Speaker Bios

Abdulwahid, Utama - Utama Abdulwahid is a Post Doctoral Research Associate at the Renewable Energy Research Lab, University of Massachusetts Amherst. He has been involved with the maintenance of the Hybrid2 code and its technical support since 1995.

Adams, Larry - Larry L. Adams, Spirae's Senior Controller Design Consultant is a leading authority on the control of distributed energy resources (DER), with more than 30 years of experience in industrial electric power controls development and application. Prior to joining the Spirae team, Mr. Adams was the Chief Engineer at Encorp, Inc, where he pioneered the development of the Encorp Generator Power Controls (GPC) for industrial electric power generation equipment. GPC applications include control of real and reactive power in grid connected generators, multiple generator sets in grid isolated systems, and specialized controls for hybrid wind-diesel systems.

Baring-Gould, Ian - E. Ian Baring-Gould graduated with a MSME from the University of Massachusetts Renewable Energy Research Laboratory in 1995 and started working at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory of the United States. Ian's work has focused in two primary areas; applications engineering for RE technologies and technical assistance in RE uses. His applications work concentrates on innovative uses of RE, primarily the modeling, testing, and monitoring of small power systems, end use applications and large diesel plant retrofit concepts. Technical assistance, both domestically and internationally has focused in energy development for rural populations including the design, analysis and implementation of remote power systems. Ian also sits on IEA and IEC technical boards, is an editor for Wind Engineering and has authored or co-authored over 50 publications. His graduate research centered on the Hybrid2 software, hybrid power system design, code validation and the installation of the University's 250kW ESI-80 wind turbine. Ian also spent two years as a technical expert for the Department of Energy, Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program in Washington, D.C.. Ian is currently working out of NREL's Colorado office focusing on the addressing barriers to the implementation of wind energy through DOE's Wind Powering America Program.

Beck, Brian - Brian Beck is Vice President of Business Development with VRB Power Systems Inc. With over 30 years experience in the electrical industry in Europe and USA, Brian Beck has participated in electric supply restructuring in UK and North America. Educated in Britain, he is a chartered engineer, registered with the European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI), a member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, the IEEE, and the Institution of Diesel and Gas Turbine Engineers. Since 1991 he has been actively involved in many aspects of the restructuring of the North American electricity supply industry. He has recently retired from Caterpillar where, as General Manager of Caterpillar Energy Solutions, he had responsibility for initiatives in power quality and distributed generation.

Brissette, Yves Received his B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering in 1981 from École de Technologie Supérieure of Université du Québec in Montréal. After obtaining his degree, he joined IREQ's Power Apparatus department to work on synthetic test circuit for high voltage breaker. From 1984 to 1990, he was involved in electrical burns at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Since then, he has worked on medium voltage breakers, switches, superconducting current limiters and capacitive coupling systems. In recent years, he is involved in distributed generation for distribution network. He is a member of the Ordre des Ingénieurs du Québec and IEEE.

Casillas, Christian E. - Christian Casillas is a PhD candidate in the Energy and Resources Group at UC Berkeley. He holds a B.A. in environmental engineering from Harvard and an M.S. in applied math from Johns Hopkins. He spent several years doing oceanic and atmospheric research at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland before joining the US Peace Corps to teach math and science in rural Namibia, where he became interested in renewable energy. He has worked as an engineer designing diesel/PV systems in New Mexico, and has served as a technical advisor since 2006 for blueEnergy, an NGO in Nicaragua that builds and installs wind systems for rural villages. Christian's research is related to the analysis of small wind systems appropriate for integration into diesel micro-grids in developing countries.

