



# WIRES Spring Meeting

April 27–28, 2022

Nashville, TN, at the historic Hermitage Hotel

## AGENDA

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

6:00 - 9:00 pm **Cocktail Reception and Dinner**

### THURSDAY, APRIL 28

9:00 - 10:00 am **Keynote Address**  
**James Danly**, FERC Commissioner

10:00 - 11:00 am **Panel 1 – Implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill**  
**Moderator**  
**Amanda Conner**, Vice President FERC & RTO Strategy & Policy – AEP  
**Panelists**  
**Rob Hobart**, Founding Partner – HHQ Ventures  
**Teja Kuruganti**, Section Head, Advanced Computing Methods for Engineered Systems – Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
**Tony Niknejad**, Policy Director – Office of Tennessee Governor Bill Lee

11:00 - 11:15 am **Coffee Break**

11:15 - 12:15 pm **Panel 2 – EVs and the Implications for Transmission**  
**Moderator**  
**Brian Gemmell**, Chief Clean Energy Development Officer – National Grid  
**Panelists**  
**Kevin Hernandez**, Partner – ScottMadden  
**Philip Jones**, Executive Director – Alliance for Transportation Electrification  
**Ryan Stanton**, Sr. Project Manager – EV Evolution – Transformative Innovation, Tennessee Valley Authority  
**Alexa Voytek**, Energy Programs Administrator – Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation’s Office of Energy Programs (TDEC OEP)

12:30 - 2:00 pm **Lunch**



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## PRESENTERS

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Commissioner James Danly**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

Commissioner James Danly was nominated Commissioner at the

FERC on February 12, 2020, and confirmed as a Commissioner by the United States Senate on March 12, 2020.

Danly served as Chairman of FERC from November 5, 2020 to January 21, 2021.

Danly formerly served as general counsel to FERC. Prior to joining the Commission, he was a member of the energy regulation and litigation group at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom LLP.

Prior to this Danly served as law clerk to Judge Danny Boggs at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He was a managing director of the Institute for the Study of War, a military think tank in Washington, D.C., and served an International Affairs Fellowship at the Council on Foreign Relations. Danly is a former U.S. Army officer who served two tours in Iraq, first with an infantry company in Baghdad and then on staff at Multi-National Force—Iraq, receiving a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Danly earned his juris doctor from Vanderbilt University Law School, and his bachelor's degree from Yale University. He is licensed to practice law before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

### PANEL 1 – IMPLEMENTING THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

#### Moderator



**Amanda Conner**

**Vice President FERC & RTO Strategy & Policy – American Electric Power; WIRES Vice President**

Amanda Conner is Vice President, FERC and

RTO Strategy and Policy for American Electric Power. She is responsible for representing AEP's generation and grid development businesses in policy matters at the FERC and Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO).

Previously, Conner served as managing director in AEP's Washington, D.C., office, focusing on FERC and federal legislative issues. She began working for AEP in 2012 as a senior counsel in the Legal Department, representing AEP in PJM transmission owners committees and handling transmission formula rate and market based rate issues before FERC.

Prior to joining AEP, Conner spent eight years as an associate attorney with Wright & Talisman, where she represented Southwest Power Pool and the MISO transmission owners in numerous FERC matters, including those involving energy market implementation and compliance with open access transmission directives.

She received her bachelor's degree from Purdue University and her law degree from Indiana University Maurer School of Law.



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## Panelist

### Rob Hobart

#### Founding Partner - HHQ Ventures

Rob Hobart began his career working in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served as deputy chief of staff, Appropriations associate staff and legislative director for three members of Congress. He left Capitol Hill to join McBee Strategic Consulting, where he was executive vice president and head of the Appropriations practice. Hobart was also managing director of the firm's Government Capital Practice, which he co-founded more than five years ago. Prior to starting HHQ Ventures with Rashid Hallaway and Ben Quayle, Hobart was the CEO of Hobart Ventures, LLC, a boutique government relations and consulting business.

In addition to his work providing government relations and strategic business counsel, Hobart is a program advisor to Prospect Silicon Valley, a nonprofit commercialization catalyst focused on accelerating the next generation of technology benefiting cities everywhere. Rob divides his time between Washington, D.C., and Nashville.

He is a graduate of the University of Illinois, and he attended the Naval War College while working in the U.S. House of Representatives.



## Panelist

### Teja Kuruganti

#### Section Head, Advanced Computing Methods for Engineered Systems - Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Teja Kuruganti is the Section Head for Advanced Computing Methods for Engineered Systems at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), where he has worked since 2003. He currently leads ORNL activities in developing technologies for enabling grid-interactive energy efficient buildings and advanced computing techniques for solving electric grid challenges. Kuruganti's research interests are in large-scale modeling and simulation of energy systems and communication systems.

He earned MS and PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



## Panelist

### Tony Niknejad

#### Policy Director - Office of Tennessee Governor Bill Lee

Tony Niknejad serves as Policy Director for Governor Bill Lee and is responsible for leading the development of the Governor's policy agenda. Prior to his role in the administration, Niknejad served as the policy director for the successful Bill Lee for Governor campaign and as a member of then Governor-elect Lee's transition team.

Niknejad previously worked for a national education-reform nonprofit, and as a legislative staffer in the Tennessee state senate.

