



## **Candidate Profiles**

### **Bethany Frew**

**Senior Engineer, Grid Planning and Analysis Center  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory**

Bethany Frew has spent over 10 years building and applying computational models to analyze the power system, both as a graduate student and as a researcher at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. She is currently a Senior Engineer in the Grid Planning and Analysis Center, where she is engaged in a variety of power system modeling activities. These include capacity expansion modeling and production cost modeling for a wide range of analysis topics, such as the impact of wholesale electricity market structures on investment decisions and resource adequacy, the economic and operational impacts of nuclear-hydrogen hybridization, and low-cost solar deployment studies. She is also engaged in a variety of outreach and international collaboration activities, including G-PST and IEA Task 25. Bethany joined NREL as a postdoctoral researcher in 2014 upon completion of her Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Stanford University. She also holds a M.S. from the same program and a B.S. in Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering from The Ohio State University.

### **Mary Ann Zehr**

**Vice President, Transmission Business Strategy  
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.**

Mary Ann Zehr has over 17 years of experience in the electric utility industry, currently holding the position of Vice President, Transmission Business Strategy for Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. Tri-State is a wholesale electric power supplier owned by the 42 electric cooperatives that it serves. Tri-State generates and transmits electricity to its member systems throughout a 200,000 square-mile service territory across Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming, serving over one million customers. While at Tri-State Mary Ann has also held positions responsible for transmission system operations, training, and transmission compliance. Prior to joining on with Tri-State, Mary Ann served in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear power plant operator. Mary Ann's educational background includes a Master's of Science Degree in Global Energy Management from the University of Colorado and a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration from Regis University.

**Joe Lang**  
**Director of Energy Regulatory Affairs**  
**Omaha Public Power District**

Joe Lang is the Director of Energy Regulatory Affairs at Omaha Public Power District (OPPD). He has approximately 20 years of experience in utilities working in areas such as system protection, substation, project management, system & resource planning and currently focuses on energy policy.

Joe leads a team that is responsive to issues pertaining to state and federal energy laws and regulations. This includes ensuring OPPD maintains a reliable power system and meets and exceeds federal reliability compliance standards. His team is engaged in Southwest Power Pool governance, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission policy issues, NERC reliability standards, U.S. Dept of Energy policies, Nebraska Power Review Board regulations, and supports related legislative and litigation efforts.

Joe has provided service external to OPPD on the March of Dimes Board of Trustees, Energy Systems Integration Group Board, National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying Licensing Committee, Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Board/Members Committee, Leadership Nebraska Advisory Council and is an alumnus of the FBI Citizens Academy.

Joe holds a bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering from Iowa State University, a master degree in Engineering Management from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a master degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law, and is a Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Nebraska.

**Bjorn Hedges**  
**Plant Manager**  
**NAES Corporation**

Bjorn Hedges is the Plant Manager for two wind generation sites in South-Central Washington State. The first site is White Creek Wind I, a 204.7 MW windfarm, constructed in 2007. The second site is Harvest Wind Project, a 98.9 MW windfarm, constructed in 2009. Both Sites are operated by NAES. Bjorn Hedges has been the Plant Manager since Commercial Operations began.

Bjorn received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Washington State University. He worked in the construction industry for ten years before moving into wind. During that time he passed the Professional Engineer's examination.

Involved early on in the U.S. wind industry, most of what Bjorn learned was through on-the-job-training. Later, as the U.S. wind industry matured, more experience was gained through a renewable generation industry User's Group ESIG, where peers share and improve from their combined experiences. This User's Group became so influential that he was motivated to give back and served as a roundtable chair, then Chair. He now assists as Chair-Emeritus.

Bjorn has received the Washington State Governor's Award for best State construction project, the Ross Newlin Achievement Award, NAES' Consistent Superior Performance, and most important, that both sites have operated for up to 14 years with only one OSHA recordable; the one was for offsite treatment of a minor injury.