



10th Annual Transmission Summit
Non-Transmission Alternatives and Distributed Energy Resources
November 17
Speaker Biographies

A look at how the grid can be optimized to account for changes occurring on the demand-side of the equation. Speakers will describe the interaction between technologies deployed on utility distribution systems and the big grid, discuss how these technologies will be used to provide services to the grid, and touch on how system planners can properly forecast and account for them.

Keynote Speaker: Rick Blumenstock, Executive Director of Electric Planning at Consumers Energy

Rick Blumenstock is Executive Director of Electric Planning at Consumers Energy, which is a combined electric and gas utility serving 1.8 million customers in the lower peninsula of Michigan. Rick has been with Consumers Energy for 27 years, serving in engineering roles in all facets of energy delivery including planning, operations, MISO interactions, and electric supply. He currently oversees all aspects of electric planning for Consumers Energy, including generation, high voltage, low voltage, and integrated resource planning.

Moderator: Matt Prorok, Senior Policy Manager, Great Plains Institute (GPI)

Matt Prorok joined the Great Plains Institute in November 2015 and is a senior policy manager. His work focuses on the development of electric transmission infrastructure and market mechanisms to enhance the development of low-carbon energy technologies in the Midcontinent region. In addition, Matt contributes to GPI's research and analysis work and is a facilitator for the Midwestern Governors Association's Grid Security & Modernization initiative. As part of his work at GPI, he also served on the steering and policy committees of the Minnesota Energy Storage Alliance.

Matt has a background in engineering and sustainability. He obtained his BS in mechanical engineering from Penn State with a minor in earth systems and an MS in science, technology, and environmental policy from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. His work at the University of Minnesota focused on assessment of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to electric vehicle charging in Minnesota based on policy incentives intended to direct charging to specific hours of the day.

Dan Kopin, Operations and Planning Analyst, Utility Services

Dan Kopin regularly represents NERC-registered Distribution Providers, Transmission Owners, Generator Owners, and Generator Operators across the United States before NERC and its regions. He serves on NERC's System Planning Impacts from Distributed Energy Resources (SPIDER) Working Group, leading the Working Group's development of a Reliability Guideline on underfrequency load shed programs in areas with high levels of distributed energy resources. In addition to presenting to Distribution Providers and Transmission Owners in New

England, Dan has presented at the Northeast Power Coordinating Council Regional Standards Committee, Vermont System Planning Committee, and California Independent System Operator. He previously worked for Vermont Energy Investment Corporation's Regulatory Affairs and Emerging Business Strategies teams.

Anne Margolis, Deputy Director, Regulated Utility Planning Division, Vermont Department of Public Service

Anne Margolis is the Deputy Planning Director at the Vermont Department of Public Service, where she works on policies, programs, and proceedings to advance Vermont's energy goals, including the Renewable Energy Standard and the Comprehensive Energy Plan. Anne has previously served as the Department's Renewable Energy Development Manager and managed its Clean Energy Development Fund and worked with clean energy funds across the U.S. as a project director with Clean Energy States Alliance. She is also a graduate of Dartmouth College, an alternate on the Vermont District 3 Environmental Commission, and a Justice of the Peace in Corinth, Vermont.

Susan Mora, Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives, Exelon

As Director of Utility Initiatives, Susan provides strategic policy coordination, analysis and project management to Exelon six utilities, ComEd, PECO, BGE, ACE, Delmarva and Pepco. Susan also supports Exelon with external stakeholders, policymakers, trade associations and outreach campaigns. Issues of particular focus include electric vehicle infrastructure, renewable and microgrid integration, storage, security and resilience, and rate design. Prior to joining Exelon, Susan served 8 years as Federal Affairs Director for Pepco Holdings. In this role, she was the company's primary interface with the U.S. Congress, White House, federal agencies and national industry associations on a variety of issues impacting PHI utilities, shareholders, employees and customers. Issues of particular emphasis in her portfolio at PHI included cyber and physical security, event response and recovery, grid resilience, and smart grid functionality.

John Shenot, Senior Advisor, Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)

John Shenot advises state utility commissions and environmental regulatory agencies throughout the United States on public policy best practices. A unifying theme throughout his work is the need to craft public policies that simultaneously meet societal objectives for affordable, reliable energy, and environmental quality. John's projects have included providing a series of training workshops and webinars for state and federal regulators on the air quality impacts of energy efficiency and renewable energy; planning and facilitating meetings of the Mid-Atlantic Distributed Resources Initiative (MADRI); and supporting several initiatives of the State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network. John came to RAP after serving as policy advisor to the PSC of Wisconsin from 2008 to 2011. He previously spent 15 years with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as an air pollution regulator and electric utility specialist.