

USEA
ENERGY AWARDS
RECOGNITION PROGRAM

2023





UNITED STATES ENERGY ASSOCIATION

The United States Energy Association (USEA) convenes, educates, and provides a nonpartisan forum for the energy industry. Internationally, USEA supports energy development by expanding access to safe, affordable, and sustainable energy in partnership with the U.S. Government.

USEA's LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: This is the first of its kind. The Award Selection Committee specifically initiated this award in recognition of Tom Kuhn's distinguished career, and years of friendship and service on USEA's Board of Directors. Inscribed on his award is *"Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Thomas R. Kuhn – In recognition of your distinguished career, exemplary leadership, and appreciation for your many years of unconditional commitment and guidance serving as a member of the United States Energy Association Board of Directors. May 2023"*

UNITED STATES ENERGY AWARD: The United States Energy Award was established in 1989 to recognize preeminent energy leadership initiatives and contributions to international understanding of energy issues. The Award Selection Committee, composed of national energy leaders, examines each nomination for a clearly articulated set of values and history of proven accomplishments and international contributions, which promote a greater understanding of energy issues

VOLUNTEER AWARDS: With the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), USEA sponsors international energy programs between U.S. utilities and regulatory commissions and their counterparts in developing countries and emerging economies. Through these programs, U.S. energy executives have donated their time and shared their expertise and business "best practices" to other nations.

USEA applauds this spirit of volunteerism and created the International Volunteer Recognition Program to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations for their contributions to USEA activities.

2023 AWARDS

USEA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

*Thomas R. Kuhn
President & CEO
Edison Electric Institute*

USEA UNITED STATES ENERGY AWARD RECIPIENT

*Robert C. Rowe
President & CEO (Ret.)
NorthWestern Energy*

USEA CORPORATE VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENT

Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) Coordination Centre

USEA INDIVIDUAL ENERGY VOLUNTEER RECIPIENT

*Michael Meason
Western Farmers Electric Cooperative*

**LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Thomas R. Kuhn

President & CEO, Edison Electric Institute

USEA is honored to recognize Tom Kuhn as the first recipient of USEA's Lifetime Achievement Award. This special award is being given in recognition of Mr. Kuhn's distinguished career, extraordinary leadership, and for his unwavering support and friendship to USEA. Tom has been an active and integral member, serving on USEA's Board of Directors for several decades.

Tom Kuhn is President and CEO of the Edison Electric Institute, the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies. EEI's members provide electricity for more than 235 million Americans, and operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. As a whole, the electric power industry supports more than 7 million jobs in communities across the United States. In addition to our U.S. members, EEI has more than 65 international electric companies in more than 90 countries as International Members, and hundreds of industry suppliers and related organizations as Associate Members.

Mr. Kuhn joined the Institute in 1985 as executive vice president, was named chief operating officer in 1988, and was elected president in 1990. Prior to joining EEI, Mr. Kuhn was president of the American Nuclear Energy Council, which subsequently merged with the Nuclear Energy Institute. The Council represented virtually all of the companies in the commercial nuclear power industry. He joined the Council in 1975 as vice president, government affairs, and became president in 1983.

From 1972 to 1975, Mr. Kuhn headed the energy section of the investment banking firm, Alex Brown and Sons. Prior to that, from 1970 to 1972, he was White House Liaison Officer to the Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. Kuhn received a BA in Economics in 1968 from Yale University, served as a Naval Officer following his graduation, and received an MBA in 1972 from George Washington University. He completed the Stanford University Graduate School of Business Senior Executive Program in 1989.

Mr. Kuhn previously served on the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board and the Board of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He currently serves on the boards of the Alliance to Save Energy, the United States Energy Association, and the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation. He is Chairman Emeritus of the Committee of 100 of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Among his honors, Mr. Kuhn was awarded the Bess Goodman Humanitarian Award in 2000. He was chosen as Association Executive of the Year in 2000 by Association TRENDS magazine, ASAE Key Award winner in 2009, and the Trade Association CEO of the Year in 2015 by CEO Update. In 2017, Mr. Kuhn received the Energy Good Scout Award from the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He received the 2018 United States Energy Award for "unparalleled contribution and leadership in the energy sector" and the Keystone Policy Center 2019 Leadership Award.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

It's said that Thomas Edison had a sign hanging in his lab that read, "There's a way to do it better—find it." Somehow, that sign must have made it onto Tom Kuhn's wall. Because no matter the challenge, Tom has always inspired folks across government and industry to find better ways to meet the moment.

