



NPCC Fall 2025 Hybrid Compliance and Reliability Conference

The Gideon Putnam
Saratoga Springs, NY

External Presenter Biographies

Carly Cipolla – E-ISAC (Senior Partnerships & Engagement Coordinator)

Carly Cipolla is the Senior Partnerships and Engagement Coordinator at the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC), where she leads engagement efforts with the renewable energy sector and coordinates strategic partnerships across the electricity industry. With over a decade of experience in the energy sector, Carly specializes in stakeholder engagement, relationship management, and collaborative program development.

She previously directed the E-ISAC's Vendor Affiliate Program, fostering collective defense through industry insights and thought leadership. Prior to joining E-ISAC, Carly served as Director of Operations at the American Solar Energy Society (ASES). She holds a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Colorado Boulder.

Michael Dwyer – FBI (Special Agent – Private Sector Coordinator)

Special Agent Michael Dwyer has served as the Private Sector Coordinator for the FBI's Albany Field Office since May 2022. He began his career with the FBI in April 2006, initially assigned to the Boston Field Office Headquarters, where he focused on Healthcare Fraud matters.

In 2009, SA Dwyer transferred to the Worcester, MA Resident Agency working with the Central Massachusetts HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) to combat gang activity, violent crime, and drug trafficking. During this time, he also became a certified FBI Crisis Negotiator and was an active member of the Boston Division's Crisis Negotiation Team.

In September 2012, SA Dwyer moved to the Albany Field Office where he continued his work in violent crime and gang investigations as part of the Capital District Safe Streets Gang Task Force (CDSSGTF). In May 2015, he was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent of the CDSSGTF, overseeing investigations into transnational organized crime, violent crime, and gangs, both domestically and internationally. He also supervised the Plattsburgh, NY Resident Agency for all criminal matters, and served as FBI Albany's Certified Crisis Management Coordinator.

Before joining the FBI, SA Dwyer served on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps and later retired as a Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserves. In his final reserve role, he served as the Senior Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer - Defense Support of Civilian Authorities for Marine Forces Pacific.

NPCC Fall 2025 Hybrid Compliance and Reliability Conference

The Gideon Putnam
Saratoga Springs, NY

QR Code for Slido.com



Greg Ford – Georgia System Operations Corp. (President & CEO)

Greg Ford has led Georgia System Operations Corp. (GSOC) through a changing electric utility industry since his tenure began in 2007. Among the most significant changes are an evolving resource mix that includes a shift to clean energy resources, a heightened awareness of physical and cybersecurity and a changing climate that affects the electric grid.

When he's not helping GSOC navigate the electric industry landscape, Ford applies his roughly 40 years of industry experience elsewhere, serving on numerous boards. He is a current member and past chairman of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Member Representatives Committee as well as member and past chairman of the Southeast Reliability Corporation (SERC) Board of Directors. Ford is a member of the United States Homeland Security's Electric Subsector Coordination Council and a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He is an Auburn University graduate.

Zach Greene – NERC (Manager, Strategic Engagement)

Zach Greene serves as Manager, Strategic Engagement at NERC. In this role, he supports the external affairs team by conducting outreach to and engaging with industry stakeholders. Zach also provides management support for strategic initiatives at NERC, such as the Large Loads Action Plan. Prior to joining NERC, Zach held energy-focused roles at several NGOs, most recently at World Resources Institute. He holds a Master of Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and two Bachelor of Arts degrees from the American University.

Alan Herd – FERC (Deputy Director of the Division of Cyber Security)

Alan Herd is the Deputy Director of the Division of Cyber Security in the Office of Electric Reliability at FERC. The Division of Cyber Security is primarily responsible for overseeing all aspects of the development, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standards on behalf of FERC. Alan has over 15 years of experience with regulatory compliance and Bulk Electric System (BES) policy oversight, previously as a financial and operational auditor in FERC's Office of Enforcement and over 10 years of cybersecurity auditing experience. He was integral to the formation and execution of FERC's cybersecurity audit program that was implemented in 2016. Alan is a graduate of the George Washington University School of Business and has been certified as an Information Systems Auditor (CISA) and Fraud Examiner (CFE).



