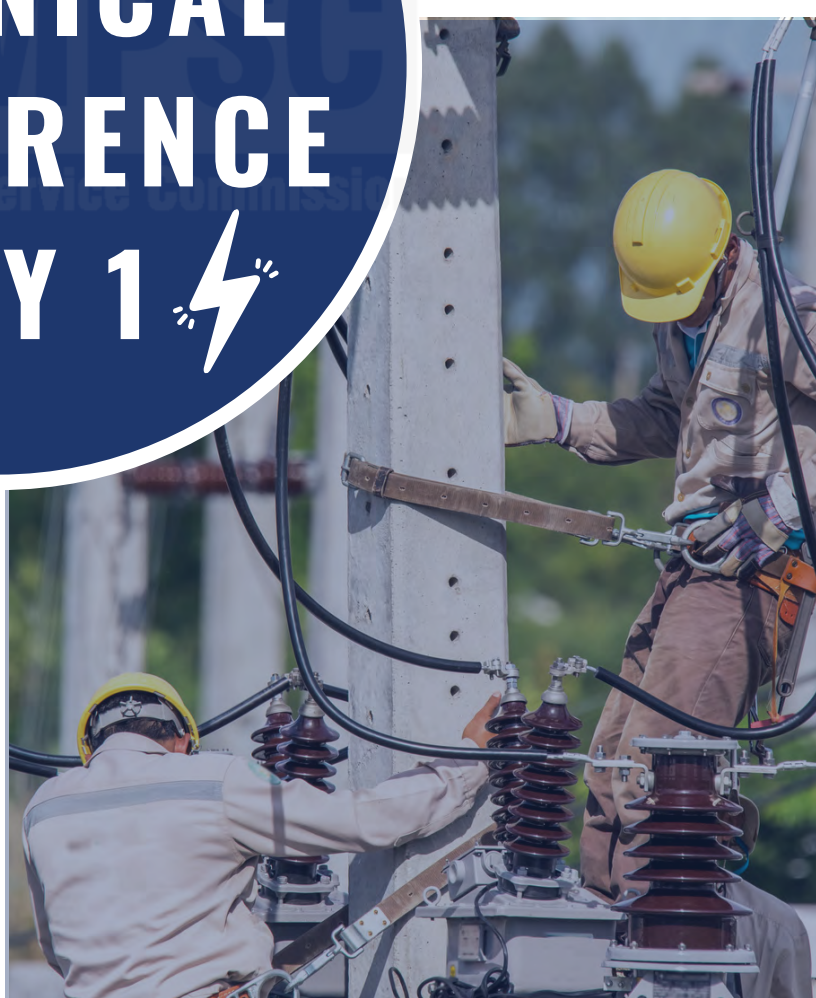




**MPSC  
TECHNICAL  
CONFERENCE  
DAY 1**



**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, DISTRIBUTION  
RELIABILITY, AND STORM RESPONSE**



# MPSC Technical Conference on Emergency Preparedness, Distribution Reliability, and Storm Response

Friday, October 22, 2021  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

[Event Page](#)  
[View the Conference](#)

## SESSION ONE

- 9:00 am Welcome - Opening Remarks  
*Katherine Peretick, MPSC Commissioner*
- 9:05 am Power Outage Data in Michigan  
*Nick Evans, MPSC Staff*
- 9:15 am Michigan's Reliability Compared to Other States  
*Taylor Becker, MPSC Staff*
- 9:25 am The Future of Electric Reliability and Resiliency  
*Alison Silverstein, Alison Silverstein Consulting*
- 10:05 am Break

## SESSION TWO

- 10:10 am Panel Discussion: Current Status and Existing Plans of Michigan Utilities  
*Moderator: Pat Poli, MPSC Staff*  
*Panelists*  
*Ryan Stowe, DTE*  
*Rick Blumenstock, Consumers Energy Group*  
*Dave Isaacson, Indiana Michigan Power*  
*Michelle Glynn, UMERC*
- 11:25 am Break

