Training on Distribution System Planning and Resilience Planning
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Speaker Bios

Dr. Juan Pablo Carvallo is a Research Scientist in the Energy Markets and Policy Department at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab). His research focuses on long-term power system planning, integration and planning of distributed energy resources (DERs) and electric vehicles, and reliability and resilience valuation. JP holds Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Energy and Resources from the University of California, Berkeley, as well as P.E. and B.S. degrees in Electronics Engineering from Universidad Técnica Federico Santa Maria (Chile).

Cody Davis is Senior Manager, Distribution & Grid Modernization, at Electric Power Engineers. A power systems engineer, he focuses on distribution system planning and integration of DERs on the distribution system. He works with a wide variety of utilities and stakeholders on complex regulatory issues and has authored reports and testimony filed in several states on smart inverter impacts and modernization of distribution planning and operations. Previously, he served as an engineer at Ameren Illinois in the DER Integration & Strategies and Regional Engineering departments.

Robert Del Mar is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Oregon Department of Energy focused on distributed renewable energy and resilience projects. Previously, Rob was a senior project manager for residential solar programs at the Energy Trust of Oregon and a design engineer for a renewable energy engineering firm. He has a B.S. in Architectural Engineering from Drexel University.

David Erne is Deputy Director, Resource Planning, Reliability and Emergency Response, in the California Energy Commission's Energy Assessments Division. He leads teams that evaluate electricity, natural gas, and petroleum supplies in California, as well as energy reliability and support emergency response. Prior to his work in the Assessments Division, David led grid-connected R&D in the Commission's Energy Research and Development Division. He managed a portfolio of research initiatives to improve electric system reliability and resilience for customers. David also has over 20 years of experience in management consulting, leading innovative programs to develop and implement sustainability-related strategies and initiatives in energy, environment, and transportation.

Natalie Mims Frick is a Deputy Department Leader and Energy Policy Researcher in the Energy Markets and Policy Department at Berkeley Lab. She conducts and manages research and technical assistance for states on energy efficiency and DER policies, regulations, and programs. Among the projects she is leading are a new, multi-lab initiative to advance equity in grid planning, guidance on distributional equity analysis, and technical assistance on virtual power plants. Before joining the lab, Natalie was a consultant on demand-side management regulatory proceedings across the country. She also served as an Energy Efficiency Director at the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and a Senior Consultant at Rocky Mountain Institute. Natalie holds a B.A. in English and Political Science from Pennsylvania State University and an M.S. in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School.

Dr. Julieta Giraldez is a Principal of Customer Solutions at Kevala, where she contributes to solving the challenges facing energy market participants interacting with the evolving electricity grid. Previously, she worked for a decade at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), where she led smart grid and grid integration projects addressing emerging technologies such as PV, energy storage, and microgrids in distribution systems. She holds a Bachelor degree from the Polytechnic University of Madrid (Spain) in Technical Mining Engineering, a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Colorado School of Mines, and a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering from Colorado State University.

Dr. Nichole Hanus is a Research Scientist in the Energy Markets and Policy Department at Berkeley Lab. She conducts research aimed at improving electricity grid resiliency and reliability, energy equity, and data center energy efficiency. Before joining the Lab, she was an energy engineer at Sieben Energy Associates, performing energy efficiency assessments of large commercial and industrial buildings. She also worked at the consulting firm E3, where she applied studied the implications of electrification and consumer adoption of DERs. Nichole holds Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University and a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Dayton.

John Parks is the Electricity Markets and Transmission Policy Analyst at the Colorado Energy Office. He works on a portfolio of projects, including developing a suite of electrical grid resiliency grant programs and a microgrid roadmap for the state, all funded under section 40101(d) of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. John also forms coalitions to apply for additional federal grant funding to support the energy transition in Colorado and the West. John completed a Masters in Political Science at Colorado State University, where his research focused on the changing generation portfolios of the state's retail utilities. John had previous careers in International Baccalaureate program coordination and secondary education.

Dr. Sara Peterson is an energy resilience researcher at NREL, focusing on better understanding and improving human outcomes during power outages and other emergency events. She holds a B.A. in geography from Dartmouth College and M.S.-GIS and Ph.D. degrees from the University at Buffalo. Sara's doctoral dissertation drew from multiple studies conducted in Puerto Rico to develop a framework to quantify and compare disparate household-level impacts of power outages and infrastructure disruptions. Her research interests include community-based engagement, social equity, and systems thinking and modeling.