Connelly, David OStJ, CD, B.Comm., MBA began his career with the Government of Canada, transitioned to international banking and subsequently held senior business development and finance positions in the manufacturing, transportation, technology and export industries. From 1992-1997 he was President and CEO of one of Canada's largest and most successful Aboriginal development corporations, the Inuvialuit Development Corporation. As owner of the management consulting firm Ile Royale Enterprises he has completed over 150 consulting assignments for Northern and Aboriginal organizations across Canada; and structured more than 30 joint ventures. David co-authored the book "Nunavut Land Claims Agreement 1993-1998". Currently David is assisting the Beaufort communities develop a hub and spoke model to commercialize wind energy. David specializes in strategic and business planning, implementation, feasibility studies, structuring partnerships and arranging financing. He has sat on over 20 corporate boards and is part owner of a number of businesses. He chairs the NWT Social Assistance Appeal Board and represents the NWT and Nunavut on the National Senate for St. John Ambulance. He is the Past President of the NWT Chamber of Commerce. David was invested in the Order of St. John for his volunteer work and received the Queen's Jubilee award from the Governor General for his contribution to Aboriginal economic development. He is an active Naval Reserve Officer and has been awarded the Canada Decoration and various commendations.

Crimp, Peter - Peter Crimp heads the alternative energy and energy efficiency section at the Alaska Energy Authority, the state's energy office. He has worked as an energy planner and forester in Alaska since 1982, and has been with the Authority for 14 years. Peter received his M.S. in forest science at University of Washington and bachelor degree in biology at Brown University.

Dabo, Martina - As the Wind Program Manager for the Alaska Energy Authority, Martina's focus is on the socio-economics of wind energy development and statewide energy planning in the State of Alaska. Martina has a MSc in Renewable Energy from the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, and a BSc in Biology. She is currently working on her PhD in Public Policy and Public Administration and has more than 15 years project management experience. Before she focused on wind farm development she managed photovoltaic and biofuel projects as well as business development and expansion projects, and worked as Co-Pilot for the German Airline Lufthansa.

Drouilhet, Steve - Steve Drouilhet is president and founder of Sustainable Automation Inc, which specializes in renewable energy systems integration and control. He holds engineering degrees from Brown University, University of California at Berkeley, and the Von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics. Steve's professional experience in the wind energy industry spans more than 25 years, having begun his career in 1982 working for U.S. Windpower Inc. as a field test engineer on one of the first California wind farms. From 1994 to 2002, he was a senior engineer at the National Wind Technology Center at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), where he led wind-diesel hybrid system research and development. He was the principal designer of the high penetration wind-diesel power system implemented in the arctic village of Wales, Alaska.

Flowers, Larry - Mr. Flowers has held various management positions at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for the past 27 years. Since 1990, he has been a team leader at NREL's National Wind Technology Center in Boulder, Colorado. His current assignment is the National Technical Director of Wind Powering America, a U.S. Department of Energy program launched in 1999 to dramatically increase the deployment of wind in the United States. WPA focuses on states and institutions that have dramatically underutilized their wind resources. Prior to WPA, Mr. Flowers led NREL's international Village Power program and the NWTC's hybrid systems technology project and was involved with NREL's business development, buildings sciences, utility systems, solar thermal, and industrial applications. He has an MBA from the University of Denver and a BS in metallurgical engineering and materials sciences from Lehigh University. He enjoys fly-fishing and whitewater rafting in the Rockies.

Fredenberg, Connie - Connie Fredenberg traveled from Ohio to Alaska in 1978 for a summer internship as an animal caretaker at the Naval Arctic Research Lab in Barrow and never left. With a BA from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Linguistics with minors in Inupiaq, Education, and Biology (it was hard to decide) she has worked at a variety of jobs in Barrow, Point Hope, Palmer, and the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region. Having recently left her position as coordinator for renewable energy projects at the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association she now works with Utility Management Services, a small business providing management assistance to rural utilities. Connie also installs and provides technical assistance for the AMPY Pre-Pay Electric Metering System in Alaska. Connie spent this past winter in Nikolski on Umnak Island as the caretaker for Ugludax Lodge and a volunteer advisor at Umnak Power – Nikolski's tribally owned electric utility. This work has given her hands-on experience in the realities of operating a remote electric utility.