NPCC Fall 2025 Hybrid Compliance and Reliability Conference

The Gideon Putnam
Saratoga Springs, NY

Sandhya Madan – NERC (Manager, Standards Development)

Sandhya Madan is the Manager of Standards Development at NERC, and has been in the position since January, 2025. Prior, Sandhya was with DTE Energy in Detroit for 5 years, where she had leadership roles in NERC Compliance and Grid Operations Support. Prior to joining DTE, she worked in utility consulting for 10 years. Sandhya has her Master's Degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology, and her Bachelor's Degree from Anna University, India.

Sergey Peschanyy – NextEra Energy (Senior Manager – NERC Reliability Standards and Compliance)

Sergey Peschanyy is a seasoned compliance and risk management leader with over 18 years of experience in energy infrastructure, regulatory oversight, and program development. As Senior Manager of NERC Reliability Standards and Compliance at NextEra Energy, Sergey oversees a team dedicated to ensuring enterprise-wide alignment with NERC CIP Standards. He plays a key role in enhancing cybersecurity posture, strengthening internal controls, and driving continuous improvement across compliance operations. He is a key contributor in leading the development of the NERC Information Command Center (NICC), an enterprise initiative focused on integrating CIP Standards to enable real-time visibility into compliance status and continuous monitoring directly from source systems.

Sergey's background spans both the electric and gas utility sectors, with deep expertise in federal and state regulatory enforcement, integrity management, and quality assurance. His leadership has been instrumental in maturing compliance programs through streamlined governance, improved root cause analysis, and implementing industry best practices.

He currently serves as Chair of the Florida Reliability Coordinating Council CIP Subcommittee (FRCC CIPS), where he provides strategic guidance on critical infrastructure protection issues.

Prior to joining NextEra Energy, Sergey held senior leadership roles at Florida City Gas and New York State Department of Public Service, where he led major incident investigations and regulatory audits. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from NYU Polytechnic University, is a certified PHMSA inspector, and holds the GIAC Critical Infrastructure Protection (GCIP) Certification.

Sergey's deep understanding of reliability risk, regulatory engagement, and infrastructure integrity make him a trusted voice in shaping and advancing compliance programs in the energy sector.

NPCC Fall 2025 Hybrid Compliance and Reliability Conference

The Gideon Putnam
Saratoga Springs, NY

QR Code for Slido.com



Holly Peterson – NERC (Manager – Compliance Assurance and Certification)

Holly joined the NERC Compliance Assurance and Certification department as a manager in 2023. In this position, she manages operations, planning, cyber, and physical security technical subject matter experts responsible for the ERO Enterprise compliance monitoring and certification programs. She also participates in several activities related to the CIP Reliability Standards. Prior to joining NERC, she worked in WECC's Entity Monitoring department for seven years. She spent nine years with Colorado Springs Utilities serving in various roles. Holly holds her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. She also holds certifications with ISACA in Certified Information Systems Auditor and Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control as well as ISC2's Certified Information Systems Security Professional.



NPCC Fall 2025 Hybrid Compliance and Reliability Conference

The Gideon Putnam
Saratoga Springs, NY

QR Code for Slido.com



NPCC Staff Presenter Biographies

Karie Barczak – (Senior Compliance Engineer)

Karie Barczak is a Senior Compliance Engineer at NPCC and has over thirty (30) years of experience in the utility industry. Prior to joining NPCC in May of 2023, she worked for twenty-one (21) at DTE Energy – DTE Electric Company as an Expert, where she was responsible for ensuring compliance with the NERC Operations and Planning Reliability Standards including providing data submittals timely and defect free to MISO, RF and NERC. Karie contributed to and led multiple audit engagements, led the internal standards development process and maintained DTE's entity profile with RF. Karie has experience with performing operating studies, contingency analysis and transmission planning oversight. Prior to DTE, she worked as an engineering consultant addressing industrial and manufacturing facility power needs.

