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GridWise™ Architecture Council elects new members and re-elects chairman

Houseman, Sanders, and Kerbel join re-elected members

RICHLAND, Wash. – The GridWise Architecture Council has elected three new members: Doug Houseman, Mark Kerbel and Heather Sanders. Several GWAC members were also re-elected, including Mark Knight as the chairman and the following as general members: Ron Ambrosio, a distinguished engineer and chief technology officer for IBM’s Smarter Energy Research; Thomas Sloan, Kansas state representative; and Kenneth Wacks, consultant sponsored by Sensus Metering Systems.

“It’s an honor to serve another year as GWAC chair, and I look forward to continuing the work we achieved last year to address the increasing diversity of resources and components in the electric power system though the broader socialization of transactive techniques,” Knight said.

Mark Knight is an executive consultant in CGI’s Utility Solutions practice and a graduate of Imperial College, London. He is an experienced consultant with deep experience of utility companies. He draws upon many years of experience to deliver business solutions that leverage the integration of people, business (processes, systems, data), and technology. Knight is also chair of the Institute of Asset Management’s SSG for Reliability Engineering and Root Cause Analysis. Knight has been a member of the GridWise Architecture Council since January 2012, chairman since January 2013 and is also a senior member of IEEE.

Doug Houseman has extensive experience in the energy and utility industry and has been involved in projects in more than 30 countries. Doug is a leader in grid modernization thinking, he was asked to author significant portions of the IEEE’s GridVision 2050 and to revise CEATI’s Distribution Utility Technology Roadmap. Doug is a member of the GridWise Architecture Council (GWAC) where he had a hand in both the Smart Grid Interoperability Maturity Model and Transactive Energy.

Heather Sanders is the director of regulatory affairs at the California Independent System Operator in Folsom, Calif. Her focus is on advancing policy that enables the incorporation of distributed energy resources that include distributed generation, demand response, energy storage, electric vehicles, and microgrids. Formerly, she was the director of smart grid technologies and strategy, responsible for demonstration, research and promotion of smart grid and other technologies supporting ISO reliability, market efficiency, and transmission utilization objectives. She also leads an internal ISO corporate initiative titled “Grid Evolution Readiness” that studies the impact of renewable integration, evolving operational needs and resource requirements, smart grid technology integration and pilots, and renewable forecasting.

Sanders has worked in the wholesale side of electricity for over 15 years in consulting and software. She holds a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Utah.

Mark Kerbel co-founded REGEN Energy Inc. in 2005 and serves as its executive vice president of business development. Kerbel served as president of REGEN Energy Inc. Prior to forming REGEN, he served as a founding partner of the SPI Group, one of Canada’s leading software solutions providers for the retail energy sector. Kerbel is a member of the OpenADR alliance. He has chaired and/or been invited to
participate on a number of committees in the energy sector including the Electronic Business Transaction Standards Working Group of the Ontario Energy Board, the Technology Joint Sector Committee of the Ontario Energy Association, the Smart Meter Initiative of the Ontario Energy Board and the Regulated Price Plan Initiative of the Ontario Energy Board. He has been chairman of the board of REGEN Energy Inc. since March 22, 2012. Kerbel obtained his bachelor’s degree in computer science from the University of Waterloo.

About the GridWise Architecture Council
The GridWise Architecture Council was convened in 2004 by the Department of Energy with support from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. As a volunteer council, the GWAC includes practitioners and leaders with broad-based knowledge and expertise in power, information technology, telecommunications, financial systems and other fields who are working together toward a coordinated GridWise vision—the transformation of the nation's energy system into a rich, collaborative network filled with decision-making information exchange and market-based opportunities.

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