



ReliabilityFirst State Energy Policy Webinar

The transforming electric grid: How states can ask the right questions to keep power reliable and secure for their citizens

March 13, 2023



Diane Holder

Vice President, Entity Engagement and Corporate Services, RF

Diane Holder joined ReliabilityFirst in July 2022. She provides executive leadership and oversees RF's outreach to utilities, government officials and the general public, as well as internal corporate services for RF employees, including human resources, finance and information technology. In her role, she also leads the implementation of new ideas from both staff and outside resources to enhance RF's ability to be a positive influence on the reliability, security and resiliency of the electric grid. Ms. Holder joined RF from Pennsylvania American Water, where she was the organization's Vice President of Operations, working to ensure the safe, reliable delivery of clean drinking water for customers. She oversaw operations at more than 25 facilities in western Pennsylvania, ensuring regulatory compliance, managing operations budgets, and providing top-notch customer service. She also worked in the electric industry for nearly 30 years between Allegheny Power, FirstEnergy and Duquesne Light Company. Her roles and experience include engineering, external affairs, operations, distribution and working as a chief of staff. Ms. Holder holds a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.



Emma Nicholson

Senior Economic Advisor, FERC

Emma Nicholson is a Senior Economic Advisor in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Office of Energy Policy and Innovation. At FERC, Emma focuses on RTO/ISO market design and competition issues, working most recently on the wholesale electricity market reforms needed to manage emerging system needs driven by changes in the resource mix and electric load profiles. Prior to joining FERC, Emma worked at Concentric Energy Advisors, where she advised clients on various wholesale market issues including RTO/ISO market design, transmission planning and development, PURPA and market participation rules for hybrid and storage resources. Emma also worked at other economic consulting firms and has a master's degree and a doctorate in economics from Georgetown University.



John Moura

Director, Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis, NERC

John Moura has been with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) since 2008. In his role, John leads NERC's efforts to assess and report on the reliability, adequacy and associated risks of the North American bulk power system. He is responsible for developing NERC's annual long-term and seasonal reliability assessments, as well as evaluating system performance, resilience, event analysis and system forensics, critical infrastructure interdependencies, and emerging issues facing the North American Bulk Power System. John has extensive experience in cultivating relationships with North America's leading experts on Bulk Power System reliability and has served as a thought leader and advisor to key policy makers at the federal, state and provincial levels. He coordinates the efforts of NERC's Reliability and Security Technical Committee and other stakeholder groups, bringing together the power industry's expertise on electric system operations, resource and transmission planning and cyber and physical security. Throughout his career, John has been dedicated to improving and safeguarding the grid and has been instrumental in advocating on behalf of NERC, the ERO and its stakeholders. He has co-authored numerous NERC special reports and technical publications and is recognized as an expert in the field of electric reliability. John graduated from Rutgers University. In his free time, he enjoys traveling and spending time with his two boys, Carter and Carson.



Alex Shattuck

Senior Engineer, Engineering and Security Integration Department, NERC

Alex Shattuck is a Senior Engineer in the Engineering and Security Integration department at the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). He contributes heavily on a number of NERC's efforts related to grid transformation including initiatives focused on inverter-based resources, distributed energy resources, integrating security with conventional engineering practices and emerging technologies. Alex also has industry experience through work at Vestas Wind Systems, Electric Power Engineers and the New York ISO.



Brian Thiry

Director of Entity Engagement, ReliabilityFirst

Mr. Thiry leads ReliabilityFirst's Entity Engagement program that enhances reliability, resilience and security through the assist visit program, certifications, appraisals, self-assessment tools and outreach. In this role, he leads a dedicated team that works with industry to assess and mitigate risks inside and outside of standards, plus provide outreach in the form of education and training to industry. Mr. Thiry came to ReliabilityFirst with over 11 years of electrical utility experience from his time at FirstEnergy Corp., mostly in transmission operations. He also has a background in substation and transmission line design. In previous roles at ReliabilityFirst, he has worked in Compliance Monitoring and Events Analysis & Situational Awareness. Mr. Thiry holds a Professional Engineering License in the state of Ohio and has a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from The Ohio State University.

