

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The Grid Infrastructure Advisory Council (GIAC) consists of over two dozen leaders from the private and public sectors, drawn from all parts of the country and representing the electric utility industry, environmental groups, vendors, labor unions and other key stakeholders. The Council members will provide invaluable advice and assistance as GridWise Alliance seeks to define the need for investments in expansion and modernization of the transmission and distribution networks and in related initiatives to guard against future contingencies, revitalize the economy, create jobs and combat global warming.

HIGH LEVEL MESSAGING

- Any infrastructure package must include at least \$50 billion for modernizing the grid to support reliability, resilience, beneficial electrification, security and equitable access to affordable electricity.
- Grid modernization is essential if we are to achieve the Biden Administration's goals of a decarbonized power sector, ambitious clean energy targets, and accelerated deployment of electric vehicles.
- The 21st Century electric grid will be increasingly digital, connected and decentralized, making cybersecurity an essential part of grid modernization; therefore, the infrastructure package must also include investments to significantly improve the cybersecurity of the grid.
- The grid investments supported by the Grid Infrastructure Advisory Council will create good-paying jobs and have a strong multiplier affect across the economy.

PARTICIPANTS

- **Keith Alexander**, Chairman of the Board, Founder and Co-CEO, IronNet
- **Anthony Allard**, Executive Vice President, Country Managing Director, USA Hitachi
- **Lisa Barton**, Executive Vice President and COO, American Electric Power (AEP)
- **Calvin Butler**, Senior EVP of Exelon; CEO of Exelon Utilities
- **Patrick Byrne**, CEO, GE Digital
- **Tim Cawley**, President & CEO, Con Edison
- **Tom Deitrich**, CEO, Itron
- **John Di Stasio**, President, Large Public Power Council
- **Joy Ditto**, President, American Public Power Association (APPA)
- **Tom Dunn**, CEO, VELCO
- **Julia Hamm**, President & CEO, Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA)
- **John Hewa**, CEO, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
- **Colette Honorable**, Partner, Reed Smith LLP
- **Barbara Humpton**, President and CEO, Siemens
- **Brad Keywell**, Founder and CEO, Uptake
- **Lee Krevat**, CEO, Krevat Energy Solutions
- **Robert Lee**, CEO, Dragos
- **Werner Lieberherr**, CEO, Landis+Gyr
- **Arshad Mansoor**, President and CEO, EPRI
- **Jim Matheson**, CEO, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, (NRECA)
- **Yvonne McIntyre**, Director, Federal Electricity & Utility Policy, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- **Rose McKinney-James**, Managing Principal, McKinney-James Associates
- **Kenny Mercado**, EVP of Electric Utility, CenterPoint Energy



GRID INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL (GIAC) OVERVIEW

- **Phil Moeller**, Executive Vice President, Edison Electric Institute (EEI)
- **Drew Murphy**, Senior Vice President, Strategy and Corporate Development, Edison International
- **Morgan O'Brien**, CEO, Anterix
- **Maria Pope**, President and CEO, Portland General Electric (PGE)
- **Gil C. Quiniones**, President and Chief Executive Officer, New York Power Authority (NYPA)
- **Jackie Sargent**, General Manager, Austin Energy
- **Kevin Self**, SVP Strategy, Business Development & Gov't Relations, Schneider Electric
- **Tom Siebel**, CEO, C3 ai
- **James Slevin**, President, Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA)
- **Lonnie Stephenson**, President, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
- **Mahesh Sudhakaran**, GM, Global Energy, Environment and Utilities Industry, IBM
- **Sue Tierney**, Former Assistant Secretary Policy, U.S. Department of Energy; Senior Advisor, Analysis Group
- **Bert Van Hoof**, Partner, Microsoft
- **Clint Vince**, Partner, **Dentons** & Counsel of GIAC
- **Karen Wayland**, CEO, GridWise Alliance
- **Joshua Wong**, CEO, Opus One Solutions
- **Elizabeth Yeampierre**, Steering Committee Co-Chair, Climate Justice Alliance
- **Audrey Zibelman**, Vice President, Electric Grid Moonshot, X, Alphabet's moonshot factory

