Muse, Chief of Staff, Office of Electricity, 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.

**Spencer Thibodeau, Regional Intergovernmental and External Affairs Specialist for the Northeast**

Spencer Thibodeau is an attorney and public servant, practicing law in the real estate practice group of the Portland, Maine based law firm of Verrill Dana, LLP for eight years.

In addition to his legal practice, Spencer served as a Portland, Maine City Councilor for nearly six years, where he chaired the Housing And Economic Development Committee (2021) and Sustainability and Transportation Committee (2017-2020). In the summer of 2020, Spencer was selected to be the Maine Senior Advisor to the Biden-Harris Presidential campaign. Spencer has served on a number of boards and committees, including the United Way of Greater Portland and the Equity Subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council. Spencer also served as a member of Maine Governor Janet T. Mills' transition team in 2019.

**Aimee Witteman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy**

Aimee Witteman most recently was Director of US States Policy at Energy Innovation, where she supported state efforts to build an equitable and just energy economy. She previously was Program Director at the McKnight Foundation where she designed and led the Midwest Climate & Energy program focused on decarbonizing the power, buildings, transportation, and working lands sectors in the upper Midwest, embedding a focus on strategic democratic participation and racial equity. Witteman served as executive director for the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition in Washington, D.C. where she advocated for policy reform to advance the sustainability of food systems, natural resources, and rural communities. She holds a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and a M.S. from Tufts University.

To receive an invitation to one or more of the December regional meetings, send your name, organization, email address, and which meeting(s) you want to attend to

[RegionalMeetings@cleanegroup.org](mailto:RegionalMeetings@cleanegroup.org).



NATIONAL COUNCIL  
ON ELECTRICITY POLICY

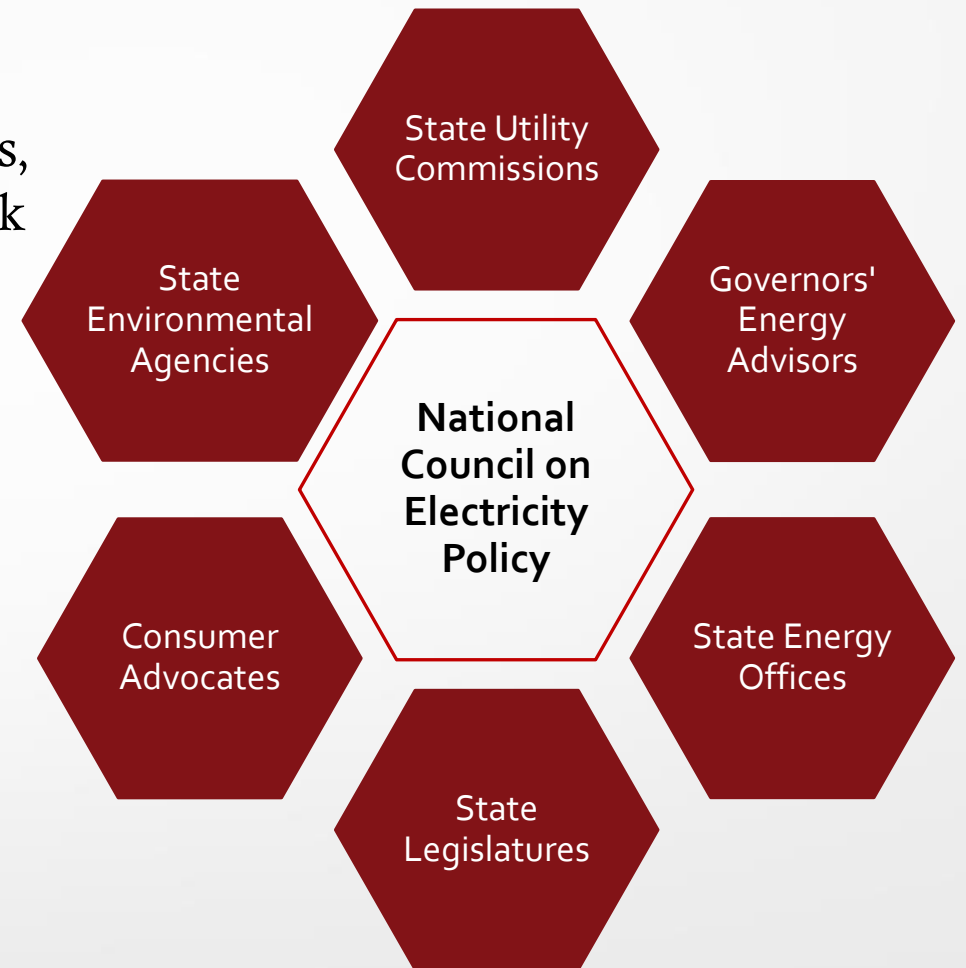
# U.S. Department Of Energy Regional Initiatives

## Regional Initiatives Kick-off Webinar

Monday, November 29, 2021

# The National Council on Electricity Policy

- NCEP is a peer-learning platform to examine the ways new technologies, policies, regulations, and markets impact state resources and the bulk power system.
- NCEP is currently exploring the evolving interface between the transmission and distribution systems as the resource mix on the grid changes (planning, operations, and markets).
- **All NCEP resources are available at [www.electricitypolicy.org](http://www.electricitypolicy.org).**
- NCEP thanks the U.S. Department of Energy for its ongoing support. NCEP is an affiliate project of NARUC.



