



U.S. National Committee

2023 Awards



cigre
United States

USNC Awards

The Philip Sporn Award

For career contributions advancing electric power systems in theory, design and/or operation for the benefit of society in the United States, and for aspiring to Philip Sporn's 'Locus of Discontent' approach i.e., always challenging the status quo to advance technology for the betterment of society.

Dale Douglass Award for Technical Achievement

For leadership and participation in CIGRE technical activities internationally at the Study Committee or Working Group levels aspiring to the level of dedication exhibited by Dale Douglass.

Attwood Associate Award

This award is made to honor the contributions and memory of Frederic Attwood of the U.S.A. who, with J. Tribot Laspiere of France foresaw the need for an international organization in the field of power engineering and who became the first Chairman of the U.S. National Committee upon the founding of CIGRE in the year 1921.

Collective Member Award

For outstanding leadership and continuing managerial, technical, and financial support of the activities of the U.S. National Committee and CIGRE over an extended period of time.

2023 Honorees

Damir Novosel

Mark McVey

Earle C (Rusty) Bascom III

Robert Bradish

Beth LaRose

Jessica Lau

Gordon van Welie

Quanta Technology LLC



Damir Novosel

The Philip Sporn Award

Damir Novosel is president and co-founder of Quanta Technology, a subsidiary of Quanta Services. Previously, he was vice president of ABB Automation Products and president of KEMA T&D US. Dr. Novosel is also an adjunct professor of Electrical Engineering at North Carolina State University.

Damir, an individual CIGRE member for many years, has been actively engaged in numerous CIGRE working groups and conferences. He has been serving on the US National Committee (USNC) Executive Committee since 2010 and is presently chair of the Nominations & Appointments committee. Damir received the CIGRE USNC Attwood Associate and the Distinguished Member awards and the CIGRE Distinguished Paper award.

Damir, a member of the US National Academy of Engineers and an IEEE Fellow, served as president of the IEEE Power and Energy Society and VP of Technical Activities. He received the IEEE PES Patrick P. Ryan Meritorious Service award and the Leadership in Power award. Damir holds 18 US and international patents, published over 200 articles and reports, and contributed to 7 books. Dr. Novosel served on various boards and is presently a member of the Sandia National Laboratories Energy and Homeland Security External Advisory Board and the Mississippi State University Industry Advisory Board.

Damir holds PhD, MSc, and BSc degrees in electrical engineering from Mississippi State University (where he was a Fulbright scholar), the University of Zagreb, Croatia, and the University of Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, respectively. Mississippi State University granted him a Distinguished Engineering Fellow and the ECE Alumni award.



Mark McVey

Dale Douglass Award for Technical Achievement

Mark McVey is a Principal Engineer with Dominion Energy with over 38 years of experience. He is currently part of Operations Engineering where he provides technical support to all business units in Power Delivery, is an asset manager for major equipment, and Subject Matter Expert for Flexible AC Transmission devices. Over his career with Dominion Energy, Mark has held positions in Substation Engineering, Power Quality, Division and District Operations Supervisor roles and Field Engineering Control Operations. Mark holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Tech.

Mark has made significant contributions to the technical work of CIGRE, notably in the areas of Study Committees B3 Substations and A3 High Voltage Equipment. These include B3 and A3 Area Advisor for All air Insulated Substation (AIS) brochures and activities from 2019 to current, Special Reporter for B3 2018-2022 Paris Session, Convenor for 2 Brochures and WG Member and contributing author on at least 8 Brochures. Mark has presented six tutorials at various CIGRE Symposia and Paris Sessions focused on AIS Design for Severe Climates, Guidelines for Safe Work Methods in Substations, and Fundamentals of Grounding. Since 2016, he has been a technical expert judge for the USNC NGN Paper Competition and conference paper and panel presenter at USNC GOTF.

Mark has authored or co-authored over 18 papers, articles and handbooks, and several CIGRE publications, notably the CIGRE Substations Green Book 2019, Electra #311 August 2020 Guidelines for Safe Work Methods in Substations and CIGRE-IEC 2019 Conference on EHV and UHV (AC & DC) MMC-STATCOM application at Dominion Energy Colington Substation. He is the recipient of the CIGRE Pioneer 2020 E-session Achievement Award; USNC CIGRE Attwood Associates Award 2018; CIGRE Technical Council Award B3 2018 Paris; and CIGRE Distinguished Members 2022. Additionally, he has been recognized with multiple South Eastern Electrical Exchange (SEE) Substation and Chairman Awards for Dominion Energy projects.



Earle C. (Rusty) Bascom III

Attwood Associate Award

Earle C. (Rusty) Bascom, III holds B.S. and M.E. degrees in Electric Power Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and an MBA from the State University of New York at Albany. He is President and a Principal Engineer of Electrical Consulting Engineers, P.C. where he provides engineering services in the analysis, design, specification, installation oversight and operational characteristics of underground and submarine transmission and distribution cable systems. Mr. Bascom is a Senior Member of the IEEE, Power & Energy Society, Past Chair (2018-2019) of the Insulated Conductors Committee, CIGRÉ member, U.S. National Committee representative to CIGRE B1, TAG and Working Groups B1.35, B1.50, B1.56 and B1.72. He is a licensed professional engineer in several U.S. states.



Robert Bradish

Attwood Associate Award

Bob Bradish is senior vice president, Regulated Infrastructure Investment Planning for American Electric Power. He is responsible for identifying and implementing advanced infrastructure solutions for AEP's regulated Generation, Transmission and Distribution businesses.

Previously he was vice president, Transmission Planning and Engineering, where was responsible for managing activities related to the planning and engineering of the transmission grid, the development of engineering standards, advanced technical/analytical studies addressing system dynamic analysis, and asset management functions. He is also responsible for managing AEP's Transmission technology research and development Program.

Prior to returning to AEP Transmission, Bradish led the Market Operations group within AEP's Commercial Operations organization. He was responsible for the development and execution of AEP's day-to-day commercial strategy within the RTO wholesale markets.

Bob holds a bachelor's and master's degree in electrical engineering from Clarkson University in New York. He also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from The Ohio State University and is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Ohio. He has completed the Tuck School of Business Leadership and Strategic Impact Program at Dartmouth College.

Bob is a member of the Engineering Advisory Council of Clarkson University, the Dean's External Advisory Council for the Ohio State University's College of Engineering, a member of the U.S. National Committee of CIGRE, a member of EPRI's PDU Sector Council, a member of the Industry Leaders Council of the Consortium for Electric Reliability Technology Solutions [CERTS] and a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. Bob is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts.



Beth LaRose

Attwood Associate Award

Beth LaRose is Energy Transformation Director at GE Vernova and leads decarbonization consulting and customer engagement for the energy transition in support of net-zero targets. She previously led GE Energy Consulting from 2015 through mid-2023, a global team of power systems experts who deliver a full portfolio of techno-economic studies on electric power systems integration. Beth brings more than 30 years of energy industry experience in electric power markets, investment decision analysis and asset valuation, integrated resource planning and scenario analysis, generation plant operational analyses and the impact of energy policy and environmental regulations.

Beth's leadership in energy industry groups enables sharing of insights and furthering of collaborative research. She is a member of CIGRE US National Executive Committee, active with Study Committee C5 Electricity Markets & Regulations and is on the board of directors for the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG). Beth is a member of SWE, IEEE's Power & Energy Society, and serves on the Engineering Advisory Committee for her Alma Mater, Clarkson University, NY. She has published several industry papers and articles, primarily with IEEE and CIGRE, and recently co-authored a paper, "Evolution of Power Market Structures and Remuneration", October 2022, E. LaRose, R. Fox et al.

Beth earned her Master's in Electric Power Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY USA and her Bachelor's in electrical engineering from Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY USA.



Jessica Lau

Attwood Associate Award

Jessica Lau is the CIGRE USNC Women in Energy Chair and the Grid Storage and Emerging Technologies Manager at Xcel Energy. She has over 15 years of experience across T&D planning, energy security, resilience, and applied research. She is a leader motivated to create cohesion in energy systems by building relationships and solving technical problems. Jessica has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Math and a M.S. in Power Systems Management. She co-founded CIGRE USNC Next Generation Network, launched the NGN Paper Competition, and continues as an active leader in CIGRE USNC.



Gordon van Welie

Attwood Associate Award

Gordon van Welie is President and CEO of ISO New England Inc. He has been actively involved since 2000 in the establishment and growth of advanced wholesale electricity markets and a robust regional system planning process in the New England region.

New England's resources are undergoing a dramatic transformation from oil, coal, and nuclear generation to natural gas, renewable energy, and distributed resources. Gordon has led a strategic initiative to keep system reliability intact and wholesale markets competitive while the shift in fuels and technologies occur. These initiatives include addressing the interdependency between the gas and electric systems, ensuring efficient price formation, facilitating the integration of renewable, distributed, and 'smart grid' technologies, and making significant investments in the regional transmission infrastructure.

Before joining ISO New England, Gordon was the Vice President and General Manager of the Power System Control business for Siemens, which supplies energy and distribution management systems to electric utilities. Earlier in his career, he worked in various transmission and distribution control system engineering roles with the South African utility, Eskom.

Gordon is a member of ISO New England's Board of Directors, as well as a number of industry groups, including the Executive Committee of the U. S. National Committee of CIGRE, the Member Representatives Committee of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the ISO/RTO Council, and the IEEE Power & Engineering Society. In 2017, he was elected as a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and currently serves on the Board on Energy and Environmental Systems.

He is a recipient of 2017 Utility Variable-Generation Integration (UVIG) Achievement Award and, in 2016, was awarded the IEEE Power & Energy Society Leadership in Power Award.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and an MBA from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.



QUANTA
TECHNOLOGY

Quanta Technology LLC

Collective Member Award

Quanta Technology is an independent technology, consulting, and testing company providing business and technical expertise, along with advanced methodologies and processes, to utilities and others in the power and energy industries. Our mission is to provide unparalleled value to our clients in every engagement across the value chain by using advanced software and hardware, laboratories, and custom tools for a holistic approach to practical service and the most insightful thought leadership in the industry.