Karie holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree from Michigan Technological University, with an emphasis in Power and Machinery, and a Master of Science in Management degree from Walsh College. Karie has completed the NERC Fundamentals of Auditing, Gathering Quality Evidence, and Find, Fix and Track for Auditors trainings. Karie is a Past Chair of RF's Reliability Committee and has held the NERC System Operator certification since 2012. She is also a member of the IEEE Power & Energy Society and the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Cesar Cantú – (RCR Analyst)

Cesar Cantú has been a part of the Registration, Certification, and Risk Team for NPCC since April 2024. Cesar got his start in the electric industry as a real-time transmission system operator for American Electric Power (AEP) in October 2018.

As a Senior System Operator, Cesar was responsible for the real-time monitoring and operation of the transmission power grid within AEP's footprint in Texas. This included monitoring and controlling voltage, mega-watt flow, and reactive power, logging events, responding to unplanned outages, working with field crews and neighboring entities for planned and emergency maintenance outages, and aiding and mentoring new operators still under OJT.

Prior to joining AEP, Cesar was an Aircraft Electrician for 10 years on multiple military aircraft platforms both as a Department of Defense contractor and as an enlisted member of the United States Air Force. Cesar holds both a Bachelor of Science in Operations Management and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Southwestern College in Winfield, KS and currently holds a NERC RC Certification.



NPCC Fall 2025 Hybrid Compliance and Reliability Conference

The Gideon Putnam
Saratoga Springs, NY

Charles Dickerson – (President and CEO)

Charles Dickerson serves as President and CEO for NPCC. He is a recognized industry thought leader with 30 years of experience in the energy sector. Most recently, Mr. Dickerson served as President, Utility Division of SUEZ North America, where he led its regulated utilities across the United States. 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, Mr. Dickerson brings deep governance expertise as a past Board of Directors member for both the Seedling and RMEL organizations. Mr. Dickerson holds a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering and master's in applied management from the University of Maryland.

Jenifer Farrell – (Senior Vice President of Technical Services)

Jenifer Farrell serves as the Senior Vice President of Technical Services at NPCC and represents NPCC on the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Information Technology Security Group and Risk, Performance, and Monitoring Group. Prior to joining NPCC, Mrs. Farrell worked at Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. where she provided compliance oversight of the systems and related documentation that are subject to the Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards. Before her work at Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc., Mrs. Farrell worked as a Compliance Risk Analyst at the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). While at WECC she completed risk analysis of Registered Entity self-reports and self-certifications and performed compliance audits. Mrs. Farrell also spent 11 years with Zions Bancorporation where she spent time managing branch operations and performed software testing. Mrs. Farrell earned a Master of Science degree in Information Assurance with an emphasis in Cyber Security from Regis University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Systems and Technology from Weber State University. Mrs. Farrell is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA).

Matthew Forrest – (Senior RCR Analyst)

Matt Forrest is a Senior RCR Analyst with NPCC Registration, Certification, and Risk department. He has been with NPCC since September 2021.

Matt has a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering from Massachusetts Marine Academy. He has over thirty years of industry experience that includes nuclear generation, renewable generation, commissioning, operations, and regulatory compliance at companies such as NextEra Energy Seabrook Station, Firstwind, SunEdison, and Brookfield Power. At NextEra, Matt had twenty-two years of System

NPCC Fall 2025 Hybrid Compliance and Reliability Conference

The Gideon Putnam
Saratoga Springs, NY

QR Code for Slido.com



Operations experience at the 1300 MW Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. He held several Operator positions each with increasing duties and responsibilities, culminating as a Shift Manager and Training Oversight Committee Chair. He eventually transferred that operating experience to the renewables industry with FirstWind/SunEdison. During that time, the control center was certified within WECC as TO/TOP for the Milford Wind Corridor. Matt added regulatory compliance to his duties while with Brookfield Renewable. Matt has earned the following certificates and licenses: Coast Guard Third Assistant Engineer for Steam and Motor, NRC Senior Reactor Operator's License, and the NERC Balancing Interchange and Transmission Certificate.