## SESSION THREE

- 11:30 am The Attorney General's Perspective  
*Mike Moody, Assistant Attorney General*
- 11:35 am Community-Based Data and Perspectives  
*Amy Bandyk, Citizens Utility Board of Michigan*
- 11:50 am Panel Discussion: Customer and Community-Based Experiences  
*Moderator: Alex Morese, MPSC Staff*  
*Panelists*  
*Vicki Barnett, Mayor of Farmington Hills*  
*Fred Lewis, Plainfield Township Supervisor*  
*Sherri Vainavicz, 211*  
*Lt. Jeffery Yonker, Michigan State Police*
- 12:55 pm Next Steps and Closing Remarks  
*Tremaine Phillips, MPSC Commissioner*



# Session 1

# Grounding in Data: Where Are We Working From

Friday, October 22, 2021  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

[Event Page](#)  
[View the Conference](#)



# SESSION 1

## Grounding in Data: Where Are We Working From

9:00 AM

### Welcome - Opening Remarks



[PeretickK@michigan.gov](mailto:PeretickK@michigan.gov)

#### **KATHERINE PERETICK**

*MPSC Commissioner / Michigan Public Service Commission*

Katherine L Peretick was appointed to the Michigan Public Service Commission by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on January 4, 2021, and reappointed on July 3, 2021. Her term ends July 2, 2027.

Ms. Peretick is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and serves on NARUC's Committee on Electricity, and Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues-Waste Disposal.

Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Peretick worked in the public and private sectors with a focus on energy storage and technology development. She served as Director of Engineering at NRStor Inc., an international energy storage project developer, where she was recognized by the Energy News Network as a national leader and innovator in the energy transition on the "40 under 40" award list. Her past experience also includes leading project engineering for long-duration energy storage technology company General Compression.

9:05 AM

### Power Outage Data in Michigan



[EvansN@michigan.gov](mailto:EvansN@michigan.gov)

#### **NICHOLAS EVANS**

*Manager, Electric Operations Section / Michigan Public Service Commission*

Nicholas has worked for the Michigan Public Service Commission for over ten years in a variety of sections. He was an engineer in the Energy Efficiency Section, the Smart Grid Section, the Generation and Certificate of Need Section, and the Electric Operations Section. In April 2020, he became manager of the Electric Operations Section. Prior to joining the Commission Staff, he worked as an engineer in the Michigan Energy Office. Nicholas has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Kettering University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Western Michigan University.

# SESSION 1

## Grounding in Data: Where Are We Working From

9:15 AM

### *Michigan's Reliability Compared to Other States*



[BeckerT4@michigan.gov](mailto:BeckerT4@michigan.gov)

#### **TAYLER BECKER**

*Specialist, Electric Operations Section / Michigan Public Service Commission*

Tayler is an engineering specialist in the Electric Operations Section of the MPSC where he serves as an expert regarding electric distribution matters. He has worked for the Commission for over 9 years and has held previous engineer positions in the Commission's Smart Grid Section and Gas Operations Section. He led the electric sector response for the Commission's Statewide Energy Assessment in 2019 and co-led the Commission's workgroup efforts to update the Technical Standards for Electric Service under MI Power Grid. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Technology from Lawrence Technological University in 2012.

9:25 AM

### *The Future of Electric Reliability and Resiliency*



[alisonsilverstein@mac.com](mailto:alisonsilverstein@mac.com)

#### **ALISON SILVERSTEIN**

*Independent Consultant / Alison Silverstein Consulting*

Alison Silverstein is a consultant, strategist and researcher on electric system reliability, resilience, market design, transmission, energy efficiency and technology adoption issues. Her work on major federal electricity efforts includes the U.S. DOE's Staff Report on Electric Markets and Reliability, three national transmission congestion studies, the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative framework, and the industry-wide advancement of synchrophasor technology. Silverstein has advised states, utilities, ISOs, and non-governmental entities since 2004.

Silverstein worked as a senior advisor to Chairman Pat Wood, III, at FERC from 2001 through 2004, co-chairing the 2003 U.S.-Canada blackout investigation, at the Public Utility Commission of Texas and PG&E.

10:05 AM

*Break*



# Session 2

# Utility Report: Current Status and Existing Plans

Friday, October 22, 2021  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

[Event Page](#)  
[View the Conference](#)



# SESSION 2

## Utility Report: Current Status and Existing Plans

10:10 AM

### Panel Discussion: Current Status and Existing Plans of Michigan Utilities



[ryan.stowe@dteenergy.com](mailto:ryan.stowe@dteenergy.com)

#### **RYAN STOWE**

*Vice President, Distribution Operations / DTE Energy*

Ryan Stowe is the vice president of Distribution Operations for DTE Energy. Stowe oversees operations of the company's electrical system and is leading efforts on outage restoration, grid operation, and connecting new customers to the grid.

