



# WIRES Spring Meeting

April 3-4, 2024 – Chicago, IL at the Blackstone Hotel

## AGENDA

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

**6:00 - 9:00 pm CT**     **Cocktail Reception and Dinner**  
**Special Dinner Speaker**  
**Sean Casten**, Congressman (D, IL-06)

### THURSDAY, APRIL 4

**8:00 - 9:00 am CT**     **Breakfast**

**9:00 - 10:00 am**     **Keynote Address**  
**Mark Christie**, FERC Commissioner

**10:00 - 11:15 am**     **Panel 1 – The (Re) Integration of Planning – Putting Humpty Back Together Again**  
**Panelists**  
**Shawn E. Schukar**, President, Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois  
**Steve Martz**, VP Integrated Planning, Xcel Energy  
**Carlo Brancucci, PhD**, CEO, encoord  
**Moderator**  
**Cristin Lyons**, Partner and Energy Practice Leader, ScottMadden

**11:15 - 11:30 am**     **Coffee Break**

**11:30 - 12:30 pm**     **Panel 2 – Let's Talk: The Importance of Collaboration in Transmission Planning**  
**Panelists**  
**Matthew Ellis**, Manager Transmission Strategy & Development, Great River Energy  
**Brian Tulloh**, Executive Director, External Affairs, MISO  
**Zach Zimmerman**, Research and Policy Manager, Grid Strategies  
**Moderator**  
**Becky Webb**, Senior Manager of Transmission Strategy, Exelon Corporation

**12:30 - 2:00 pm**     **Lunch**



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## PRESENTERS

### SPECIAL DINNER SPEAKER



**Sean Casten**

**Congressman (D, IL-06)**

As a scientist, clean energy entrepreneur and CEO, and now as a Member of Congress representing the western suburbs

of Chicago, Congressman Sean Casten has dedicated his life to fighting climate change. Casten draws upon his previous private sector experience in Congress to craft market-based solutions to reduce emissions while creating jobs and spurring economic growth.

Casten serves on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and is the Vice Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee. He also serves as Vice-Chair on the New Democrat Coalition Climate Change Task Force and as Vice-Chair of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition.

Casten has a Master of Engineering Management and a Master of Science in Biochemical Engineering from the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College. While at Dartmouth, he did fundamental research in thermophilic fermentation technology to produce cellulosic ethanol and engineering analyses of integrated ethanol, heat, and power plants.

Casten worked as a clean energy consultant and manager at Arthur D. Little, then served as the president and CEO of Turbosteam Corporation, which focused on utilizing energy recycling technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by generating heat and power from previously wasted energy. In 2006, Casten co-founded Recycled Energy Development (RED), which focused on recycling wasted energy and converting energy facilities to cleaner, more economic uses.

Casten was a founding chairman of the Northeast CHP Initiative, a nonprofit advocacy organization with a mission to advance policies that favor energy efficiency in the Northeast United States.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Mark C. Christie**

**FERC Commissioner**

Commissioner Mark C. Christie took office on January 4, 2021, after having been nominated by President Trump in

July 2020 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on November 30, 2020.

Immediately before joining FERC, Commissioner Christie was the Chairman of the Virginia State Corporation Commission (Virginia SCC), on which he served for nearly 17 years. He was elected to the Virginia SCC, which regulates utilities, insurance and banking, three times by the Virginia legislature on bipartisan votes.

During Commissioner Christie's service as a state regulator, he was elected president of the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI), an organization of utility regulators representing the 13 states and the District of Columbia which participate in the PJM transmission and markets organization. He served for more than a decade on the OPSI governing board. Commissioner Christie also served as president of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC), a regional chapter of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).



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Commissioner Christie taught regulatory law for a decade as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Virginia School of Law and constitutional law and government for 20 years in a doctoral program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Commissioner Christie is a magna cum laude graduate of Wake Forest University, where he earned Phi Beta Kappa and degrees in History and English. He earned his law degree at Georgetown, where he completed a summer clerkship after his first year in the FERC Office of General Counsel, which was then housed in the old building on North Capitol Street. He is a graduate of the public schools of Welch, West Virginia, where he grew up.

Commissioner Christie served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. Semper Fi.

## PANEL 1 – THE (RE)INTEGRATION OF PLANNING – PUTTING HUMPTY BACK TOGETHER AGAIN

### Panelist

**Shawn E. Schukar**

**President, Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois**



Shawn Schukar is chairman and president of Ameren Transmission

Company of Illinois (ATXI), a subsidiary of Ameren Corporation dedicated to electric transmission infrastructure investment.

In addition to leading the development of new transmission, he is also responsible for the operations, planning and policymaking of Ameren's transmission system of more than 8,000 circuit miles of high-voltage transmission lines in Illinois and Missouri.

Schukar has more than 30 years of experience in the utility industry. Since 2013, as senior vice president, Schukar led various Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois divisions. During his tenure with the company, his responsibilities have included marketing, trading and asset management, transmission, distribution and generation management, engineering, regulatory and risk management and business and corporate planning.

Schukar has a master's degree in business administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he also earned a Bachelor of Science in engineering.



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## Panelist

### Steve Martz

#### VP Integrated Planning, Xcel Energy

Steve Martz oversees the integrated planning organization at Xcel Energy. In this role he is responsible for the long-term system planning and strategy of the electric distribution and transmission, generation, and natural gas businesses.