His proactive leadership fundamentally reshaped how we address threats to critical energy infrastructure and navigate an ever-changing cybersecurity landscape. When disaster struck—from hurricanes in the Southeast, to war in Ukraine—he could always be counted on to respond with a steady hand.

What often goes unsaid is that Tom's greatest strength is his ability to bring folks together, to collaborate with unlikely allies, and goad them into action. And he does it all with a sense of good humor and goodwill. We'd all be smart to do the same.

I'm thrilled to join USEA in congratulating Tom on his well-deserved retirement. This industry, and this country, are safer and stronger because of his impact.

– U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm

Tom Kuhn has been one of the most influential and consequential leaders of America's energy industry for more than three decades. As president of the Edison Electric Institute, he has had enormous impact on the electric power industry, and on the entire U.S. energy system, through momentous and sometimes tumultuous change. He has recognized the challenges of a changing world, sought to find solutions, and worked to bring people together to get to fair and forward-looking outcomes. The electric power industry exists at the conjunction of market forces, regulatory oversight, and political currents, and Tom's deep understanding of that complexity has been critical for the advance of the industry and its continuing ability to deliver reliability and meet the needs of the American people. Through these decades, Tom's hand has been steady, his judgement informed and measured, and his ability to work with people across aisles of all kinds a great contribution.

Tom has recognized, of course, that the power industry is a foundation of the entire U.S. energy system -- and the critical importance of that overall system for the well-being of the country. His commitment to the U.S. Energy Association reflects that conviction, and USEA has benefitted greatly from the wisdom, experience and insight that he has brought to the table. It has been a privilege for all of us to work with Tom, and we greatly appreciate his extraordinary contribution to America's future.

For all these reasons, no one could be more deserving of USEA's first Energy Award for Lifetime Achievement than Tom Kuhn. For it truly recognizes who Tom is and what he has done.

Deep congratulations to Tom on this recognition. We thank you and we salute you.

– Daniel Yergin, Vice Chairman, S&P Global

"The United States Energy Association has chosen the most deserving recipient of its first 'Energy Award for Lifetime Achievement'. For over three decades, Tom Kuhn has been an extraordinary leader in the energy sector. He has shepherded our industry through several critical public policy and operational initiatives, including safety, the clean energy transition, enhancing the reliability and security of our energy grid, customer and workforce engagement, and diversity, equity, and inclusion, just to name a few. However, what set Tom apart is not only what he did as a leader, but also in how he led. Tom has always had a passion to serve and a steadfast commitment to work in a non-partisan, collaborative manner with industry leaders, policymakers, regulators, and other key stakeholders. His skill and approach have delivered significant, sustainable long-term benefits to our customers, the communities we serve, the environment, and our country. Tom, it has been an honor to serve with you on this journey. Thank you for your extraordinary service to our industry and country."

– EEI Chair Warner L. Baxter, Executive Chairman, Ameren Corporation

"For over 30 years, Tom Kuhn has led the energy industry with a vision of Power by Association. Today, electric companies are cleaner, stronger, more resilient, and secure. As we find ourselves at an inflection point, the energy industry is exceptionally well-positioned. Tom built bridges between industry, labor, and government leaders—both local and federal. In recent years, as Congress deliberated the historic investments in clean energy and infrastructure, Tom was at the center of the debate. He set a high standard of what is possible when our industry works collaboratively with policymakers and stakeholders in serving our customers and achieving transformational change."

– EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

“Congratulations to my longtime friend and colleague, Tom Kuhn—there is no one more deserving of a lifetime achievement recognition. Tom has helped move the electric power industry forward significantly over his distinguished career. Tom was instrumental in guiding EEI and the industry through the development of the modern era of renewable energy and grid expansion. He is a strong advocate for increasing diversity and has been a champion of programs and initiatives to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure, building electrification, and energy storage. He has been a leader in advancing cybersecurity and resilience and has helped prepare the industry for the challenges of climate change. I want to thank Tom, in particular, for his deep care and concern for the safety and health of every team member and customer. I saw that firsthand during the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, which devastated my home island of Puerto Rico in 2017. Tom championed the impactful work by scores of U.S. mainland utility crews who were on the ground for months supporting restoration efforts. The electric power industry owes Tom a debt of gratitude; thank you to the United States Energy Association for recognizing him with the first Energy Award for lifetime achievement, as there is no better recipient than Tom.”