Stowe has worked in a variety of leadership positions at DTE, most recently serving as the executive director of Distribution Operations. He has also held leadership roles in substations, fleet and facilities, and service center operations.

Stowe holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from Michigan Technological University, and an MBA from the University of Michigan.

He currently volunteers his time with the Plymouth United Way and at Father Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor, Mich.



[Richard.Blumenstock@cmsenergy.com](mailto:Richard.Blumenstock@cmsenergy.com)

#### **RICK BLUMENSTOCK**

*Executive Director, Electric Planning / Consumers Energy*

Rick Blumenstock is the Executive Director of Electric Planning at Consumers Energy. In this role, he has responsibility for all electric planning aspects across the high-voltage network, low-voltage network, generation fleet, system protection, and integrated resource plans. Rick has been with the company 28 years, all in various engineering roles in planning, operations, fuel supply, and MISO market interaction. He serves as the primary witness for electric distribution investment in the Company's Electric Rate Cases and as the policy witness in the Company's Integrated Resource Plan filings.



# SESSION 2

## Utility Report: Current Status and Existing Plans

10:10 AM

### *Panel Discussion: Current Status and Existing Plans of Michigan Utilities*



[dsisaacson@aep.com](mailto:dsisaacson@aep.com)

#### **DAVE ISAACSON**

*Vice President, Distribution Region Operations / Indiana Michigan Power*

Dave Isaacson is Vice President – Distribution Region Operations for Indiana Michigan Power (I&M), an operating company of American Electric Power (AEP). I&M, headquartered in Fort Wayne, Indiana and serves customers in southwest Michigan and northern Indiana.

As Vice President, he is responsible for overseeing and directing the design, construction, maintenance and emergency restoration of I&M's Distribution system to provide safe and reliable power to customers. Isaacson began his career with Indiana Michigan Power in 1986 and has held a variety of leadership positions including forestry supervisor, district manager and director of projects/risk management.

He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Management from Michigan State University and a Master of Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University.



[ryan.stowe@dteenergy.com](mailto:ryan.stowe@dteenergy.com)

#### **MICHELLE GLYNN**

*Director, System Operations / Upper Michigan Energy Resources*

Michelle is responsible for operating the electric and natural gas distribution systems throughout the company's service area in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.). In addition, she is responsible for gas control, electric system operations and the outage management system, which includes the process for the safe dispatch of natural gas emergencies, and the safe dispatch and restoration of outages and hazards day-to-day and during storms throughout Wisconsin and the U.P.

11:25 AM

*Break*





# Session 3

# Customer and Community Impact: How the Current System Works for our Communities

Friday, October 22, 2021  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

[Event Page](#)  
[View the Conference](#)



# SESSION 3

## Customer and Community Impact: How The Current System Works For Our Communities

11:30 AM

### *The Attorney General's Perspective*



[moodym2@michigan.gov](mailto:moodym2@michigan.gov)

#### **MICHAEL MOODY**

*Assistant Attorney General / State of Michigan*

Michael Moody is the Division Chief of the Special Litigation Division that handles the Attorney General's utility consumer advocacy. He has been with the Department of the Attorney General for 26 years and has worked in the Special Litigation Division for more than 20 of those years. He completed his undergraduate degree at Michigan State University and his law degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

11:35 AM

### *Community-Based Data and Perspectives*



[amy.bandyk@cubofmichigan.org](mailto:amy.bandyk@cubofmichigan.org)

#### **AMY BANDYK**

*Executive Director / Citizens Utility Board of Michigan*

Amy Bandyk is the Executive Director of the Citizens Utility Board of Michigan. She helped form CUB in 2018 and advocates for affordable, reliable and clean energy for all Michiganders.

Bandyk grew up in Michigan and moved to Washington, D.C. after graduating from Michigan State University. She worked for a communications agency on many different issues affecting consumers and then a telecommunications trade association as the director of advocacy communications. She earned her M.A. in communication from Johns Hopkins University and then became the executive director of an animal rescue non-profit organization.

