



**Preparing the Electricity System and Wholesale Markets for a  
Reliable, Affordable, and Decarbonized Future (#181)**

**Friday, March 22, 2024 - 9:00 am-12:30 pm**  
Bios of Speakers/Moderator



**Charles Dickerson** is the President and CEO of Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC). He is a recognized industry thought leader with 30 years of experience in the energy sector. Most recently, Charles served as president of the utility division of SUEZ North America, where he led its regulated utilities across the U.S. His previous positions include having served as Chief Operating Officer for Austin Energy where he led the generation, market operations, transmission, distribution, IT, technology, and strategic planning functions; and as President of National Grid - USA Business Services. Prior to National Grid, he worked for Exelon-Pepco Holdings Inc. for 27 years. In addition, Charles brings deep governance expertise as a past Board of Directors member for both the Seedling and RMEL organizations.

Charles holds a BS in mechanical engineering and master's in applied management from the University of Maryland.



**Katie Scharf Dykes** is the Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). She was nominated by Governor Ned Lamont to serve as the Commissioner of DEEP and was confirmed in February 2019. Katie previously served as Chair of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) from 2015-2018, and as Deputy Commissioner for Energy at DEEP from 2012-2015. Katie also served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. (RGGI). RGGI is a multi-state effort focused on reducing carbon emissions from electric generating facilities. She joined CT DEEP in March 2012 after prior service as Deputy General Counsel for the White House Council on Environmental Quality and as a Legal Advisor to the General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Katie is a graduate of Yale College and the Yale Law School.



**Gordon van Welie** is President and CEO of ISO New England, having previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He joined ISO New England from Siemens Power Transmission & Distribution, where he served as Vice President and General Manager of the Power Systems Control Division and was responsible for managing information technology solutions for electric companies. Before coming to Siemens, Gordon held several positions at ESKOM, South Africa's electric utility based in Johannesburg. Gordon is a member of several industry groups, including the National Academy of Engineering, the Executive Committee of the U. S. National Committee of CIGRE, the Member Representatives Committee of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the ISO/RTO Council, and the IEEE Power & Engineering Society. He received a 2017 Utility Variable Generation Integration Achievement Award and a 2016 IEEE Power & Energy Society Leadership Award.

Gordon holds a BS in electrical engineering and an MBA from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.



**Nate Hanson** is President of LS Power Generation, where he oversees the asset management, energy management, and regulatory affairs of the Firm's generation fleet. Nate is also a member of the Investment Committee. Prior to joining LS Power, Nate served as Vice President in NextEra Energy Resource's power marketing division, where he was responsible for wholesale load-serving transactions and commodity hedge strategies. In addition, he held asset management and development responsibilities, including mergers and acquisitions, for their Northeast portfolio. Previously, Nate worked for Intercontinental Energy Corporation. He began his career with General Electric, where he focused on training and operations of power plants utilized in the Naval Nuclear program.

Nate received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and an M.B.A. with honors from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



**Alicia Barton** is the CEO of Vineyard Offshore, a leading offshore wind developer with a portfolio of more than 6 gigawatts of offshore wind projects in North America. Its current projects include Vineyard Wind, the first commercial-scale offshore wind project in the United States, and Excelsior Wind in the New York Bight. Prior to joining Vineyard Offshore, Alicia was the CEO of FirstLight. Her past public service includes serving as the President and as CEO of the New York Energy Research and Development Authority and previously as CEO the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. Alicia's prior private sector experience included serving as Co-Chair of the Energy and Cleantech Practice at Foley Hoag LLP, and as Chief of Operations of the Global Utility business unit at SunEdison.

Alicia holds a BS degree in natural resources from Ohio State University and a JD from Boston College.



**Liz Anderson** is the Chief of the Energy and Ratepayer Advocacy Division (ERA) in the Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell. As Division Chief, Liz oversees ERA's ratepayer advocacy at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, ISO New England, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as ERA's consumer protection enforcement practice related to retail electric suppliers and solar companies. Liz currently serves as Chair of the Coordinating Committee for ISO New England's Consumer Liaison Group and Vice Chair of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates Consumer Protection Committee. In addition, she serves as the Attorney General's designee on the Massachusetts Grid Modernization Advisory Council. Prior to her current role, Liz helped manage ERA as Deputy Chief. She was also an associate for Rich May, P.C. in the firm's Energy, Renewables & Regulated Industries Group, and spent several years as an Assistant Attorney General in ERA advocating for consumers in a wide range of matters concerning electricity, gas, and water regulation.

Liz is a graduate of New England School of Law and received her B.A. from the University of Virginia.



**Dan Sosland** is the president and co-founder of Acadia Center, a non-profit research and advocacy organization acting at the state, regional and community levels to advance climate and clean energy solutions in the northeastern U.S. and eastern Canada. One of the first such organizations created in the U.S. to address climate solutions, Acadia Center has won awards from U.S. EPA, the American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy and others for its groundbreaking work on climate pathways, energy efficiency and transforming government to be responsive to climate and equity and is ranked in the top 1% of non-profits evaluated by Charity Navigator. Prior to Acadia Center, Dan's work focused on energy efficiency and forest and watershed protection. Dan received the Maine Forever Award from Gov. Angus King and the Exemplary Public Service Award from Cornell Law School.

Dan began his career at a major law firm in New York City and holds a JD with honors from Cornell and a BA from Brown. He is a member of the board of directors of U.S. Climate Action Network.



**Janet Gail Besser** is a nationally recognized energy policy and regulatory strategy expert, with experience as a regulator, clean energy business association leader, utility executive, developer, consultant, and consumer advocate. She has been moderating the New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable since the beginning of 2023. Prior to 2023, she led the Smart Electric Power Alliance's Regulatory and Business Innovation work as vice president. Previously, she was executive vice president of the Northeast Clean Energy Council; VP, Regulatory Strategy and Policy at National Grid; Chair and Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities; and an executive and expert at Analysis Group and Lexecon. She also held senior staff roles at the Massachusetts Energy Office and New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, was policy director for a national IPP association, and worked for a small hydro developer and low-income consumer advocate. Janet is the recipient of the 2019 Northeast Energy and Commerce Association Vanguard Award and the 2014 Northeast Women in Energy and the Environment Achievement Award. She recently chaired the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Committee on the role of net metering in the evolving electricity system. She is the chair of the Power Options Board and serves on the VEIC Board, where she chairs the Impact and Evaluation Committee.

Janet has an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Williams College.



**Carol Holahan** is a partner in Foley Hoag's Energy & Cleantech practice. She advises large, competitive regional generators and other participants in the wholesale and retail competitive electricity markets on regional policy initiatives, changing environmental regulations, decommissioning and sale of plants, and matters pending before the FERC. In addition to concentrating on traditional fossil fuel generation, Carol's practice includes renewable energy resources such as large solar, storage, and biomass. She has significant experience in the NEPOOL stakeholder process, and with legal challenges to new or existing laws and regulations, environmental permitting, facility siting, and assessment or limitations of liability due to the sale or retirement of generating facilities. Prior to joining to Foley Hoag, Carol was the Senior Director of Government Affairs at Dynegy, Inc. Before that, she served as Director of Government Affairs for the NEPGA, representing competitive power producers before state policy makers, regulators, and infrastructure siting boards. She also served as the Director of the Office of Legislative Services in New Hampshire.

Carol earned her JD, *magna cum laude*, from Suffolk Law School, and her BS from Georgetown.