Prior to his current role, Martz was the vice president of engineering with responsibility for technical design, system planning, asset management, integrity, and project management. He started with Xcel in 2015 as head of the planning group where he was responsible for company growth planning and asset optimization.

Martz was previously employed by Sempra Energy where he worked in various capacities including design engineering, operations management, R&D, corporate development, and marketing.

Martz holds a BS in Chemical & Materials Engineering from Cal Poly and master's degrees in Finance and Business Administration.



## Panelist

### Carlo Brancucci

#### PhD, CEO, encoord

Carlo Brancucci is the Co-Founder and CEO of encoord Inc. He is an expert in power system modeling and renewable integration, areas in which he has published several peer-reviewed articles.

Before co-founding encoord, he worked as a senior research engineer at the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). His

research focused on the impact of variable renewable energy on power system planning and operations and the interface between electricity and natural gas systems. He also led a research project on the potential impacts of climate change on power system planning and operations. While at NREL, he advised the Energy Ministry officials of Mexico and Peru on power system planning and renewable integration.

Before joining NREL, Brancucci was a researcher at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. In this role, his research focused on energy system modeling and techno-economic assessments of the European power system.

Brancucci was also a lecturer at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he developed and taught graduate courses in the Department of Electrical, Computer, & Energy Engineering. He holds a Ph.D. from Delft University of Technology and a master's in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Bristol.



## Moderator

### Cristin Lyons

#### Partner and Energy Practice Leader, ScottMadden

Cristin Lyons is a partner and head of ScottMadden's energy practice. With almost 25 years of experience helping clients optimize their businesses, she leads client engagements to transform utility operations and enable the clean energy transition. Lyons was the lead for the firm's grid transformation practice before becoming the energy practice lead. She is a frequent speaker and panelist at conferences across the country.

Lyons earned a B.A. in political science and Spanish from Gettysburg College and an M.B.A. from the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University.



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## PANEL 2 – LET’S TALK: THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION IN TRANSMISSION PLANNING



### Panelist

**Matthew Ellis**

**Manager Transmission Strategy & Development, Great River Energy**

Matt Ellis is the Manager of Transmission Strategy & Development at Great

River Energy. Ellis is responsible for the strategy development and implementation of Great River Energy’s regional transmission projects. In parallel, Ellis serves as co-executive director of Grid North Partners, an evolution of CapX2020, leading Great River Energy and its nine utility partners to collaboratively identify Upper Midwest transmission system needs and to help educate on transmission related matters.

Prior to joining Great River Energy, Ellis was employed at MISO where he served as director of resource adequacy coordination. Prior to that role, Ellis served in technical and management roles involving transmission planning and its outcomes, including regional transmission planning, business case development, and regulatory policy & approval.

Ellis has a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from Iowa State University and is a professional engineer in Minnesota.



### Panelist

**Brian Tulloh**

**Executive Director, External Affairs, MISO**

Brian Tulloh has extensive expertise in energy-related public policy, strategy, external affairs/

government relations, communications, and advocacy, with a deep background in power markets and strategy consulting. Tulloh has over 30 years of experience in the energy industry. Prior to MISO, he was VP, Public Policy, for Energy Future Holdings, including TXU Energy, a leading competitive retail electricity provider, and Luminant, the largest electricity generator in Texas. There and as VP, Public Affairs for TXU Energy, Tulloh was responsible for delivering the company’s public policy and external affairs objectives, working with policymakers and the broader public to best serve customers and communities. Since joining the company in 2002, he has led various strategy and commercial functions and organizational change efforts across the company’s competitive businesses.

Prior to TXU, he was a leader in McKinsey’s energy practice, where he served a variety of U.S. and European clients consulting on strategy and organization issues. Prior to McKinsey, Tulloh held a series of positions at ARCO in Texas and California, including oil & gas operations and environmental engineering, public policy, and natural gas trading.



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## Panelist

### Zachary Zimmerman

#### Research and Policy Manager, Grid Strategies

Zach Zimmerman is the Research and Policy Manager for Grid Strategies focused on

economic and regulatory analysis related to power markets and transmission. His work includes writing reports and responding to government policy proposals for Grid Strategies clients as well as facilitating the Advancing Modern Powerlines (AMP) Coalition to support the deployment of High-Performance Conductors on the grid. He also supports the Working for Advanced Transmission Technologies (WATT) Coalition's policy and advocacy work.

Zimmerman previously worked as a Committee Legislative Assistant for the Minnesota House Energy and Climate Committee.

He has a Master of Public Policy from the University of California Berkeley Goldman School, where his thesis focused on transmission planning in the Pacific Northwest. He graduated with a degree in Biochemistry from Goshen College.



## Moderator

### Becky Webb

#### Senior Manager of Transmission Strategy, Exelon Corporation

Becky Webb is a Senior Manager of Transmission Strategy

at Exelon Corporation. She is responsible for the development and implementation of transmission policy and strategy across all the Exelon Operating Companies.

Prior to this role, Webb held a variety of engineering positions in transmission planning at ComEd, including transmission reinforcement, technical studies, and transmission system interconnections. She has also held roles in compliance, providing oversight and support for Exelon's North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standard Compliance program.

Webb has a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Illinois.