Glennie, James - James Glennie has worked in the energy industry for the last 16 years since graduating in 1991. Ten of those years were in the oil and gas industry in London UK as well as in Moscow Russia with various oil and gas companies and investment banks. After returning from Moscow in 1999, James worked as an Editor at the Financial Times - Energy in London, covering electricity and gas market deregulation in the Former Soviet Union, Eastern and Western Europe. In 2001 James moved into the rapidly growing renewable energy sector and, after finishing business school, he was 'Head of Offshore Wind' at the British Wind Energy Association, in London, until January 2004. In February 2004 James moved to Wellington, New Zealand, where he worked as CEO of the New Zealand Wind Energy Association. In April of this year James began work at the Wind Energy Institute of Canada as Director of Business Development. James has a B.Sc. in Marine Geotechnics (Bangor, North Wales), an M.Sc. in Environmental Science and Law (Heriot Watt, Scotland) and a Sloan Masters in Management (London Business School, England). He is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

Haagenson, Steve - Steven Haagenson retired last winter as the President and CEO of Golden Valley Electric Association an electric utility based in Fairbanks, Alaska. During his 32 years at GVEA he was heavily involved in Alaskan energy issues. He was recently appointed by the Governor of Alaska to be the Statewide Energy Coordinator and Executive Director of the Alaska Energy Authority. He attended University of Alaska Fairbanks, obtaining an Electrical Engineering degree and a Masters degree in Engineering Management. A registered professional engineer in Alaska since 1981, Steve has been involved in many electrical generation, transmission and distribution projects from Fairbanks to Homer. Steve was a member of the Alaska Energy Policy Taskforce and as well as the Chairman of the Interior Issues Council Cost of Energy Taskforce that developed the Fairbanks Energy Study.

Horbaty, Robert - Mr. Horbaty is the owner of ENCO Energie-Consulting AG. His professional experience consists of working as an energy planner with his own company since 1993 consulting on energy planning, energy management and sustainable energy supply for municipalities and towns. He has been active in the field of wind energy since 1982 (Manufacturing and Installing small wind energy turbines – up to 10 kW "Elektro GmbH"); installing various small wind turbines and site assessments in Switzerland from1985-1993; participating in the IEA's "Decentralized Wind Energy Systems" (International Energy Agency) focussing on Wind-Diesel from 1988-1992; participating in the EU-research project: WECO (Wind Energy Production in Cold Climate) from 1997-1998; participating as an alternate member for Switzerland in the IEA Wind Energy Implementing Agreement since 2002; participating on the IEA Wind Energy Implementing Agreement, Task 19: "Wind Energy in Cold Climates" since 2002; manager of the Swiss wind energy program, mandated by Swiss ministry of energy - starting up, following-up and controlling more then 30 site assessment projects in Switzerland by developers and electricity companies - mainly in mountainous areas under cold climatic conditions since 1993; managing Director of the Swiss wind energy association "Suisse Eole" - accomplishing projects to promote wind energy in Switzerland and special campaigns on future wind sites since 1998; and founder of the ADEV Windkraft AG, President of the board of governors, turnover 3 Mio US$.

Jargstorf, Dipl.-Ing. Benjamin - Benjamin Jargstorf is an expert in the utilization of renewable energies in developing countries with long-standing experience in wind energy and biomass as well as socio-cultural impacts of these technologies. He has a wide range of teaching experience with energy-related subjects and has worked as a specialist for energy master plans and advisor for energy policy with special reference to renewable energies and energy efficiency. Previous work includes energy from biomass and agricultural residues, carbonization and gasification of biomass as well as biogas plants and planning of anaerobic wastewater treatment plants. Mr. Jargstorf has long-standing experience with resource estimation for site selection and performance monitoring of utility-type wind turbines, both in parallel with isolated as well as interconnected grids and has performed installations and commissioning of wind and solar plants. He also has special knowledge in the design of wind/diesel systems in isolated networks and has been working in various developing countries since 1984.

