

The Role of Nuclear in Illinois Webinar Speaker Bios

March 31, 2021 | 1-3 pm CDT



The University of Illinois and Chicago sections of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) hosted a webinar on Wednesday March 31, 2021 to inform state lawmakers and the general public about potential consequences of closing the Byron and Dresden Generating Stations, two of the nuclear power plants in the state of Illinois.

Craig Piercy

Craig serves as the Executive Director / CEO of the American Nuclear Society, a position he has held since November 2019. Prior to taking the helm at ANS, Craig was managing director of the Washington Office of the Bose Public Affairs Group, where he built and oversaw a 20-person, 60-client, \$5 million a year government affairs and policy consultancy specializing in energy, science, and education.



While at Bose, Craig also served as ANS Washington Representative, playing a central role in several high-profile nuclear policy victories, including the creation of the Nuclear Energy University Program (NEUP) and Integrated University Program (IUP) and defeating legislation that would have banned the commercial use of 14 radioisotopes.

Prior to entering private practice, Craig worked on Capitol Hill for 8 years, including service as Chief of Staff for Congressman Joe Knollenberg (R-MI) and Associate Staff of the House Appropriations Committee. During his time on the Hill, Craig led efforts to preserve federal nuclear R&D funding and to accelerate cleanup of the U.S.

Department of Energy's defense nuclear sites.

Craig has a bachelor's degree in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park, and is a graduate of the Public Affairs Institute. He lives in Bethesda, Maryland, with his wife Clare and their two children and is an avid skier, canoeist, and Formula One fan.

Mary Lou Dunzik-Gougar, Ph.D.

Dr. Dunzik-Gougar is the associate dean of the Idaho State University (ISU) College of Science and Engineering, associate professor of nuclear



engineering and a senior reactor operator at ISU's AerojetGeneral Nucleonics nuclear reactor, commonly known as the AGN-201. Presently, she coordinates the nuclear engineering curriculum at ISU and teaches core graduate and undergraduate courses. Dr. DunzikGougar also performs nuclear materials research and is involved in regional and discipline accreditations, ISU's international program development, and reactor administration.

She has published internationally and is recognized as principal investigator of productive research projects incorporating

nuclear material irradiation and characterization and the associated management of radioactive material.

Dr. Dunzik-Gougar has collaborated on a variety of projects and proposals in university, national laboratory, and international research environments. This includes her work as a joint appointee scientist at Idaho National Laboratory where she led the Simulation Institute for Nuclear Enterprise Modeling and Analysis fuel-cycle modeling project. She also worked at Argonne National Lab with various duties associated with pyroprocessing spent fuel and was also a high school science and math teacher in the U.S. and U.K.

Dunzik-Gougar has a B.S. in chemistry from Cedar Chest College and received an M.S. in environmental engineering along with her Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from Pennsylvania State University. Her research interests include the nuclear fuel cycle, nuclear fuels and materials development, spent fuel processing, and waste form development.

An ANS member since 1992, Dr. Dunzik-Gougar was on the ANS Board of Directors from 1996-1999 and currently serves as the President of ANS and on the Board until 2020. She is a member of the Accreditation Policy & Procedures Committee, Development Committee, Fuel Cycle and Waste Management Division, Education, Training and Workforce Development Division, the Special Committee on Government Relations, and is the faculty advisor for the ANS Idaho State University Student Section. She is an active member of the Idaho ANS Local Section and has served on numerous organizing committees for local and national meetings.

In 2011 and 2014, she was the recipient of ANS Presidential Citations in addition to the Landis Public Communication and Education Award in 2014.

John Kotek

John Kotek is NEI's vice president of policy development and public affairs.



He is responsible for providing policy and public affairs leadership on financial, economic, tax, electricity market and environmental issues related to the nuclear energy industry.

Kotek was appointed in January 2015 to the position of principal deputy assistant secretary for the Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE) and was nominated by President Obama in October 2015 to serve as assistant secretary for nuclear energy. In that role he was responsible for DOE's research efforts on current and future nuclear energy systems, maintaining the government's nuclear energy research infrastructure, establishing a path forward for the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste management program and a host of other national priorities.

Prior to his appointment, Kotek was the managing partner of the Boise office of Gallatin Public Affairs. He advised energy, natural resources and other clients facing complex communication and government relations challenges.

From 2010-2012, Kotek served as staff director to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, which recommended a new strategy for managing nuclear waste in the United States. He led the development of the commission's final report to the Secretary of Energy, engaged in regular communications with congressional and White House staff and served as media spokesperson.

From 2003-2006, Kotek was deputy manager of the DOE's Idaho Operations Office. He was responsible for development and management of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) contract and interface with the INL cleanup effort. Before joining DOE in July 2003, Kotek worked for Argonne National Laboratory where he directed Argonne's participation in the Generation IV technology road mapping project, an international effort focused on evaluating and developing a next-generation of nuclear energy systems.

In 2002, Kotek was the American Nuclear Society's Glenn T. Seaborg Congressional Fellow. He served in the Office of Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Kotek started his career with DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology. He held several positions during his nine years with DOE-NE, including associate director for technology, associate director for management and administration and chief of staff.

Kotek holds a Bachelor of Science in nuclear engineering from the University of Illinois and a master of business administration from the University of Maryland.

Senator Sue Rezin

State Senator for the 38th District of Illinois, serving Bureau, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Livingston, Putnam and Will counties.



Senator Sue Rezin was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in November of 2010, and was then appointed to the Illinois State Senate. She was sworn in as State Senator on December 14, 2010, and has continually represented the 38th Legislative District since then. Currently, she serves as Deputy Minority Leader for the Illinois Senate Republican Caucus.

As a proponent of energy advancement and independence, obtaining equitable education funding reform and improving statewide economic growth, Senator Rezin serves as the Minority Spokesperson on the Senate Energy and Public Utilities. She also serves as the Minority Spokesperson for the Senate Education and Senate Human Rights committees. Rezin is a member of the Executive, Health, and Insurance committees, as well as a member of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

Senator Rezin is a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government's Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program. In 2020, Sen. Rezin was chosen as one of the 2020 Women of Excellence Award honorees by the National Foundation for Women Legislators.

As a graduate of Augustana College, Senator Rezin earned a degree in

International Business and Political Science with a minor in Hispanic Studies. For the past sixteen years, she has been the co-owner and manager of her family's real estate company

Sarah Downs is the Executive Director of the Byron Chamber of Commerce.



Jimmy Glidic

Jimmy has worked at Dresden Station for 29 yrs and serves as the Electrical Union Steward for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) LOCAL Section 15.



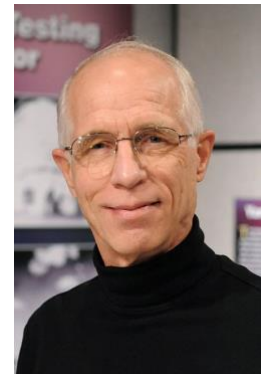
Christine Lynde is the School Board President for Byron CUSD #226



Jimmy started at Dresden when he was 20 and with the highly skilled training that was provided, he was able to support his family and community. The people at Dresden are amazing and like a 2nd Family to him. The workers kept that plant operating during the pandemic, closure announcement and extreme cold, they supplied safe clean carbon free electricity and hope to have the chance to continue.

Roger Blomquist

Roger is a retired US Navy Captain, having served as a nuclear propulsion officer on a submarine. Roger holds a PhD in Nuclear Engineering from Northwestern University.



Byron Station Response Committee

The Committee is comprised of local leaders, citizens, and taxing bodies. They include public officials (including elected officials and administrators), representatives of our local businesses, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, and representatives of our School District.

Roger has worked as a Principal Nuclear Engineer in a national laboratory nuclear energy program. He provided reactor physics analysis support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the "Iran nuclear deal"). Roger has experience in the study of the neutron chain reaction, reactor safety, and small modular reactors, with interests in the economics and environmental effects of electricity generating options.

He has taught courses on nuclear energy at Northwestern University, The University of

Chicago, and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Anna Balla

Anna is a Senior at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) studying



Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological engineering with a concentration in Power, Safety and the Environment. Anna has served on the executive board of the UIUC chapter of the American Nuclear Society for two years, formerly as the Secretary and presently as the External Vice President. Through her involvement in ANS, in the past year, Anna has co-lead nuclear public outreach events such as Nuclear Knowledge Night and the Save Illinois Nuclear Letter Writing Campaign. She is also an active member of the Women in Nuclear chapter at UIUC.

During her time at the University of Illinois, Anna has been an undergraduate teaching assistant for 3 classes, including Introduction to Energy Sources, Orientation to NPRE, and Engineering Orientation. She has also been involved with research groups with the Center for Plasma-Materials Interaction and with the Advanced Reactors and Fuel Cycles group. In the summer of 2020 Anna was an intern with the Radiation Protection department at Dresden Nuclear Power Station. In the summer of 2021 Anna will be an intern with the BWR Core Design and Methods team at Exelon Nuclear.

Anna is a lifelong resident of Illinois. She graduated from Mundelein High School in

2017 and was named Valedictorian of the class. In high school, she was involved in marching band, Link Crew, National Honors Society, and Spanish Club.

Dr. Kent A. Bugg

Superintendent of Coal City School District #1



President of FAIRCOM (Fair Assessment Information Resource Committee)

Dr. Bugg is in his 16th year as the Superintendent of Coal City School District #1 located in Coal City, IL, where the Dresden Nuclear Power Station is located. During his tenure as superintendent, he has negotiated four property tax agreements with Exelon to secure 15 years of property tax payments to the school district and six other taxing districts. He has testified on numerous occasions in front of the State legislature regarding the impact of nuclear power on taxing districts. For the past 16 years, Dr. Bugg has also served as the President of the Fair Assessment Information Resource Committee (FAIRCOM), which is an organization of 32 taxing districts throughout the state of Illinois containing large energy producing facilities within their tax base. Their membership includes school districts and other taxing districts that receive property tax revenue from all six nuclear plants in the state of Illinois. FAIRCOM has also been instrumental in the legislative process to determine the assessment process for both wind and solar facilities.