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DOWNLOAD INFORMATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- Grid Investments Policy Framework Landing Page: <https://gridwise.org/our-tools/#gridinvestments>
- GIAC Announcement Link: <https://gridwise.org/giacannouncement/>
- Continue the conversation online:
 - Twitter –
 - GridWise Alliance: [@gridwisedc](https://twitter.com/gridwisedc)
 - GridWise CEO, Karen Wayland: [@karenwayland](https://twitter.com/karenwayland)
 - GridWise Chair, Gil Quiniones: [@GQenergy](https://twitter.com/GQenergy)
 - GridWise Vice-Chair, Lisa Barton: [Lisa Barton @AEP](https://twitter.com/LisaBartonAEP)
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 - GridWise Alliance: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/gridwise-alliance/>
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TEXT FROM INVITATION TO PARTICIPANTS (FOR PURPOSE AND CONTEXT)

The recent winter storm and Arctic blasts that ravaged the Texas power supply system carried a stark warning to all of us that the nation's electric power grid is unprepared for severe and unexpected weather events.

The disaster struck at a time when the grid was already facing an unprecedented array of challenges arising from the confluence of the Covid-19 pandemic, the resulting economic crisis, growing cyber threats to the system and the relentless reality of climate change. And while certain factors were unique to Texas, the multi-faceted vulnerabilities and needs of the power system nationwide became more apparent than ever.

It is against this backdrop that the GridWise Alliance's formed the new Grid Infrastructure Advisory Council, which will provide invaluable advice and assistance as we seek to define the need for investments in expansion and modernization of the transmission and distribution networks and in related initiatives to guard against future contingencies, revitalize the economy, create jobs and combat global warming. The Advisory Council will consist of about a dozen leaders from the private and public sectors, drawn from all parts of the country and representing the electric utility industry, environmental groups, vendors, labor unions and other key stakeholders. While our plans to establish the Council were already underway before the recent crisis, they have only taken on new urgency in the period since.

The Alliance's call for a [\\$50 billion federal commitment](#) is a cornerstone of our Grid Investments for Economic Recovery initiative, launched earlier this year. Although there is much that state and local governments and other entities can accomplish, we believe that a significant federal financial role is essential if the electricity sector is to fulfill its potential as a major contributor in driving post-COVID 19 recovery and fighting climate change, while simultaneously strengthening the power transmission and distribution systems.

We were greatly encouraged by President Biden's Executive Order of January 27, in which he expressly called for the federal government, under its siting and permitting processes, "to accelerate the deployment of clean energy and transmission projects in an environmentally stable manner." Moreover, in addition to other pertinent provisions, the order directs that federal funding be used to promote "innovation, commercialization, and deployment of clean energy technologies and infrastructure." Statements to influential news outlets by senior administration officials in late February clearly built on the Executive Order's intent. In an interview with The Washington Post, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said, "I fully expect there will be a significant commitment to investing in the national grid, both expanding the lines for transmission as well as investing in the resiliency of the grid." She added that "both of these need to happen" to accommodate increased reliance on electric vehicles and clean energy sources while also creating jobs. In the same vein, Gina McCarthy, the President's National Climate Advisor, told the Associated Press that the recent storm was "a wake-up call" and that "we need systems of energy that are reliable and resilient as well."

The Executive Order and the subsequent comments provide ample justification for our funding priorities (as detailed in the link included previously) and for an all-out effort to ensure that they are reflected in legislation dealing with economic recovery, infrastructure and other relevant areas. GridWise Alliance can point to an impressive record of helping to win approval for federal investment in the grid. In 2007, for example, we led an industry coalition that worked successfully to obtain authorization for \$100 million in Smart Grid Investments grants as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act. Two years later, our continuing efforts led to the appropriation of nearly \$5 billion for this program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Today's requirements and opportunities are still greater. The grid has evolved significantly over the past decade and sophisticated new technologies have become available, resulting in new priorities for modernization investments. And the vital role of upgrades and expansion in building resilience, securing the grid against malicious attacks and realizing the full potential of solar and wind power—and of electric transportation-- in meeting the climate threat has grown dramatically. All of which has heightened the need for a vastly increased federal investment in our power delivery system.