Kohler, Meera - Originally from India, Meera Kohler came to Alaska in 1976, ending up in Cordova – a fishing community 160 miles southeast of Anchorage. She initiated her electric utility career at Cordova Electric Cooperative in 1979 and in 1990, was appointed General Manager of Naknek Electric Association – a cooperative serving Naknek, King Salmon and South Naknek in Southwest Alaska. In l997, she was named General Manager of Municipal Light & Power, the electric utility that serves downtown Anchorage. Since May 2000, Meera has been the President & CEO of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, a utility serving more than 7,000 consumers in 53 villages that are home to more than 40% of Alaska's village population. Meera has a bachelor's degree in economics and a Master's degree in Business Administration, both from the University of Delhi, India.

Landis, Lenny - Lenny Landis has worked for the State of Alaska for 7 years as Project Manager for the Alaska Energy Authority, Rural Power Systems Upgrade Program. He is a retired Journeyman Electrician and ICBO Building Inspector. Mr. Landis has 24 years of experience in the construction, maintenance and operation of rural utilities throughout the State of Alaska.

Larsonneur, Pascal - After graduating from Imperial College, London, in 1999 Mr. Larsonneur worked for the communication cable industry (Nexans Norway, Oslo) for 5 years. He then worked for the French Agency for Environment and Energy Management (ADEME) within the Department for Energy Efficiency Markets and Services (in Sophia Antipolis), where he was working mostly on international projects involving partnerships with new Member States, to implement European directives in energy efficiency in those countries. Mr. Larsonneur joined the VERGNET company in Orléans in 2008 to work as a development engineer on the topics of wind-diesel and wind powered desalination.

Lilienthal, Peter - Peter Lilienthal has been with National Renewable Energy Laboratory since February of 1990. His position is Senior Economist with the International Programs Office. He has a PhD in Engineering-Economic Systems from Stanford University. He has been active in the field of renewable energy and conservation since 1978. This has included designing and teaching courses at the university level, project development of independent power projects, and consulting to industry and regulators. His technical expertise is in utility modeling and the economic and financial analysis of small power projects. Since 1993 he has been the lead analyst for NREL's International and Village Power Program and the developer of the NREL's Village Power Optimization Software, HOMER™ and ViPOR. In 2007 he created Green Island Power to provide consulting related to the use of renewable power in small utility grids. His company will be NREL's exclusive licensee for further development of the HOMER™ software.

Lundsager, Per - Per Lundsager received a PhD in structural mechanics from the Technical University of Denmark in 1979. He started working full-time with wind energy in 1975, including work on energy systems and concepts for wind energy and other renewables. Between 1984 and 1993, he was head of the wind diesel development programme at Risø National Laboratory. As senior consultant he has been advisor to the national wind energy centers in the USA, Canada, Finland, Denmark, Russia, Estonia, Poland, Brazil, India and Egypt, regarding projects, programmes and strategies. He has also been manager / participant in projects and studies in the USA, Canada, and Europe, including Greenland, Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. He retired from Risø at the age of 65 in 2006 but is still active as a senior consultant in Darup Associates ApS providing consultancy to Risø and other clients, most recently with assignments as International Consultant for the WB in Djibouti and P.R. China.

Manser, Hannah - In 2005, Ms. Manser received her undergraduate degree from the University of Alaska, Anchorage in management along with dual minors in environmental studies and economics. A lifelong Alaskan, she then began working as Assistant Director of Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP), Alaska's first and only renewable energy education and advocacy organization. Before starting full-time with REAP, Ms. Manser worked there part time as well as with the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) in the Alternative Energy and Energy Efficiency Division. While at AEA she traveled across Alaska installing meteorological towers in numerous rural communities through the state's Anemometer Loan Program.

Matthias, Karen - Karen Matthias has been the Consul at the Consulate of Canada in Anchorage since it opened in August 2004. She is a career foreign service officer who has served abroad at the Canadian Embassy in Moscow, Russia, and on a conflict resolution mission to Moldova with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). At the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa, she worked in divisions responsible for policy planning, communications and European relations. Karen has a bachelor's degree from the University of Victoria and undertook graduate studies in Russian literature at the University of Alberta. She was also a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar at the University of Helsinki. Karen is a board member of the Resource Development Council, the State Chamber of Commerce and the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, and is a member of the Anchorage Downtown Rotary Club. The Consulate is also a member of the Alliance, the World Trade Center and the World Affairs Council of Alaska. As a hiker, climber and skier, Karen is happy to live in AK.

McLarnon, Erin - Erin McLarnon is the General Manager of Powercorp Alaska, LLC. Erin has been with Powercorp Alaska, LLC located in Anchorage, Alaska since its inception in 2003. Powercorp provides professional engineering and consulting services and products for clients in the areas of: renewable energy, automation, and power quality. Erin has been through several field training sessions throughout Australia on wind energy development, power controls and power quality as well as attended several seminars on wind energy. Erin holds a BS in Aquatic Resources from Sheldon Jackson College and spends most of her free time with her husband and 46 Alaskan huskies at their sled dog kennel in Willow.

Meiners, Dennis – Dennis Meiners is president and founder of Intelligent Energy Systems, LLC, which specializes in the development of renewable energy systems and information solutions for off-grid communities. Dennis is also a director and founder of Powercorp Alaska LLC, which provides state-of-the-art integration and controls for the operation of power systems in remote communities. Dennis grew up in Alaska and holds both a B.S. and M.S. degree in Chemistry from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He earned an MBA from Oregon State University, and completed significant coursework and experience in engineering, construction, business management, and project development. Dennis's professional experience in rural energy began in 1993, as deputy director of Rural Programs for the Alaska Energy Authority. He soon shifted to developing alternatives to diesel generation for villages. Until 2003, Dennis worked at the Alaska Energy Authority where he worked closely with Kotzebue Electric, the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, and the National Wind Technology Center of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to coordinate and implement wind and wind-diesel system applications for Alaska.

Murdock, Dustin – Dustin Murdock graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1999 and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering in 2002. Following graduation Mr. Murdock lived in Alaska briefly before moving to Darwin, Australia to work on remote area power systems for Powercorp. The 4 years with Powercorp were spent on detailed electrical design and commissioning of wind diesel projects around the world. In July last year he moved to Auckland, New Zealand to work for a consulting company, PB New Zealand Ltd. PB offer electrical, mechanical and project management consulting services for the power industry in Australia, New Zealand and Southeast Asia.

Myers, Dave - Mr. Myers has over 14 years experience working in Rural Alaskan communities. During the past 4 years Mr. Myers has been involved in rural energy upgrade projects, which have included the installation of seven 100 kW wind turbines in the Alaskan communities of Toksook Bay and Kasigluk for the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative and two 225 kW wind turbines in St. Paul Island for TDX Power. Currently Mr. Myers is working on the development and installation of another 14 wind turbines in five Western Alaskan locations all scheduled to be completed in 2008.

Newcomb, Charles - Mr. Newcomb joined Entegrity Wind Systems, Inc. (EWSI) in 2006. Prior to EWSI, he served as senior engineer at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's National Wind Technology Center. Mr. Newcomb's work at the NWTC between 1997 and 2006 focused on developing and testing small and distributed wind turbine applications for developing countries; performance, loads, and duration testing of small and distributed wind turbines; and providing technical and program support to DOE HQ, USAID, USDA Rural Development, EPA, and other public agencies. He served as the DOE's first technical liaison to the USDA Rural Development program staff for the development of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvement program between 2003 and 2006. Mr. Newcomb holds a BA from Oberlin College and a Master of Science in agricultural engineering from Colorado State University.

Paul, Harvey - Mr. Paul has been the General Manager of Puvurnaq Power Company since 2000. Before becoming the GM of Puvurnaq Power Company, he worked as a powerplant operator from 1990-2000 and an aircraft mechanic from 1980-1990. Mr. Paul has been the Vice-President of Chaninik Wind Group since 2005. Through his work with the Chaninik Wind Group he was able to secure a $1.5 Million state appropriation for the Kongiganak Model Wind/Diesel Project in June of 2007.

Petrie, Brent - Brent Petrie has worked for Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC) since 1998, where he manages the development of alternatives to diesel generation for AVEC such as hydro, wind and heat recovery. He also works on energy supply issues with AVEC's largest customers and is the program manager for AVEC's many construction projects as an energy partner of the federally funded Denali Commission. Mr. Petrie has been employed in the energy and resource management field for more than thirty years, and has worked for both the governmental and private sector as consultant, planner and project manager. He arrived in Alaska in 1976 and worked for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources various water resource management positions. From 1980 to 1993 he worked in a variety of capacities for the Alaska Power Authority and its successor, the Alaska Energy Authority, on all of the hydroelectric and intertie projects built and operated by the State of Alaska during that time. He was also active in developing the village power program of the state during that period. As General Manager of Iliamna-Newhalen-Nondalton Electric Cooperative from 1994 to 1998, he served as project manager on the cooperative's Tazimina River hydroelectric project development. He is an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Utility Wind Integration Group and also serves on the Renewable and Distributed Energy Advisory Group of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Mr. Petrie has a Master's Degree in Water Resource Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Geography.

Pinard, Jean-Paul - Mr. Pinard has been a wind energy consultant since 1996 and has installed wind-monitoring stations in many remote communities across northern Canada. He has consulted for the likes of Yukon Energy (Whitehorse), Aurora Research Institute (Inuvik), the Treaty 8 Association (BC), and a number of mines. In his work he has analysed wind data, reported on the feasibility of wind energy in several remote communities, carried out wind climate modelling, and installed over 30 wind monitoring stations. Mr. Pinard was also instrumental in organizing the Yukon International Wind Conference in Whitehorse (2003) and was involved in the organizing of the Tuktoyaktuk Wind-Diesel Workshop last fall. He is also a PhD candidate studying wind climates in the steep mountainous terrain pertaining to the Yukon.

Pingree, Brett - Brett Pingree is the Vice President of NorthWind100 Sales for Northern Power. Brett has spent the last four years playing a central role in building the Northwind100 business in Alaska. His experience has crossed between project management, project development and sales. Through these experiences Brett can provide good insights on the types of wind-diesel solutions that Northern Power has faced and solved in both Alaskan projects and projects worldwide.

Prentki, Kathy - Kathy Prentki is the Energy Program Manager for the Denali Commission, a small federal agency in Anchorage, Alaska that was created in 1998 to address critical infrastructure and economic needs in rural Alaska, which were falling through the gaps. She manages the Commission's infrastructure program in Energy with an annual budget of around $50 million. The energy program provides grant funding for design and construction of bulk fuel storage facilities, power generation and distribution system upgrades, and other related energy projects. Ms. Prentki had over 20 years of construction management and contracting experience when the Alaska District Corps of Engineers loaned her to the Denali Commission in 2001. In 2004 she became permanent staff to the Commission. Ms. Prentki has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from the University of Alaska - Fairbanks. At the Corps of Engineers she was Level II Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) certified. She is a registered professional engineer.

Reeve, Brad - As the General Manager/CEO of Kotzebue Electric Association Inc. since 1988 Mr. Reeve has overseen the development and deployment of the first and currently largest utility grade wind power plant in the State of Alaska. As well as his full time duties running an electric cooperative he has procured funding for and provided project management for the Kotzebue and several other Alaska wind-diesel projects. He has worked on numerous projects to reduce diesel consumption for the community of Kotzebue including a joint project with the City of Kotzebue to utilize engine water and after cooler heat to that maintains the entire city water supply throughout the winter, a 3 kW solar project done in conjunction with the Alaska Technical Center, and a unique absorption freezer that utilizes diesel jacket water heat to produce 12 ton per day ice production for the fishing industry in Kotzebue. He is also highly involved in the statewide power association where he has serves as President of the Alaska Power Association (APA), and also serves as a long time board member of the Utility Wind Integration Group (UWIG) a national nonprofit corporation that advances utility research in the utilization of wind energy.

Rose, Chris - Chris Rose is the Executive Director of Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP), a statewide coalition of over 50 utility companies, environmental and consumer groups, businesses, and Native Alaskan organizations working to increase the production of renewable energy in Alaska. Before founding REAP in 2004 he received his law degree from the University of Oregon, and had a private law and mediation practice for over a decade that included extensive work with Native Alaskans in the Northwest Arctic. He has been very active in community issues in the Matanuska Valley where he has lived since 1992. He has served on various statewide boards, and writes a monthly opinion column for the Anchorage Daily News.

Smith, Tiel - Tiel Smith is currently the Resource Manager for Bristol Bay Native Corporation. He was raised by his Native Father and German Mother in Dillingham, Alaska. He holds a bachelor's degree in science education from Utah State University. He has worked as part of the statewide telehealth systems support for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, a computer trainer/tech deploying telehealth systems to the Bristol Bay region, a science teacher in rural Alaska, and as a lifelong commercial salmon fisherman in Bristol Bay.

Taylor, Roger - Mr. Taylor manages the State, Local & Tribal Integrated Applications Group at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado. With 30 years of experience in renewable energy technology development and application, his quest has been to expand and promote the use of renewable energy to support sustainable economic development both domestically and internationally. Mr. Taylor has extensive experience in collaboration and promoting coherent, tangible clean energy programs within states, communities, and Native American lands throughout the U.S.

Thompson, Bill - William R Thomson P.E. is the training and technology supervisor for Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC). AVEC has forty-nine powerplants in western Alaska, of which four villages have significant wind installations. More wind installations using Distributed Energy's Northwind 100 turbines are now pending following the successful operation of six turbines in the villages of Toksook Bay and Kasigluk. Mr. Thomson has over thirty years of design experience in most areas of power generation, including instrumentation, power design, communications, and real time programmable control. Many generation facilities worldwide use his embedded micro-controller designs, some for more than twenty years. He has been awarded four patents in Generator control. Mr. Thomson has been greatly involved in the design of AVEC's new Denali Commission powerplants over the last 6 years. When wind was added as a major power source for AVEC, he supervised the integration of products from various vendors into stable village scale systems that approach 100% wind generation penetration. Mr. Thomson was educated at the University of British Columbia. He is a member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers and is registered as a professional engineer in both British Columbia and Alaska.

Vaught, Doug - Douglas Vaught P.E. is the owner of V3 Energy, LLC, a consulting firm focused on wind energy projects in Alaska. Mr. Vaught has done extensive work in rural Alaska with wind power assessment projects. His skills and experience in these efforts include initial site selection based topography, wind resource modeling, land usage, existing infrastructure and community preferences; installing and removing meteorological towers up to 60 meters in height, including the training of local personnel to work as assistants during met tower installations; analyzing wind resource data for wind power development suitability and turbine power recovery predictions; and working with utilities and others on general wind power development efforts in Alaska.

Wägar, Niklas - Niklas Wägar is an Electrical engineer with a specialty in electrical and automation design. Niklas joined Wartsila Corporation in 1995, and is currently working at Wartsila Finland Oy as a General Manager, Electrical and Automation in the Power Plants division. Responsibilities include research, development and standardisation of the complete electrical and automation scope of the Wärtsilä Power Plant concepts.

Weis, Tim - Tim Weis is a professional engineer and a Senior Technical and Policy Analyst at the Pembina Institute, based in Edmonton, Canada. Tim has authored numerous reports and manuals on community-based renewable energy development. He has developed software to complete community energy baseline inventories and has assisted more than 20 communities at various stages of development of renewable energy projects. He is currently completing his PhD at the Université du Québec à Rimouski studying wind energy development in remote Canadian communities, and has a Master of Mechanical Engineering degree where he studied ice adhesion to wind turbine blades.

Witmer, Dennis - Dennis Witmer has been living in Alaska for 20 years and been working on energy research for 10 years. He spent most of that time buying and breaking fuel cells, and is now switching his attention to batteries. Mr. Whitmer works within the Institute of Northern Engineering at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks heading up the Arctic Energy Technology Development Laboratory.