

SPP RE Trustees

Dave Christiano

Elected Trustee, 2007

Chairman, 2016

Dave has a long history in the electricity industry, beginning his career as a Transmission Planning Engineer with Consolidated Edison Company of New York in 1971. In this role, Dave worked extensively on analysis of the 1977 New York City Blackout. He moved to Missouri in 1978 and held several positions with City Utilities of Springfield, including Manager of Electric Systems Control and Director of System Planning for Electric, Gas, and Water Systems. During his tenure with City Utilities, Dave was responsible for forecasting; resource, transmission and inter-utility planning; and managing the electric system control center.



Dave earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Clarkson College in New York and was a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Missouri. He served on many NERC committees including the Engineering Committee, Operating Committee, and Standards & Measurement Task Force. Dave has authored numerous technical papers in the electrical and water industries, and he served as Chairman of the American Public Power Association System Planning Committee and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Ozark Chapter, Missouri Society of Professional Engineers. Dave has a keen interest in the causes, recovery, and prevention of electric system blackouts and has spoken on this topic at numerous venues.

Mark Maher

Elected Trustee, 2016

Mark became Chief Executive Officer of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) in 2011, holding that position until his retirement in 2014. In this capacity, he was responsible for providing leadership and strategic direction of WECC's activities supporting bulk electric system reliability in the Western Interconnection. Mark was also a member of the WECC Board of Directors.

Before joining WECC as Chief Operating Officer in 2006, Mark was Vice President of Transmission Services at PacifiCorp. He was primarily responsible for the integrity of the company's transmission system, accountable for strategic and operational planning, development of transmission policy and planning, and ensuring compliance with FERC obligations and standards. In addition, he was PacifiCorp's lead on the Grid West effort.



Mark was a Senior Vice President at the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and responsible for managing all aspects of the transmission business and the agency's Regional Transmission Organization effort. Previously, he was responsible for managing and optimizing BPA's generation supply. Mark's experience also includes work with the

National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Mark graduated from the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, with a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Civil Engineering.

Steve Whitley

Elected Trustee, 2016

Steve served as President and CEO of the New York Independent System Operator between 2008 and 2015; as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of ISO New England between 2000 and 2008; and at the Tennessee Valley Authority in various leadership capacities including Vice President of Transmission and General Manager of Electric System Operations from 1970-2000. Steve is a retired Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve where he served for 30 years, including in Operation Desert Storm. He served as Commander of the 3397th Garrison Support Unit from 1997-2000.



Steve has served in many leadership capacities in the electric industry including Chairman of the Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative Executive Committee, Board Member of the Eastern Interconnection Data Sharing Network, member of the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) Board of Directors, member of the NERC Members Advisory Committee, member of the NERC and SERC Operating Committees, and the NPCC Task Force for Coordinated Operation. He also served as a representative to the U.S. Cigre (Council on Large Electric Systems) Committee and the EPRI (Electric Power Research Institute) Power Delivery Executive Committee.

Steve earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University prior to beginning his military career and his electricity industry career at the TVA.

Ron Ciesiel

SPP RE General Manager

Ron has served as the SPP RE General Manager since 2012. In this capacity Ron leads a group of engineers, compliance specialists, attorneys, and consultants with the overall responsibility for compliance monitoring and enforcement, critical infrastructure protection activities, event analysis, and reliability standards for the SPP RE footprint.

He has been involved in the NERC/SPP Compliance Monitoring Program since its inception in 1998 and has led SPP RE's efforts to develop, implement, and monitor an effective and efficient program.

Prior to employment at SPP, Ron worked at Gulf States Utilities in Beaumont, Texas for 20 years. At GSU, Ron worked in the T&D operations group, standards development, transmission planning and the information technology groups.

Ron holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech, a Master of Business Administration from Lamar University, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Louisville. He is admitted to the state bars in Kentucky and Arkansas and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas.

