

## Presenters Bios

### Best Practices Energy Efficiency Briefing

September 22, 2009

Great River Energy, MN

**Gary Connett**, Director of Environmental Stewardship and Member Services for Great River Energy, is charged with ensuring that the organization's environmental stewardship goals are balanced with its member cooperatives' needs for competitive rates and reliable electric service. As Director of Environmental Stewardship and Member Services, Connett oversees Great River Energy's environmental stewardship goals including:

- Deriving 25 percent of resources from renewable energy by 2025.
- Reducing carbon dioxide emissions below 2000 levels by 2020.
- Considering conservation and energy efficiency efforts as a least-cost resource.

Connett most recently served as Great River Energy's manager, demand response/member services, responsible for managing and directing the organization's demand response, conservation and energy efficiency programs, as well as overseeing business development. Connett has been with Great River Energy for more than 30 years. Connett holds a bachelor's of arts degree in organizational leadership from Bethel University, St. Paul, Minn., and a master's in business administration (MBA) from St. Thomas University, St. Paul, Minn. Connett is an active member of several organizations and commissions, including Powering the Plains, a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of guiding principles and policies for transitioning to a renewable and carbon-neutral energy economy, and the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, a group of energy market leaders dedicated to the development of a national action plan for energy efficiency. Connett also sits on the city of Champlin's Environmental Resource Commission.

**Brad Crabtree**, policy director of the Great Plains Institute since 2002, staffs regional and state-level projects involving energy efficiency, renewable energy and advanced coal with carbon capture and storage. He currently coordinates facilitation and technical assistance for energy and climate policy advisory groups of the Midwestern Governors Association. Brad was previously project director at the Consensus Council in Bismarck, ND, managing projects in community development, flood mitigation, and natural resource management. His background includes environmental policy and project development work in Washington, DC and Brazil and field research in Borneo. Brad, his wife and daughter raise sheep and cattle near Kulm, ND. A graduate of the Georgetown School of Foreign Service, he has an MA in history from Johns Hopkins University.

**Phyllis A. Reha** was appointed to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by Governor Jesse Ventura on May 16, 2001. She was reappointed to the Commission by Governor Tim Pawlenty for a second six year term on June 22, 2007 and serves as Vice Chair. Her current term expires on January 1, 2013. Commissioner Reha is the past chair of the Energy Resources and Environment Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) where she also served on the NARUC Board of Directors. She is also past-President of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference (MARC) and past member of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Commissioner Reha currently serves on the Advisory Councils of the New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities and the National Council on Electricity Policy. She is Co-Chair of the FERC/NARUC Collaborative on Demand Response and is a member of the Leadership Group of the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency. Before joining the PUC as a Commissioner, she spent 20 years as an Administrative Law Judge for the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings specializing in public utility, telecommunications and environmental regulation. She was also a Mediator and Arbitrator specializing in employment contract, discrimination and telecommunication disputes. For 13 years she was an Adjunct Professor at the Hamline University Graduate School of Public Administration and Management. Commissioner Reha has a B.A. degree from the University of Minnesota and a J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School. She was recently inducted as an Alumnus of Notable Achievement in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota and a Speaker for the Dean's Leadership Series at the University of Minnesota Law School.

**Karen Rhodes** has been with Xcel Energy for over 10 years involved in energy efficiency primarily through marketing and product management. For the past six years, she has been responsible for energy-efficiency program strategy and achievement, as well as related regulatory compliance, for programs targeted at business customers. She currently leads marketing and program management efforts in Minnesota, Colorado, and New Mexico. In 2008, areas under her responsibility saved 419 GWh and 470,000 Dth with combined budgets of over \$45.0 million. Karen earned her BBA degree in Marketing from The University of Michigan and her MBA degree, also in Marketing, from the University of Minnesota.

**John H. Rohlf** is the Corporate Energy Manager for Medtronic, Inc based in Minneapolis. He developed the Company's Energy Program to coordinate supply contracts, data management, payments, reporting and efficiency efforts. Also, he is currently the Chairman of the Energy Committee at the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. Previously, John spent twenty years with Ford Motor Company in various roles including Corporate natural gas program manager. He had the opportunity to implement energy efficiency projects in the areas of HVAC, lighting, hydro-electric, steam and compressed air systems all over North America. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota, but his true accomplishments have been as a Boy Scout troop leader and Travel softball coach.

**David Saggau** is president and chief executive officer for Great River Energy (GRE). GRE is Minnesota's second largest power supplier, providing wholesale electric service to 28 distribution cooperatives serving more than 1.7 million people. Saggau came to GRE with 10 years of legal experience in the electrical industry. He was an attorney for the FERC in Washington, D.C. and a senior regulatory attorney for New England Electric Systems (NEES) in Massachusetts. Saggau also was Cooperative Power Association's attorney for three years, prior to the organization's 1999 consolidation with United Power Association to form GRE. Saggau received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of North Dakota. Saggau is president of the Lignite Energy Council and sits on the board of directors for the Minnesota Business Partners and The Bakken Museum. David and his wife, Linda, have a 6-year old son, Jack and live in Minneapolis.

**Sheldon Strom** is President of the Center for Energy and Environment, a nonprofit organization that promotes the responsible use of natural and economic resources. Under Sheldon's leadership, CEE's programs have served more than 60,000 homes and businesses with energy efficiency programs and completed over 100 research projects. Sheldon has also been actively involved in the development of utility policies and has a keen grasp of state regulatory procedures. He played a major role in the comprehensive energy and global warming legislation that was in Minnesota in 2007. Sheldon is a life long resident of south Minneapolis and has a Masters of Architecture degree from the University of Wisconsin/ Milwaukee and a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota.