

## **GMLC Interconnection Cohort Workshop #3:**

**Workshop Topic:** [Improving the Interconnection Process](#)

**Date:** June 15, 2023

**Location:** Virtual – Teams link will be sent prior to event

**[Registration Link](#)**

### **Workshop Overview:**

The workshop addresses some approaches to establish or improve common process-related elements of interconnection. Expert speakers across the interconnection landscape will discuss where we've been, where we are, and where we need to go in regard to a specific component of interconnection. Included in this 3.5-hour workshop is time for questions and answers as well as interactive polls for audience participation.

- **Introduction (5 min)**  
**Speaker: Michael Ingram** – National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- **Strategies for Reducing Timelines (30 min + 15 min Q&A)**  
**Speaker: Jeff Cook** – National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- **Strategies for Improving Technical Screens (45 min + 15 min Q&A)**  
**Speakers: Nadav Enbar and Tom Key** – Electric Power Research Institute
- **Strategies for Improving Prospecting Tools (45 min + 15 min Q&A)**  
**Speaker: Shay Banton** – Interstate Renewable Energy Council
- **Wrap-up (20 min)**  
**Speaker: Michael Ingram** – National Renewable Energy Laboratory

## **Speakers**

### **Michael Ingram**

Michael Ingram Michael Ingram is a Chief Engineer at NREL and serves as Principal Investigator on multiple research projects supporting grid modernization and renewables integration, including hydropower. He has extensive experience providing technical assistance on renewable energy integration policy and technical requirements to multiple states, Puerto Rico, and international audiences. He has undertaken multiple FEMA deployments to the US Virgin Islands to assess recovery and mitigation readiness after Hurricane Maria and led two reports cited in the 2018 Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) covering the cybersecurity readiness of small and under resourced utilities (electric cooperatives). He is also the lead author on the “Guide to Updating Interconnection Rules and Incorporating IEEE Std 1547-2018.” Michael joined NREL following a 28-year career with the Tennessee Valley Authority. He is a Fellow of the IEEE and a registered professional engineer.

### **Jeff Cook**

Jeffrey Cook is the Subprogram Manager for Solar Analysis at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and program lead for the Solar Automated Permit Processing Plus Platform. He has been on staff at NREL since 2014, and focuses on solar photovoltaics, permitting, resilience, technology cost reduction, and distributed energy resource aggregation. He received his PhD in political science from Colorado State University in 2017, where he continues to instruct energy policy courses. He received his Master of Science in environmental science and policy from the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay in 2012.

### **Nadav Enbar**

Nadav Enbar is a Program Manager at EPRI where he primarily serves the interests and needs of the DER Integration program (P174). His research activities focus on helping energy companies recognize and manage the challenges of incorporating increasing levels of distributed energy resources on the transmission and distribution networks. Specific areas of contribution include DER interconnection and operational best practices, assessments of utility DER business models, and cost-benefit analyses of DER grid integration scenarios. Mr. Enbar has provided analysis of the energy sector since 2003. Prior to joining EPRI in 2010, he was a research director for research and advisory firm IDC Energy Insights. In this role, he reported on a variety of topic areas in the distributed and renewable energy fields, including price and performance trends within the wind and solar PV segments, utility energy storage and CO2 emissions

mitigation initiatives, policy approaches for enabling greater grid integration of renewables, and market-based environmental mediation practices.

Earlier, Enbar contracted his services to energy consultancies Summit Blue (now Guidehouse) and Sieben Energy Associates. Previous to his career in energy, Nadav worked at Business Week (now Bloomberg Businessweek). Enbar received a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Rochester and a Master of Arts in the Social Sciences at the University of Chicago.

### **Tom Key**

Tom Key is a Senior Technical Executive at EPRI and currently working on EPRI's research program for integration of distributed resources. He is a fellow of the IEEE for contributions in the area of power systems and power quality. Mr. Key is the 2016 recipient of EPRI's lifetime achievement award. In 2017 he received the IEEE PES Renewable Energy Excellence Award for Pioneering Contributions in Renewable Energy Resource Development and Integration.

### **Shay Banton**

Shay Banton (they/them), Regulatory Program Engineer and Energy Justice Policy Advocate for IREC, has been working in the grid integration technology and policy space since 2017. Over the course of their career, Shay has been lucky to have worked in multiple sectors across the power industry from utility, to developer, to the federal government. Most recently, they worked for the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office where they managed over a dozen projects across the solar integration technology landscape. They also had a unique opportunity to co-found one of the DOE's most ambitious efforts, the Interconnection Innovation eXchange, which had a goal of making the DOE a national resource for determining interconnection best practices. Prior to this, they worked for Borrego as a Utility Electrical Engineer where they became a nationally recognized interconnection policy advocate leading multiple state-wide efforts to expand market viability.