After more than a decade in D.C., Bandyk moved home to Michigan in 2016. Prior to joining CUB, she was a consultant to an organization advocating for residential utility ratepayers in the U.P. She and her family live in Royal Oak.



# SESSION 3

## Customer and Community Impact: How The Current System Works For Our Communities

11:50 AM

### Panel Discussion: Customer and Community-Based Experiences



[vbarnett@fhgov.com](mailto:vbarnett@fhgov.com)

#### VICKI BARNETT

*Mayor / Farmington Hills, Michigan*

Vicki Barnett was first elected to City Council in 1995, and was elected Mayor in 2003, 2005, and 2019. Vicki was State Representative from 2009 to 2014. Her accomplishments include creating model after-school programs; championing sustainable natural landscaping and a Gold LEED Certified City Hall; and assisting County officials in building a countywide public safety communications network.

Vicki received her MBA from U of M (Dearborn), was President of the Michigan Municipal League, Board Member of the National League of Cities, Vice Chair of the National Task Force on Interoperability (for Homeland Security), and is involved in many community organizations.



[supervisor@plainfieldtwpmi.com](mailto:supervisor@plainfieldtwpmi.com)

#### FRED LEWIS

*Supervisor / Plainfield Township*

Fred Lewis has served as Township Supervisor of Plainfield Township since 2008 and resides in Hale, Michigan. He has a Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University. He worked as a Project Manager and Contract Administrator for American Electric Power Service for a decade, and has also worked as a teacher and is a local business owner. In his role as supervisor, he is the point of contact for any township or business complaint, operates the annual budget, supervises the public service divisions, and chairs all Township Board meetings.

Fred and his wife moved back to Hale in 1991 to pursue their shared dream of owning a restaurant. Two children and 30 years later, they still own the restaurant and reside in their community of Hale.





# SESSION 3

## Customer and Community Impact: How The Current System Works For Our Communities

11:50 AM

### *Panel Discussion: Customer and Community-Based Experiences*



[svainavicz@hwmuw.org](mailto:svainavicz@hwmuw.org)

#### **SHERRI VAINAVICZ**

*Director of Program and Services / Heart of West Michigan United Way*

Sherri Vainavicz is the Director of Programs and Services for Heart of West Michigan United Way and an At-Large Member of the Board of Directors for Michigan 2-1-1. She has been with United Way for 27 years, all of those years in the 211 department. She is the Director of Programs & Services which includes 211 and the Vita Program and serves on the board of the National Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) Board and the Mi211 Board. Sherri is also involved in national committees around national disaster planning, and has assisted nationally and locally in responding to hurricanes, wildfires, floods, extreme weather, and any other disaster that effects our communities.



[YonkerJ@michigan.gov](mailto:YonkerJ@michigan.gov)

#### **LT. JEFFERY YONKER**

*First District Coordinator/ Michigan State Police*

Lt. Jeff Yonker is serving in his 23rd year with the Michigan State Police. He began his career as a trooper assigned to the Grand Haven post and later served within the Criminal Investigation Division and Training Academy. Lt. Yonker is currently serving as one of eight district coordinators assigned to the Michigan State Police Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division. A significant portion of his duties involves work with local emergency management programs and functioning as a liaison between MSP-EMHSD and local emergency management personnel, helping to ensure their needs are met during various events.

12:55 PM

### *Next Steps and Closing Remarks*



[PhillipsT8@michigan.gov](mailto:PhillipsT8@michigan.gov)

#### **TREMAINE PHILLIPS**

*Commissioner/ Michigan Public Service Commission*

Tremain L. Phillips was appointed to the Michigan Public Service Commission on September 9, 2019. In addition to his work on the Commission and on NARUC Committees on Consumers and the Public Interest, Telecommunications, and Critical Infrastructure, Tremain serves on the Michigan Poverty Task Force, the Michigan Council on Future Mobility, and the Connecting Michigan Task Force.

Previously, he worked at the Cincinnati 2030 District, Strategic Initiatives for EmpowerSaves, the Prima Civitas Foundation, the State of Michigan's Department of Energy, Labor, & Economic Growth, and the Michigan Environmental Council. He was also an intern with the White House Council on Environmental Quality, working on climate and clean energy policies.