# Regional Initiatives Kick-off - Speakers

**Hon. Ted Thomas**, Arkansas Public Service Commission (Moderator)

**Aimee Witteman**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. DOE  
*with*

**Christian Bato**, Regional Intergovernmental and External Affairs Specialist for the Southwest

**Rose Stephens-Booker**, Regional Intergovernmental and External Affairs Specialist for the West

**Torend Collins**, Regional Intergovernmental and External Affairs Specialist for Appalachia

**Carla Frisch**, Principal Deputy Director, Office of Policy, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

**Whitney Muse**, Chief of Staff, Office of Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy

**Spencer Thibodeau**, Regional Intergovernmental and External Affairs Specialist for the Northeast

# Six-Part Series

**All regional sessions in December will be from 3:00 - 4:00 PM EST.**

Date (2021)	Region	Co-Host
Monday, November 29	Regional Initiative Kick-Off	NCEP and DOE
Monday, December 6	West Coast	CESA and USCA*
Tuesday, December 7	Southwest	NGA and CESA*
Monday, December 13	Appalachia	NGA and CESA*
Tuesday, December 14	Northeast	CESA and USCA*
	<i>More to be added!</i>	

\*Clean Energy States Alliance / US Climate Alliance / National Governors Association

**To receive an invitation to one or more of the December regional meetings, send your name, organization, email address, and which meeting(s) you want to attend to: [RegionalMeetings@cleanegroup.org](mailto:RegionalMeetings@cleanegroup.org).**

# Q&A / FAQ

## **Where are the presentations and bios?**

Meeting materials including speaker biographies here:

<https://pubs.naruc.org/pub/3E9AE30F-1866-DAAC-99FB-9167A3ED64EA>

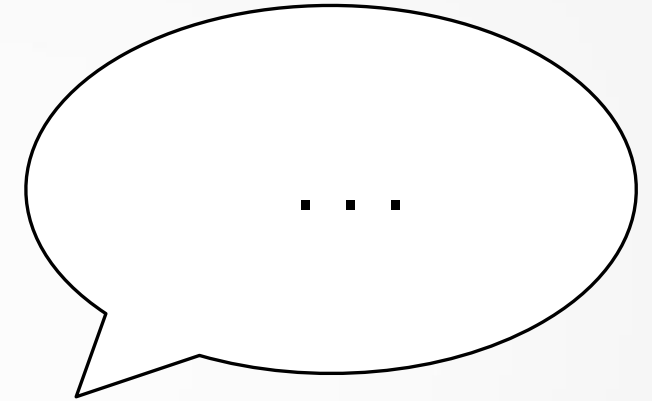
Presentations will be added to the meeting materials PDF when they become available after the webinar.

## **Will this be recorded?**

Yes, this is being recorded and the recording will be made available on the event page on NCEP website (link above).

## **How do I ask a question?**

Please send question in the Q&A feature in Zoom. You can also raise your hand in the “reactions” and the moderator will ask you to speak your question or use the Q&A box



Chat NCEP Staff (e-mail if need be)

Kerry Worthington  
[kworthington@naruc.org](mailto:kworthington@naruc.org)

Jessica Diaz  
[jdiaz@naruc.org](mailto:jdiaz@naruc.org)



# U.S. Department of Energy Regional Initiatives

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NATIONAL COUNCIL  
ON ELECTRICITY POLICY

# Briefing with National Council on Electricity Policy

- Carla Frisch | Principal Deputy Director, Office of Policy
- Whitney Muse | Chief of Staff, Office of Electricity
- Aimee Witteman | Deputy Assistant Secretary, Intergovernmental Affairs



# Expanding Access to Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy

- Invest **\$3.5 billion** in the Weatherization Assistance Program that will reduce energy costs for low-income households by hundreds of dollars every year
- Invest **\$500 million** to provide cleaner schools for our children and teachers
- Invest **\$550 million** in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program and **\$500 million** in the State Energy Program to provide grants to develop and implement clean energy programs and projects that will create jobs

# Investing in American Manufacturing and Workers

## Revitalizing domestic supply chains and America's manufacturing leadership

- Invest more than **\$7 billion** in the supply chain for batteries
- Provide an additional **\$1.5 billion** for clean hydrogen manufacturing and advancing recycling RD&D
- Create a new **\$750 million** grant program to support advanced energy technology manufacturing projects in coal communities
- Expand the authority of DOE's Loan Program Office

## Investing in America's workforce

- Requires all construction workers on projects funded by the deal to be paid prevailing wages
- Invest **hundreds of millions** in workforce development
- Establish a multi-agency Energy Jobs Council

# Clean Energy Demonstrations

The deal will provide **\$21.5 billion** in funding for clean energy demonstrations and research hubs, including:

