

M. Chris Kirksey, P.E.

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Extensive experience in the power generation industry, including project development, permitting, power marketing, plant operations, and power purchase agreements. Strong management and leadership skills with an ability to build positive relationships with a broad range of individuals. In-depth technical knowledge with a focus on reliability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.

Professional Experience

High Road Clean Energy LLC, Austin, Texas

Managing Director – February 2019 to Present

- Key Member of HRCE, focused on early stage, utility scale solar project development, primarily in the ERCOT market
- Provide oversight of solar project interconnection activities, solar resource analyses, and market assessment

LEO Energy, LLC, Austin, Texas

Founder and Principal – February 2018 to Present

Land

- Provide advice and support to developers and landowners for site acquisition, rights of way, easements, oil and gas leases, renewable energy project leases, and water rights

Energy

- Provide project and business development advice and support to power industry product and service providers, project developers, public and private utilities

Origination/Opportunities

- Provide Power Supply Sales and Purchase advice and support to project developers, power resource owners, public and private utilities, corporations, and other power off-takers

SUMMIT POWER GROUP, LLC, Austin, Texas

Director – January 2009 to Present

Clean Coal – Texas Clean Energy Project

- Managed permitting, site infrastructure development, Right-of-Way acquisition, and electric transmission interconnection for the Texas Clean Energy Project, a \$3 billion IGCC project with 90% carbon capture under development by Summit. The project was partially funded by a \$350 million grant from the US DOE's Clean Coal Power Initiative program.
- Responsible for securing water supply, treatment system, and wastewater disposal. Negotiated agreements for water supply agreement and water treatment systems.
- Led negotiations to secure a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the project output with CPS Energy.
- Participated in negotiation and execution of agreement to sell urea produced by the project.
- Participated in negotiation and execution of agreement for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) services for the project.

- Led interface with the Union Pacific Railroad for negotiation of track agreement and transportation. Led interface with TxDOT for plant access roads. Secured a financial commitment pledge from Ector County for construction and maintenance of main access road.

Carbon Capture

- Permitting/Transmission Interconnection lead for feasibility study of a fossil fueled power generation project with CO2 capture to be located in Grangemouth, Scotland. Study is funded by a 4.3 million GBP grant from the Scottish Government and the UK DECC/BEIS.
- Permitting/Technical lead for Summit Carbon Capture, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Summit Power Group and vertically integrated developer of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration projects.

Solar

- Technical lead for Summit during the formation of NorthLight Power, a utility scale solar development JV with REC.
- Developed utility scale solar plant design standards for various regions in the US, utilizing NREL's PVWatts modeling program. Interfaced with equipment suppliers, engineering services providers, and construction contractors.
- Developed numerous proposals, including project budgets and financing options, for solar projects throughout the US. Successfully negotiated power purchase agreement (PPA) with PGE for a 60 MWac solar project in California.

Wind, Conventional Power, Other

- Manage a broad range of Summit project development activities, including permitting, regulatory assessment, land/easement acquisition, and contract negotiations for various natural gas and renewable projects.
- Lead origination and proposal development for various generating asset development opportunities. Short-listed numerous times.
- Summit lead for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) development efforts.
- Directed development of the Encino Wind Project, a proposed 200 MW wind project in South Texas.

FIRST CREEK RANCH, Lipscomb County, Texas

Operations Manager – January 2010 to Present

- Manage oil & gas interests and grass leases for family owned 2,000 acre ranch in the Texas Panhandle.

AUSTIN ENERGY, Austin, Texas

Sr. Vice-President of Power Production – August 2004 to January 2009

- Responsible for management of all assigned resources for Austin Energy's Power Production systems and for ensuring the safe, efficient and environmentally responsible operation of Austin Energy's power generation facilities.
- Member of the Board of Directors for the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC). Austin Energy representative for the South Texas Project, Fayette Power Project, and Matagorda Project Owners Committees.
- Interface with other Austin Energy executives, City department directors, City management, City Council, and the City of Austin Electric Utility Commission

Manager, Power Production Engineering Services - May 1997 to August 2004

- Directed Austin Energy team that developed 300 MW combined cycle generation facility and a 180 MW simple cycle combustion turbine peaking generation facility, including all phases from project conception through commercial operation.
- Developed, negotiated, executed, and managed various contracts with engineering firms, equipment vendors, project developers, and construction contractors.
- Managed engineering group providing major project management and technical support to Austin Energy's Power Production facilities.
- Responsible for all power production engineering functions related to development and oversight of up to \$80 million annual capital improvement budget.

Acting Plant Manager, Holly Street Power Station - February 1997 to May 1997

- Functionally responsible for oversight of 560 MW power plant.
- Provided leadership and direction to plant personnel in an effort to reduce generation costs and improve plant performance.
- Responsible for developing and maintaining \$7 million annual non-fuel O&M budget.

Plant Engineer, Holly Street Power Station - January 1996 to May 1997

- Responsible for technical direction of plant operations and maintenance activities.
- Responsible for plant operational performance and environmental compliance.
- Project manager for major equipment overhauls, including turbines and boilers.
- Acted on behalf of Plant Manager in his absence.

Engineer, Generation Engineering Division - August 1994 to December 1995

- Responsible for final phases of the Generation Reliability and Improvement Project (GRIP), a long term program for improving reliability of Austin Energy's generating units. The project involved a \$3 million engineering contract and over \$20 million in plant inspections and improvements. Incorporated consultant's recommendations into the plants' Maintenance Management System and engineering support group's project list.

Plant Engineer, Decker Creek Power Station - August 1991 to July 1994

- Responsible for technical direction of 925 MW power plant operations and maintenance activities.
- Responsible for plant operational performance and environmental compliance including supervision of plant chemistry group.
- Served as interface between plant and engineering support group.
- Project manager for plant outage involving major construction/renovation to plant cooling water intake system, turbine overhaul, and boiler repairs.
- Acted on behalf of Plant Manager in his absence.

Results Engineering Supervisor - January 1990 to August 1991

- Responsible for performance reporting, monitoring, and testing of the City of Austin's Decker Creek, Holly Street, and Seaholm Power Stations.
- Responsible for performance reporting of the City's interests in the South Texas Project and the Fayette Power Project.

Fayette Power Project Engineer - November 1988 to December 1989

- Technical liaison for the City of Austin's interest in the Fayette Power Project.
- Responsible for tracking fiscal and operational performance of the project and dealing with issues of dispute between the City and the LCRA.

Results Engineer - November 1985 to December 1989

- Responsible for performance monitoring and testing of the City of Austin's Decker Creek, Holly Street, and Seaholm Power Stations.

STEWART SYSTEMS, INC., Plano, Texas

Engineer/Estimator - June 1984 to October 1985

- Provided design and cost analysis of materials handling systems, and assisted Chief Engineer in design calculations.

Education

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, Lubbock, Texas
Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering

Registration

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, State of Texas
Serial Number 66625

Community Activities/Awards

City of Rollingwood Planning and Zoning Commission 2009 - 2013

City of Rollingwood Board of Adjustments 2005 – 2008

LBJ High School Liberal Arts & Science Academy Advisory Board 2005 – 2008

First Presbyterian Church Day School Board of Directors 1999 – 2001

First Presbyterian Church Ruling Elder 1999 – 2001, 2016 – 2019

Served as chair of the Church Operations Board 2016-2019

Texas Tech Alumni Association – Austin Chapter Executive Board 1994 – 2002

Served as President of the Austin Chapter 1998/1999

Capital Area United Way Young Leaders Society 2001 – 2005

Austin Regional Science Festival 2000 – 2013

Volunteer Judge

Leadership Austin – Essential Class of 2007

Texas Tech University Academy of Mechanical Engineers – Inducted 2008, Chair 2015