– *EEI Vice Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, President and CEO, Edison International*

“It’s difficult to think of a more deserving person for this award than Tom Kuhn. His career has been defined by tireless service to the energy industry and the communities we serve. Over the past 30 years leading EEI, his guidance has been instrumental in navigating the clean energy transition, strengthening relationships with stakeholders, transforming the nation’s grid, and delivering modern energy solutions to customers. Tom also is skilled at bringing member companies together to share ideas and best practices, while helping forge alignment to advance our strategic goals. He’s an invaluable advocate, dedicated community servant, and friend, and his work will leave a lasting impact on our industry well into the future. On behalf of the team at AEP, we extend our sincere congratulations to Tom as he receives this recognition.”

– *Nicholas K. Akins, Executive Chair, American Electric Power*

“Strong leaders make a lasting impact. And few will ever make a greater impact on the energy industry than Tom Kuhn, which is why he is most deserving of the United States Energy Association’s inaugural Energy Award for Lifetime Achievement.

“For more than 30 years, he led the industry through some of its greatest periods of transformation—the digital evolution, customer experience journey, and clean energy transition.

“Much of his legacy will be defined by the clean energy transformation, setting the industry on a course to achieve net-zero carbon emissions, including a 40% emissions reduction since 2005—the most of any industry sector. He engaged stakeholders to advance historic policy and legislation that incentivizes the public and private sectors to work together to accelerate decarbonization and meet critical infrastructure needs.

“But he also played an instrumental role in shaping safety and mutual assistance initiatives, customer assistance programs, and grid protection measures and deepening relationships with our labor partners to ensure our essential industry could safely and reliably navigate historic storms and hurricanes, physical and cyber threats, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Tom is a force. He was able to solve the tough issues and work across the aisle to influence positive change in the best interests of the customers and communities we serve. More than 200 million Americans benefit from his lasting contributions.”

– *Lynn J. Good, Chair, President and CEO, Duke Energy*

“Tom’s leadership and unwavering focus on powering our nation is unmatched. His vision and achievements have left a profound impact on our industry and our nation, and his exceptional leadership has guided us through periods of significant transformation. Tom’s remarkable ability to bring people together has been instrumental in moving our country toward clean energy. He has been a driving force behind solutions that prioritize our customers and the environment, including electric transportation and funding for low-income programs, all while building a more robust and resilient grid. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient for the United States Energy Association’s first Energy Award for Lifetime Achievement.”

– *Patricia K. Vincent-Collawn, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer, PNM Resources*

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

“It has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside Tom Kuhn for the past several years as we worked together to address important energy issues for our customers and our nation.

“Working in a collaborative manner with myself and other leaders, Tom Kuhn helped lead our industry through some challenging public policy initiatives including our national security from cyber threats; improving service reliability; the transition to a clean energy future; diversity equity and inclusion; as well as a renewed emphasis on safety and mutual assistance.

“On those issues that emerged and needed leadership and guidance, he was thoughtful, energetic, passionate, sensible, innovative and rock-solid.

“At Southern Company, our customers are better off because we live here and advocate for them on big policy issue and concerns. And that is true about Tom Kuhn as well. Our customers are better off because he helped to lead and shape our industry’s future.

“I congratulate Tom on receiving USEA’s first Energy Award for Lifetime Achievement. I can think of nobody more deserving for this recognition.

“It has been my great pleasure to call Tom Kuhn a colleague and a friend.”

– Thomas A. Fanning, Chairman and CEO, Southern Company



Clockwise from left:

Tom Kuhn, EEI and Jack Gerard, API were co-recipients of the 2018 United States Energy Award.

Tom addresses USEA 16th Annual State of the Energy Industry Forum in January 2020.

Edison Electric Institute (EEI) President and CEO Tom Kuhn addresses attendees of EEI’s annual meeting in June 2022.



**UNITED STATES
ENERGY AWARD**

About the United States Energy Award

The United States Energy Award was established in 1989 to recognize preeminent energy leadership initiatives and contributions to international understanding of energy issues. The Award Selection Committee, composed of national energy leaders, examines each nomination for a clearly articulated set of values and history of proven accomplishments and international contributions, which promote a greater understanding of energy issues. Support for USEA is a major consideration.