Aaron Hornick – (Senior CIP Enforcement Analyst)

Aaron Hornick joined NPCC in May 2019 as a Senior Compliance Mitigation Analyst. He performs risk assessments on open enforcement actions. Prior to joining NPCC, Aaron spent the previous five years at NERC, working as a Senior Analyst as part of the NERC Enforcement team. At NERC, he provided risk analysis and data analysis of enforcement trends facing the Bulk Power System. Prior to NERC, he worked in private investigation as an Investigative Analyst and served in the United States Air Force (USAF) as an Airborne Signals Analyst, responsible for the collection and analysis of signals intelligence (SIGINT). Aaron holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Boston University and a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from UMUC. He also completed training programs in Information Systems Security at Villanova University as well as NERC training; the Foundations of Auditing, the Gathering Quality Evidence for Auditors, and Find, Fix, and Track for Auditors.

Jacqueline Jimenez – (Vice President, Compliance)

Jacqueline Jimenez is the Vice President of Compliance at NPCC. She oversees various aspects of the NPCC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) and Standards program, including entity registration and certification, inherent risk assessments, compliance oversight plans, compliance monitoring, entity outreach, standards and criteria.

Jacqueline has been in the utility industry since 2005. Before joining NPCC in April 2016, she spent seven years at the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) as a Senior Scheduling Engineer, where she coordinated transmission and generation facility outage requests through engineering studies and analysis. Prior to the NYISO, she worked at National Grid as a Distribution Field Engineer, focusing on the analysis and reporting of poorly performing feeders.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Union College and an Advanced Certificate in the Business of Energy from Clarkson University. Jacqueline has completed several NERC trainings, including Fundamentals of Auditing, Gathering Quality Evidence, Find, Fix and Track for Auditors,

NPCC Fall 2025 Hybrid Compliance and Reliability Conference

The Gideon Putnam
Saratoga Springs, NY

QR Code for Slido.com



Audit Team Leader, and Certification Team Leader. She is also a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Daniel Kidney – (Senior Compliance Engineer)

Daniel has worked in the utility industry since 2013. Before joining NPCC in August of 2014, he worked at Central Maine Power as a Transmission Planning Engineer specializing in system modeling and analysis, and load flow and interconnection studies. His previous roles at NPCC include Associate Engineer of Compliance Enforcement and Registration. Daniel holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Binghamton University. In addition, he has completed NERC Fundamentals of Auditing, Find, Fix and Track for Auditors, Evidence Gathering, Audit Team Lead, and Certification Team Lead training courses. He is also a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Tracy Kinsella-DeWees – (Senior RCR Analyst)

Tracy Kinsella-DeWees is a Senior RCR Analyst at the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC), a position she began in March 2023. She has over 17 years of experience in the electric industry, with a strong focus on risk management and operational readiness.

Before joining NPCC, Tracy served as Manager of Operations Services at the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), where she led a team that supported system operations. Her work emphasized proactive regulatory readiness programs. Tracy played a key role in creating and maintaining a procedures program designed to enhance operational performance and reduce risk. She also led the development and implementation of an incident review program aimed at minimizing the recurrence of unwanted incidents.

Tracy holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and a Master of Science in Industrial Organizational Psychology from St. Cloud State University. She is also a former NERC Reliability Coordinator (RC) Certified professional.

Tracy MacNicoll – (Senior RCR Analyst)

Tracy MacNicoll is a Senior Registration, Certification, and Risk Analyst. He has been with NPCC since March 2024.

Prior to joining NPCC, Tracy was the Director of Technical Services at Utility Services of Vermont where he was responsible for providing oversight and management of the technical CIP and O&P staff. The technical teams, led by Tracy, were responsible for working with Registered Entities across the ERO on the development, management, and demonstration of compliance programs. In his role, he was also an active

NPCC Fall 2025 Hybrid Compliance and Reliability Conference

The Gideon Putnam
Saratoga Springs, NY

QR Code for Slido.com



participant in the NERC Standard development and balloting process including serving as a member on multiple Standard Development Teams and several ERO committees and groups.