- **\$8 billion** for clean hydrogen
- More than **\$10 billion** for carbon capture, direct air capture and industrial emission reduction
- **\$2.5 billion** for advanced nuclear
- **\$1 billion** for demonstration projects in rural areas and **\$500 million** for demonstration projects in economically hard-hit communities

# Delivering Reliable, Clean, and Affordable Power to More Americans

## Bringing the electrical grid into the 21st century

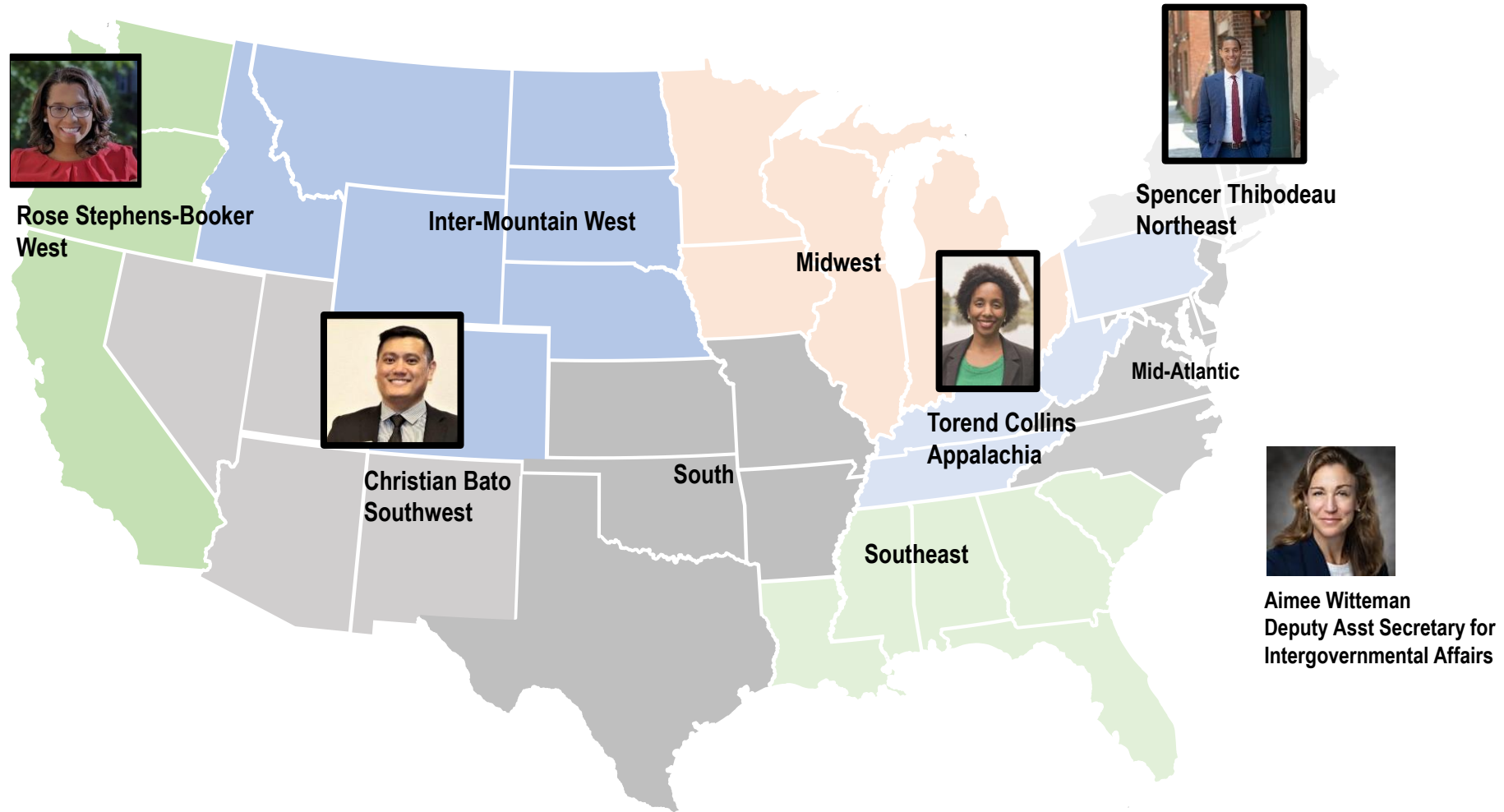
- Invest **\$11 billion** in grants for states, tribes, and utilities to enhance the resilience of the electric infrastructure against disruptive events such as extreme weather and cyber attacks
- Establish a **\$2.5 billion** Transmission Facilitation Program for DOE
- Back a **\$3 billion** expansion of the Smart Grid Investment Matching Grant Program

## Maintaining our existing clean generation fleet

- Allocate **\$6 billion** for the Civilian Nuclear Credit program to prevent premature retirement of existing zero-carbon nuclear plants
- Invest more than **\$700 million** in existing hydropower facilities



# DOE Intergovernmental and External Affairs – Regional Specialists



# Questions?