Past Award Recipients *

2022	Ralph Izzo – Chairman & CEO, Public Service Enterprise Group Inc. (PSEG)
2020-2021	Charif Souki – Executive Chairman of the Board, Tellurian, Inc.
2019	Michael W. Howard – President & CEO, Electric Power Research Institute
2018	Jack N. Gerard – President & CEO, American Petroleum Institute Thomas R. Kuhn – President, Edison Electric Institute
2017	Congressman Joe Barton – Vice Chairman, House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2016	Rex W. Tillerson – Chairman & CEO, Exxon Mobil Corporation
2015	Senator Lisa Murkowski – Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
2014	Llewellyn King – Creator, Executive Producer & Host, White House Chronicle
2013	James E. Rogers – Chairman, President & CEO, Duke Energy
2012	John W. Rowe – Chairman Emeritus, Exelon Corporation
2011	Michael G. Morris – Chairman & CEO, AEP Corporation
2010	Peter J. Robertson – Vice Chairman, Chevron
2009	Robert B. Catell – Chairman, National Grid, US
2008	Donald P. Hodel – Chairman, Summit Power Group, Inc. & Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy and Department of the Interior
2007	Spencer Abraham – Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
2006	Lee R. Raymond – Chairman & CEO, Exxon Mobil Corporation
2005	Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr. – Chairman Emeritus, The Bechtel Group, Inc.
2004	John M. Derrick – Chairman, Pepco Holdings, Inc.
2003	Archie W. Dunham – Chairman, ConocoPhillips
2002	General Richard L. Lawson – President, National Mining Association
2001	Kenneth Lay – Chairman & CEO, Enron
2000	P.J. “Jim” Adam – Chairman Emeritus, Black & Veatch
1999	Don D. Jordan – Chairman & CEO, Reliant Energy
1998	William O. Doub – Attorney, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
1997	Daniel Yergin – President, Cambridge Energy Research Associates
1996	W.J. “Jack” Bowen – Chairman & CEO, Transco
1995	George V. McGowen – Chairman, Baltimore Gas & Electric
1994	John F. Bookout – President & CEO, Shell Oil Company
1993	Henry Linden – Founding President, Gas Research Institute
1992	John Kiely – President, Bechtel Corporation
1991	William McCollam, Jr. – President Emeritus, Edison Electric Institute
1990	Chauncey Starr – Founding President, Electric Power Research Institute
1989	Walker Cisler – Chairman & CEO, Detroit Edison Co.

**Recipients titles were current at the time of Award presentation*



Robert C. Rowe

President & CEO, NorthWestern Energy (Ret.)

USEA is honored to recognize Bob Rowe as the recipient of the 2023 United States Energy Award. The United States Energy Award is one of the most respected awards within the energy industry. Established in 1989, the award recognizes preeminent energy leadership and contributions to the international understanding of energy issues.

Each year, USEA announces the call for nominations of individuals to receive this prestigious award. The Award Selection Committee examines each nominee's leadership, history of proven accomplishments, and efforts in advancing global energy initiatives.

Support for the United States Energy Association is also a major consideration.

This year, the Selection Committee found the award to be a fitting tribute to Mr. Rowe. He not only meets but far exceeds the qualities that USEA seeks in its United States Energy Award recipients. Bob joins a group of elite industry leaders who share this honor and distinction.

Bob Rowe served as CEO of NorthWestern Energy from August 2008 until retiring in January 2023, and was also the only non-independent director on NorthWestern's Board. Bob is widely respected throughout the electric and natural gas sectors, and in the regulatory and investor communities. Bob and his strong and cohesive management team tripled NorthWestern's market capitalization, earnings per share, and rate base. They built a national reputation for excellent corporate governance. Bob's areas of focus include long-term infrastructure planning; building a diversified electric supply portfolio; employee safety and culture; customer service and community engagement.

Bob's strengths include collaborative approaches to working with boards and management; excellent corporate governance skills; strategic planning and execution; legal and regulatory experience; public policy development; financial acumen; and, technical acumen.

Bob served on the American Gas Association (AGA) Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He served on the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and co-chaired both EEI's Institute for Electric Innovation, and its CEO Committee on State Policy and Engagement. Bob also served on the Western Energy Institute (WEI) Board of Directors and Executive Committee (Past Chair). In addition, Bob serves on multiple non-profit boards, including Yellowstone Forever, the non-profit partner of Yellowstone National Park.

Bob has been an NACD Governance Fellow since 2011, and in 2021 earned the NACD Directorship Certified (trademark).

