



BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM FOR NHA BOARD ELECTIONS



Name: Preston Howard Pierce

Title: General Manager - Hydro

Company: Duke Energy

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Type of Company (independent power producer, investor owned utility, municipal utility, manufacturer, equipment supplier, engineering firm, law firm or other): Investor Owned Utility

- Please circle appropriate description. Your company is:

regional

national

state

- Please circle:

Northwest

West

Southwest

Midwest

Middle Atlantic

Northeast

Southeast

- How long have you been with your present company? 30 years

- **How long have you been in your present position?** 8 years
- **Briefly describe the responsibilities of your position and of your department or division as appropriate.** As the Hydro West General Manager, I ensure the safe, compliant, reliable and efficient operation of approximately 2700 MW of renewable energy generation. Two of the sites are Pump Storage and total 2480 MW. The remaining 9 sites are conventional hydro units of varying size. My staff consists of craft maintenance employees that work in various trades (I&C, electricians, mechanics, welding, civil equipment operators, etc). Support personnel on my team provide procedure writing, training, planning and scheduling support for the craft employees. I also have engineers (electrical, mechanical, and civil) that work within an equipment reliability program to monitor, maintain, and modify station assets. This maintenance scope results in an approximate \$15M annual O&M budget for which I am responsible to maintain. Additionally, I maintain an approximate \$50M per year long range capital investment plan aimed at providing continuous long-term viability of our hydro assets.
- **Your work experience has provided you with an opportunity to develop important skills. As an NHA board of director, particular leadership and management skills are necessary to ensure that the Association receives policy direction and that it stays on course in responding to member's needs. Briefly describe the strengths and / or particular skills you would bring to the Board of Directors.** I have been a utility professional for 30 years and part of the Duke Energy leadership team for 20 years. During this time I have developed a wide breadth of experience in the utility industry by working in energy delivery, bulk electric system planning & operations, and multiple generation technologies. I am a student of the business and possess a working knowledge of how the industry operates. I have also been a part of several special projects including RTO development, merger teams and union negotiations. These special projects have allowed me to prove my creativity in building new business entities, finding common ground and negotiating solutions that meet the expectations of multiple different stakeholders. A significant portion of my career was leadership in Bulk Electric System Operations & Planning. In these roles I demonstrated strategic thinking in evolving the system to meet new regulatory processes like transmission open access and clean air regulation. I also showed political savvy in that I created and provided testimony for regulatory proceedings. While in the hydro section of the industry I have expanded my political skill sets by organizing multiple lobbying visits associated with Waterpower Week and hosted numerous legislators at Bad Creek to promote the benefits of hydropower and explain industry hurdles.
- **Have you been actively involved in NHA over the last several years, served on committees, etc?** I have been active in the NHA since coming into Duke Energy's hydro generation team in 2015. Since joining the hydro industry, I have attended every Hydrovision, Clean Currents and Waterpower Week. During Waterpower Week I have worked with my industry peers multiple times to serve or lead panel sessions/forums. When the Markets Committee was initiated, I joined in an effort to use my experience in Bulk Electric System Operations to create strategy for influencing future market rule development. I also have been active in the Pump Storage Development Council participating on a task force to update the Pump Storage Report. Currently I am serving as one of the Vice Chairs for the Pump Storage Development Council.

- **If you are elected to the board, what are the specific priorities that you would pursue?** As a person endeavoring to upgrade and build new hydro and pump storage capacity for Duke Energy, I am actively participating in NHA's efforts to influence the rulemaking associated with the IIJA and IRA grants/tax credits. Licensing reform will continue to be a priority given the number of licenses for which I am responsible. Recently I engaged in a PSDC effort to sponsor a DOE study that would aim to change the strict open loop/closed loop classification policy to provide more licensing flexibility for pump storage development between existing reservoirs. I would also like to grow the organization by recruiting other industry organizations like the Pump Storage Users Group to join Clean Currents, and improve the operational excellence and technological offerings of NHA to its members.
- **Is there anything you would like to add?** This is an exciting time to be a part of the renewable energy business. Recent Federal policy changes and legislation have started to open doors for growth not seen by the hydro industry in some time. I am excited about being part of the hydro industry leadership that can shape the growth and development of our industry for years to come through coalition building using the NHA's value proposition of connect, inform and advocate.

- **Gender Identification**

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

- **Age**

- < 30
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- >70

- **Race**

American Indian / Alaskan Native

Asian

Black / African American

Hispanic

Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander

White

Other

Prefer not to answer