Tracy has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Vermont.

Michael Morrow – (Senior RCR Analyst)

Michael Morrow joined NPCC in April 2023 as part of the Registration, Certification, and Risk department. Michael has 17 years of industry experience including generation, commissioning, operations, and regulatory compliance at companies including MISO, ACES, and Pine Gate Renewables. Michael spent the bulk of his career at MISO supporting their Internal Compliance Program, developing their Internal Risk and Controls Program, and supporting NERC Audit and Certification activities. Most recently, he developed and managed the Operational Compliance department at Pine Gate Renewables focusing on commercial solar generation. Michael graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Electrical Engineering and received his M.B.A. from the University of Indianapolis.

Brian Robinson – (Manager, Registration, Certification and Risk)

Brian Robinson joined NPCC in October 2022 and has been providing direct support to Registered Entities throughout North America related to their ERO Responsibilities since 2011, holding various positions within Utility Services. Brian has participated on NERC and Regional Entity Task Forces and Committees such as the NPCC RSC, TFSS and CC, the NERC Operating Committee, Vice Chair FAC-008 SAR Development Team, and a member of the WECC Reliability Risk Committee Steering Committee. He has worked with Registered Entities in all phases of the ERO life cycle from initial compliance program development and registration through CMEP activities and Entity de-listing from the NERC Compliance Registry. Brian has participated in over 250 audits and hundreds of Self-Certifications, Spot Checks, Enforcement, and various other CMEP based activities. As the Chief Operating Officer of Utility Services, he provided managerial support and oversight for up to 14 employees and 6 subcontractors in all aspects of the ERO program and business management. He holds a B.S. in Biology from Union College, a B.S. in Cybersecurity from Champlain College, and a certificate in Project Management from Vermont Technical College.

Ruida Shu – (Manager, Reliability Standards and Criteria)

Ruida Shu is the Manager of Reliability Standards and Criteria at NPCC. He has worked in the utility industry since 2007. He served as Chair and managed all aspects of the Regional Standards Committee. He is the regional coordinator for all active NERC standards activities and manages and maintains all regional standards efforts in accordance with the NPCC Regional Standards Processes Manual. Ruida serves as a project liaison on the NERC Project Management and Oversight Subcommittee. He also served on the

NPCC Fall 2025 Hybrid Compliance and Reliability Conference

The Gideon Putnam
Saratoga Springs, NY



NERC Standard Drafting Team for “Project 2007-06.2 – Phase 2: System Protection Coordination” and has been an active member in various NERC standards initiatives.

Prior to joining NPCC, Ruida worked at Norwich Public Utilities, where he was the primary developer of the Electric Reliability Compliance Program for NPCC/NERC. He was involved in all aspects of daily electric operations and administered the Electric SCADA and Fiber Conversion Projects. He served as the technical advisor for the company’s infrastructure, which included hydroelectric facilities, a jet turbine generator, emergency generation for all company facilities, and electric substation controls/SCADA. Ruida also served as Project Manager for electric operations, dam repair, security and surveillance systems, roofing/building infrastructure, CNG and biodiesel station upgrades, electric vehicle charging stations, ISO-NE RIG, and various APPA projects. Additionally, he acted as the Safety Officer for the Engineering Department and developed various bid documents for electric operations.

Ruida Shu holds a bachelor’s degree in electrical and computer engineering and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in Management from the University of Connecticut.

Stephen Whaite – (Senior O&P Enforcement Analyst)

Stephen Whaite is a Senior O&P Enforcement Analyst at NPCC. He performs noncompliance risk assessments, reviews root causes and mitigation, and develops analysis and evidentiary records to support proposed disposition methods. Before joining NPCC, Stephen worked at ReliabilityFirst (RF) as a Technical Auditor, auditing entities for compliance with NERC O&P Reliability Standards. He also has experience as an electrical engineer with utilities such as Duquesne Light Company, Delmarva Power, and PHI Service Company, focusing on system protection, distribution planning, and distribution automation. Stephen holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in electrical engineering and is a registered Professional Engineer.