2023 UNITED STATES ENERGY AWARD

Prior to joining NorthWestern, Bob was Co-founder and Principle of Balhoff, Rowe & Williams, LLC, a national policy and financial consulting firm, focusing on technology and telecoms companies, including transactions and strategy. Clients included mid-cap and large-cap wireline and wireless companies and associations.

From 1993 to 2004 Bob was a Commissioner on the Montana Public Service Commission. During this time he served as President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC); as Chair of the NARUC Telecommunications Committee; as a member of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; as proposer and member of the FCC Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Services; and as proposer and Chair of the thirteen state Operations Support Systems Collaborative working with Qwest and its competitors on compliance with the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act. Rowe also served on the National Research Council, Computer Science and Telecommunications Board, Committee on Broadband Technology; and, on numerous university-based advisory boards focused on technology, utilities, regulation and public policy.

From 1980 until 1993, Bob was an attorney with Montana Legal Services Association, having served as a VISTA Volunteer (Volunteers in Service to America) immediately after law school.

Bob earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oregon. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lewis & Clark College in Portland Oregon. Bob also completed the University of Chicago Booth School of Business Advanced Management Program; and, the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Executive Program, among other professional education programs.

2023 UNITED STATES ENERGY AWARD

Bob is a passionate and eloquent advocate for collective action to accelerate the pace and scale of the clean energy transformation, as well as for the importance of investing in infrastructure and partnerships to enhance resilience against the impacts of climate change. He also is a firm advocate for smart energy regulation and its immense value for advancing the needs of all customers and all communities.

Taken together, I can think of no better person than Bob Rowe to be recognized by USEA for outstanding leadership. Congratulations, Bob.

– Tom Kuhn, President & CEO, Edison Electric Institute

Bob Rowe has been one of the longest serving CEOs in NorthWestern’s 100 year history. During his time we tripled in size and reacquired the hydro system (originally built for our customers) and are now the cornerstone of our Montana generation fleet. More importantly, Bob lead a transformation of the company that had little trust from its employees or stakeholders (due to recent emergence from bankruptcy prior to his arrival) to a world class culture that could best be described as family. I had the opportunity to work for Bob as CFO and COO during his whole tenure and not only was he my all-time favorite boss but he is also one of the finest human beings you will ever meet. We at NorthWestern Energy have much to be thankful for as a result of Bob’s leadership and it is no surprise to us the award he is receiving from USEA.

– Brian Bird, President and CEO, NorthWestern Energy

It has been my great privilege to work with Bob Rowe as a Board Member and current Board Chairman of NorthWestern Energy. During the past 14 years, Bob has transformed a financially broken company with low staff moral into a thriving public utility company with a strong financial foundation and a terrific employee team that is fully engaged in our corporate success!

Bob has a unique ability to listen to our customer needs, engage all stakeholders in our plans, and create a vision that leads us to success, which has served NorthWestern Energy so well.

In addition to his business leadership skills, Bob is one of the most thoughtful, generous, engaging gentlemen I have had the opportunity to get to know. He is well deserving of this award and recognition.

*– Dana J. Dykhouse, CEO, First PREMIER Bank,
Chairman, NorthWestern Energy Board of Directors*

Bob Rowe has had a career as a great leader in the US energy industry. He served with distinction as a member and Chairman of the Montana Public Service Commission and then as CEO of NorthWestern Energy.

When he assumed leadership of NorthWestern it had recently emerged from bankruptcy. It had little credibility with regulators, customers, shareholders and employees were dissatisfied. Over fourteen years his leadership developed regulators’ respect, restored employee confidence, returned the company to profitability, and developed a highly competent management team.

Bob is the finest all-around CEO I have known in my almost 50 year association with the electric utility industry.

*– E. Linn Draper, Former Chairman of NorthWestern Energy Board,
Former President and CEO of American Electric Power*

2023 UNITED STATES ENERGY AWARD



Bob Rowe is photographed at NorthWestern Energy's Montana headquarters in Butte with a painting by Monte Dolack depicting the dam in the Beartooth Mountains which has just been renamed for Rowe. The 98-year-old dam is now named "Rowe Dam at Mystic Lake."



**VOLUNTEER
AWARD
RECIPIENTS**



Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) Coordination Centre

USEA is honored to recognize the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) Coordination Centre for their contributions to the Energy Utility Partnership Program (EUPP).