Niknejad is a member of the State Bar of Tennessee, a graduate of Vanderbilt University Law School, and earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Georgia where he studied economics and philosophy.



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## PANEL 2 – EVS AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR TRANSMISSION



### Moderator

**Brian Gemmell**

**Chief Clean Energy Development Officer – National Grid; WIRES Board Member**

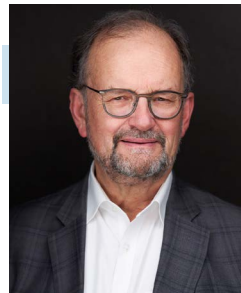
Dr. Brian Gemmell brings more than 25 years of experience in the electric power transmission industry to his role as Chief Clean Energy Development Officer. In this role, Gemmell leads National Grid's pursuit of clean energy business opportunities for customers and regulated energy networks in support of future New York and New England State goals.

He joined National Grid in 2017 as Vice President of Strategy and Performance for National Grid's FERC-regulated businesses, and most recently as Vice President of Transmission Asset Management & Planning and Capital Delivery Electric across New England and New York. In this role, Gemmell led the development, prioritization, and management of 10-year transmission \$10B CAPEX plans, execution of an \$800M annual complex electrical project portfolio, as well as operations and maintenance of a 2GW HVDC facility.

Previously, Gemmell was Vice President of Transmission Solutions at Siemens, enabling the adoption of new, complete turnkey technologies to improve the reliability and efficiency of transmission systems across the US. He also was general manager of Siemens' US-based Power Technologies International, as well as Business Development Manager in FACTS and HVDC Solutions for Siemens and ALSTOM (now GE).

Gemmell has an MEng (1990) and a PhD (1995) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK. During 1992, he spent six months as a Visiting Engineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He is a past President and currently on the Board of Directors of WIRES, and has been a member of IEEE since 2000.



### Panelist

**Phillip Jones**

**Executive Director – Alliance for Transportation Electrification (ATE)**

Phillip Jones currently serves as Executive Director of the Alliance for Transportation Electrification (ATE), which is a recently established industry-funded, non-profit association that seeks to promote the acceleration of transportation electrification deployments, a robust utility role, and interoperability and open standards. Jones serves as a Director of the Western Grid Group which advocates for clean energy resources and an efficient transmission grid in the Western States. He is also a Board Advisor to Energy Impact Partners (EIP), based in New York City, which is a private equity infrastructure fund comprised of major utility investors that seeks to invest in innovative young technology companies focused on the energy sector. He also serves on the non-profit Boards of Directors of Carbon WA and Climate Solutions.

Additionally, he is currently President of Phil Jones Consulting LLC based in Seattle, Washington, that provides expert advice and consulting services for organizations in the fields of energy and utility regulation, communications regulation, and cybersecurity compliance and regulation.

Jones served as a Commissioner on the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) for 12 years from 2005 to 2017. He had many leadership positions in NARUC (National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners) during his tenure, and served as President of NARUC in 2012-13. He is a member of the EPRI Advisory Council. Jones is a native of Spokane, Washington and a graduate with a B.A. from Harvard College.



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## Panelist

**Kevin Hernandez**

**Partner – ScottMadden**

Kevin Hernandez is a partner with ScottMadden where he specializes in grid transformation, energy storage and transportation electrification. Since joining the firm in 2012, Hernandez has consulted with a variety of utility and industry clients on issues ranging from fleet electrification to EV infrastructure planning.

Hernandez earned his B.A. from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, an M.A. from the U.S. Navy War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and his M.B.A. from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. He is also an eight-year veteran of the United States Navy.



## Panelist

**Ryan Stanton**

**Sr. Project Manager,  
EV Evolution –  
Transformative  
Innovation, Tennessee  
Valley Authority**

Ryan is a senior project manager for the EV Evolution Initiative with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). In this role, Ryan focuses on research, innovation, and strategy for electric transportation, including how TVA can help remove market barriers to adoption of EVs while contributing to TVA's mission of energy, environment, and economic development.



## Panelist

**Alexa Voytek**

**Energy Programs  
Administrator –  
Tennessee Department  
of Environment and  
Conservation's Office of  
Energy Programs (TDEC  
OEP)**

Alexa Voytek serves as the Principal Investigator for the U.S. DOE State Energy Program (SEP) in Tennessee, oversees TDEC OEP's energy in transportation programming, and administers the State's initial allocation under the VW Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust. Voytek also serves as the Coordinator for U.S. DOE's Clean Cities Middle-West Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition, through which she acts as a technical resource for fleets and individuals evaluating alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies.

Voytek is the Co-Chair for the National Association of State Energy Officials' Transportation Committee and is an Advisory Group member for the National Association of State Energy Officials' Energy Technology Innovation Project. She serves as the Governor's designee to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Regional Energy Resource Council, which provides guidance on how TVA manages its energy resources against competing objectives and values. Prior to joining TDEC, Alexa interned with the UN Division for Sustainable Development and the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Most recently, Voytek served as Asst. Account Executive for the public relations firm Ketchum, Inc., where she was assigned to energy and technology related projects. She holds an M.A. from Columbia University in Russian, Eastern European, Balkan, and Eurasian Studies and graduated summa cum laude from Duke University, with a B.A. in History and Russian Language / Area Studies.