**Jeff Craig**

Vice President, Reliability and Risk, RF

Mr. Craig joined ReliabilityFirst in March of 2013 and is responsible for reliability assurance, operational performance and risk analysis. He provides leadership to management and staff and provides input into strategy, risk analysis and outreach practices with grid reliability and security as the primary goal across the industry. Mr. Craig brings a diverse background in quality systems, manufacturing, strategic sourcing, supply chain and leadership, spanning the automotive, aerospace, electrical, hydraulics and medical device industries. His previous experience includes various leadership positions in quality assurance, global sourcing, and supplier development at Invacare Corporation, a global medical equipment manufacturer, where he was responsible for product quality, supplier development and new product process audits within a federally regulated (FDA) environment. Prior to Invacare, Mr. Craig held various progressing leadership positions in supplier development, quality assurance, manufacturing and program management at Eaton Corporation, an international diversified industrial manufacturer of electrical, hydraulic and mechanical power equipment and systems for the aerospace, automotive, electrical, filtration, hydraulics and truck industries. Mr. Craig has extensive experience in quality system and business process audits governed along federal statutory guidelines as well as managing the implementation of leading quality and manufacturing continuous improvement initiatives found today within industry. Mr. Craig is a graduate of Ohio University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial & Systems Engineering. He serves as a board member to the Lorain County Habitat for Humanity.

**Melissa Seymour**

Vice President, Central Region Member Relations and Seams Coordination, MISO

In her role for the MidContinent Independent System Operator (MISO), Ms. Seymour leads a team of customer and regulatory advisors who strive to understand and address the needs and issues of members, stakeholders and state regulators. Additionally, Ms. Seymour's organization develops and coordinates MISO's strategy with neighboring transmission system operators and facilitates new member discussions and integrations. Ms. Seymour has 25 years of experience in the energy industry. Prior to joining MISO, Ms. Seymour was the Director of Regional Markets and Regulation at Iberdrola Renewables, LLC (now Avangrid Renewables), where she was responsible for advancing policy changes to better accommodate renewable energy into the power system and create business opportunities for the company. Before Iberdrola Renewables, she held various strategic planning, business development and regulatory positions at the Bonneville Power Administration, PacifiCorp, Southstar Energy Services and Southern Company Energy Marketing. Ms. Seymour holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science and Mechanics from the University of Tennessee.



Asim Haque

Vice President, State and Member Services, PJM

Haque is an officer at PJM and leads the State and Member Services Division. The State Government Policy Team assists states in the advancement of their policy initiatives through PJM's core business functions and serves in a traditional external affairs role as the primary conduit between PJM and the states. The Member Services Division is charged with providing cutting-edge service to PJM members and facilitating the PJM stakeholder process. Prior to joining PJM, Haque was the chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). As the state's chief regulator, Haque led Ohio through some of the nation's most pressing energy policy discussions. He guided Ohio's Clean Power Plan compliance efforts, adjudicated cases pertaining to the future of baseload power plants in competitive markets and successfully executed to completion Ohio's grid modernization endeavor, PowerForward. Haque, an attorney, began his career at a large general practice firm and went on to work as in-house counsel at a global auto manufacturer prior to his appointment to the PUCO. Additionally, Haque serves on the board of the Philadelphia Education Fund, which works to create equitable opportunities for all students to succeed in college and career. He is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University and received his Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, where he was awarded the school's Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award in 2015.



Ryan Quint

Director, Engineering and Security Integration, NERC

Ryan Quint leads a number of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) efforts related to grid transformation, including initiatives focused on inverter-based resources, distributed energy resources, integrating security with conventional engineering practices and emerging technologies. Ryan has been with NERC for almost eight years and has industry experience at Dominion Virginia Power and the Bonneville Power Administration. He received his doctorate from Virginia Tech and is a registered professional engineer.



Michelle Cross

Manager, External Affairs, RF

Ms. Cross joined ReliabilityFirst in 2021 and is responsible for leading a dedicated team that works with industry to identify, assess and mitigate risks within the Bulk Power System. The Entity Engagement team provides outreach and coaching in the form of assist visits, controls evaluations and educational events to preserve and enhance the reliability, resilience and security for both Operations & Planning and Critical Infrastructure Protection. Ms. Cross has more than 12 years of experience in the electric utility industry from her time with American Electric Power, mostly in distribution and generation. In addition, Ms. Cross has three years of experience with network and threat detection operation and seven years of experience in manufacturing management. Ms. Cross holds a Professional Engineering license in the State of Ohio and is a Certified Energy Manager and Project Management Professional. She has a degree in Chemical Engineering from The Ohio State University.