Since SAPP's initiation and early structuring in 1995, the United States Energy Association (USEA) and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have supported the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) as a formal partner in its development agenda to achieve its true potential. Earlier in the relationship, USEA provided an

embedded advisor in Zimbabwe who worked with SAPP leadership and members in the development of rules, standards, and procedures for operating the power pool. This initial interaction with SAPP grew into a broader program of capacity building initiatives, not just for SAPP but a number of member utilities

Created in 1995 under the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) through an Inter-Governmental Memorandum of Understanding (IGMOU), the key objectives of SAPP are to cooperate and coordinate planning and operation of electric power systems; facilitate electricity trading; promote regional cooperation in power projects; and increase access to affordable electricity in a reliable and sustainable manner. SAPP's membership is comprised of 16 utilities, independent transmission companies and independent power producers representing 12 member countries (Botswana, Mozambique, Malawi, Angola, South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zimbabwe).

SAPP's contributions to USEA include:

- Sharing their expertise in trading with organizations in other parts of the world by hosting multiple delegations to their headquarters in Zimbabwe and other member countries.
- Serving as a standard-bearer and providing encouragement to its sister region of South Asia.
- Providing opportunities for other partner utilities to witness first-hand approaches for attracting investment, managing energy markets in deficit power situations, and analyzing power trading strategies.
- Providing expert presenters to various EUPP activities conducted in South Asia to highlight foundational frameworks for trading arrangements, governance, transmission constraints, market guidelines, energy market products, pricing and open access, management, regulation and monitoring, and planning and investment decision making.

An instrumental part of the success of the EUPP work in southern Africa and enhanced capacity building in South Asia has been triggered by USEA's synergized relationship with SAPP. USEA looks forward to our continued cooperation with SAPP and their support to the Energy Utility Partnership Program and beyond.

USEA VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENT



Michael Meason

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative

USEA is honored to recognize Michael Meason for his contributions to the Energy Utility Partnership Program.

Michael Meason, Vice President of Information and Security began his career at Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) in 2009 as a Senior Network Engineer and has also served as the Manager of Technical Services.

Michael has 10 years of experience in enterprise information technology (IT) and cyber security within the financial services sector in addition to 14 years of experience in the electric utility industry. His areas of influence include information technology, operational technology, telecommunications engineering, network engineering/operations, and cybersecurity. Michael earned a BS in Computer Information Systems from Cameron University, a MS in Telecommunications Management from Oklahoma State University, and an MBA from the University of Oklahoma.

Michael Meason has been a long-time partner and expert volunteer for the Energy Technology and Governance Program (ETAG), EUPP, and now for the Advancing Modern Power through Utility Partnerships (AmpUp). He has been active in helping utilities around the world understand the importance of developing robust cybersecurity architecture to prevent and mitigate cyber-attacks and ransomware. Michael was instrumental in the success of the Energy Utility Partnership Program's *Cybersecurity and Digitalization Webinar Series* to educate utilities on cyber standards, trends, and best practices.

In 2020, Michael was one of the very first speakers for EUPP's online course titled *Improving Cybersecurity and Digitalization for the Energy Sector*. Since then, he has continued to serve as a volunteer sharing his knowledge with Ukraine, Vietnam, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

His contributions include:

- Presenting in a cybersecurity webinar series, resulting in the publication of *Electricity Sector Cybersecurity and Digitalization Handbook* released in 2021, for which he was the key contributor.
- Live presenter for USEA's cybersecurity webinar series for overseas partners who received IEEE certified.
- Presenting at the *Utility Cyber Security Initiative (UCSI) workshop* for transmission and distribution utilities from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and Albania.
- Mentoring overseas utilities participating in the Business Innovation Partnership (BIP) to better understand how effective business processes can effectively enhance utility operations.

Michael's expertise has been an invaluable asset to USEA in the development of our cybersecurity and digitalization partnerships, and we look forward to his continued support of EUPP and AmpUp.

USEA ENERGY VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



The SAPP Coordination Centre hosted a delegation from South Asia to showcase the design and operations of SAPP's power pool and energy market.



A representative from Nepal Electricity Authority participating in a lion walk during their attendance at the SAPP Meetings held at Victoria Falls

USEA ENERGY VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



Members of the South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration attending a regional Southern African Power Pool annual meeting to discuss power market issues.



Michael Meason was a key contributor to this cybersecurity handbook, which included the content from his webinar presentations.



Mike Meason speaking at the Workshop on Cybersecurity and Digitalization for the Energy Sector in Hanoi, Vietnam

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