Ronny Sandoval is a Principal at the Regulatory Assistance Project. He works with regulators and stakeholders to develop strategies and best practices to increase efficiency of electricity systems and maximize opportunities for a sustainable energy transition. His experience in the electric utility sector includes distribution engineering, DERs, grid modernization, and customer engagement. Before joining RAP, Ronny was business strategy manager at Accenture, regulatory director at Vote Solar, president at ROS Energy Strategies, and senior director of grid modernization at Environmental Defense Fund. He also worked at Con Edison for nine years as an engineer and senior specialist, performing technical studies, developing long-range system plans, and expanding the role of DERs. Ronny holds a B.S. in Mathematics from New York University, a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, and an M.B.A. from New York University Stern School of Business.

Josh Schellenberg is a Berkeley Lab Affiliate with more than 15 years of experience in the electric utility industry. He supports development of rigorous plans and analyses that provide clear insight into investment options and enable sound decision-making. His expertise includes benefit-cost analyses for utility resilience plans and major transmission investments designed to mitigate the risks of climate change, natural disasters, physical security, and other threats. He also has expertise in the value of reliability, including development of Berkeley Lab's Interruption Cost Estimate (ICE) Calculator, which has informed over $50B of grid modernization investments. In addition, he has conducted studies of more than 20 DER pilots and programs, including traditional demand response, dynamic pricing, electric vehicles, energy storage, and Independent System Operator market integration. Josh holds an M.B.A. from The Wharton School and an M.A. in International and Development Economics from the University of San Francisco.

Lisa Schwartz is a senior Energy Policy Researcher in Berkeley Lab's Energy Markets and Policy Department. She directs work spanning integrated distribution system planning, utility regulation, and state energy policy. In 2018, she received the Mary Kilmarx award from the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. The award recognizes "individuals who have gone above and beyond in the name of good governance, clean energy, and the environment." Before joining the lab, she was Director of the Oregon Department of Energy, where earlier in her career she was a Senior Policy Analyst. At the Oregon Public Utility Commission, she led staff work on resource planning, resource procurement, distributed and renewable energy resources, and climate. She also served as a Senior Associate at the Regulatory Assistance Project and Assistant Administrator of Oregon State University's Extension Energy Program.

Dr. Samir Succar is a Senior Director in ICF's utility consulting practice. His work focuses on distribution system planning, grid modernization strategy, and DER integration. He works with clients to evaluate the impacts of DERs and implications for utility business models and system planning processes. His work also includes distribution system operations and aspects of DER aggregation, optimization, and orchestration. Samir's work with the U.S. Department of Energy includes participating in the NARUC-NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning, the Transmission-Distribution-Customer Operational Coordination initiative, the NARUC Utility Data Sharing Collaborative, integrated distribution planning studies, and state technical assistance. He has a B.A. in Physics from Oberlin College and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Princeton University.

Stephen Torres is a Principal Manager leading Climate Adaptation planning efforts at Southern California Edison (SCE). Previously, Stephen managed the Analytics function within Resource and Environmental Planning & Strategy, supporting the development of SCE's Pathway 2045 to meet California's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals. Prior to SCE, Stephen led project development efforts for solar manufacturers and independent power producers. He also served as Vice President of Magnetek's Alternative Energy division, developing innovative power conversion solutions for the solar and wind industries. Stephen is experienced in energy markets, GHG scenario development, climate adaptation, resource planning, renewable energy, and electrification. He received a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Washington and an M.B.A. from the Anderson School of Management at UCLA. He also is a Certified Energy Manager.

Dr. Tom Wall is the Director of Argonne National Laboratory's Center for Climate Resilience and Decision Science. The Center combines Argonne's deep capabilities in climate science and modeling, advanced computing, infrastructure risk analysis, and decision science to translate climate science and model data into actionable information for decision-makers. This information drives proactive resilience planning and investment for industry partners, the engineering and planning sectors, state and local governments, and local communities. Tom also has extensive experience in critical infrastructure analysis and protection and leads infrastructure-focused projects for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, and state and local governments. Tom has an Honors B.S. in Civil Engineering from Oregon State University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech.