

# Navigating a Transforming Utility Landscape

## NWESS 2026

University of Washington  
Alder Hall  
April 1-2, 2026



**Speakers:** Erica Pierce (Tacoma Power), Brett Hanson (Seattle City Light), Kevin Murry (Puget Sound Energy), Tyler Reinitz (Snohomish County PUD)

**Title:** Regional Perspectives on Transformer Supply Chain Challenges and Solutions

**Abstract:** The utility industry faces unprecedented supply chain disruptions, with transformer and critical equipment lead times extending from months to years. This panel brings together local industry experts to share real-time and real-world experiences and practical solutions for today's procurement challenges.

This session will explore lessons from recent supply chain disruptions as well as ongoing strategies to address the need for procuring critical equipment.

### **Bios:**

**Erica Pierce** – Erica Pierce is the Contract Program Manager for Tacoma Power's Transmission & Distribution section. Ms. Pierce manages the contracts for services and supplies needed for continuity of operations for the Transmission & Distribution (T&D) team.

Ms. Pierce has almost 20 years of purchasing experience, with over a decade in the private sector, supporting industries such as retail and distribution. Her favorite role in the private sector provided in-depth experience in manufacturing which relied heavily on supply chain management with global partners. Ms. Pierce started with the Purchasing group at the City of Tacoma in 2019 to learn the nuances of public procurement and was promoted to her role in T&D in 2023.

**Brett Hanson** – Brett Hanson is the supervisor of Standards Engineering at Seattle City Light. Brett wrote the material standards for all the distribution class transformers in use when he started 17 years ago at the utility and has kept them up-to-date since.

Brett started in the electric industry in the year 2000 at Seattle-based electrical consulting firm Sparling (now Stantec) where he designed lighting, power, fire alarm, and other signaling systems for commercial buildings including many NW hospitals from Butte and Bend to Anchorage, residential/retail highrise buildings, and hospitality spaces, earning his PE license in the process. In 2005, he transitioned to the owner side as the sole electrical engineer for store development at Starbucks Coffee Company. In 2008, he completed the full industry loop by joining the utility sector at Seattle City Light, first as a standards engineer and now as a supervisor for a talented group of five standards engineers, two technical writers, and a material inspector that he feels very privileged to call his team.

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**Kevin Murray** - Kevin is the Manager of Standards, Quality, and Field Engineering at Puget Sound Energy. He has worked in the electric and gas utility industry at PSE for over 16 years. He currently leads multiple teams responsible for managing standards (including design, construction, and work practice manuals) and for selecting transmission, substation, and distribution commodities.



More recently, Kevin has taken on additional teams responsible for the quality oversight of our primary service providers, as well as regional engineering teams that support emergent and maintenance work for field operations. He has held leadership roles in various capacities at PSE over his tenure that include both the electric and natural gas sides of the business, with the goal of driving towards a more safe, reliable, and resilient energy system.

Prior to PSE, Kevin worked in the construction equipment manufacturing industry. Kevin has Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Santa Clara University, and an MBA from City University of Seattle. He also serves as the Chairman of the Equipment Technology Working Group within the Distribution Executive Committee of EEI's Transmission, Distribution, Metering & Mutual Assistance (TDMMA) organization.



**Tyler Reinitz** – Tyler Reinitz is the Manager of Standards and Asset Management at Snohomish County PUD. Tyler and his team manage the PUD's Transmission and Distribution Standards documentation and are key contributors in creating and maintaining the purchasing and warehousing strategies for the District's materials. Tyler has 15 years of experience in Standards and material management at SnoPUD.

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