

# Resume

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**Michael Burr** leads multidisciplinary projects addressing development and operation of energy microgrids. Since founding Burr Energy LLC *dba* Microgrid Institute in 2013, he has represented the company in client and stakeholder engagements, assembled and managed project teams, and provided expert consultative services for a variety of projects and programs related to microgrids and distributed energy resources. He has contributed expertise and leadership to initiatives focused on:

- Microgrid design engineering, feasibility assessment, simulation, testing, and procurement;
- Community energy resiliency, sustainability, and conservation;
- Market assessment and regulatory and financial analysis;
- Stakeholder outreach, engagement, and facilitation;
- Project management and multidisciplinary team collaboration; and
- Successful grantwriting and management of awards totaling \$10 million in aggregate value.

A prolific writer and energy industry analyst, Michael has produced more than 20 volumes of industry journals; facilitated numerous events, workshops, and stakeholder processes; and led formative initiatives to accelerate adoption of clean energy and efficiency technologies.

An experienced project manager and business administrator, Michael has formed, owned, and operated for-profit and not-for-profit businesses; managed corporate cost centers and operating staff; and overseen team projects and prime contracts valued in the millions of dollars.

An active member of the community, Michael contributes his expertise to community organizations, including state and local arts, history, and educational institutions. He lives and works in Little Falls with his wife of 31 years and their three children.

## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

### Burr Energy LLC *and* Microgrid Institute

**Founder, Executive Director, Senior Consultant** (*2013-Present*): Leads collaborative consulting practice supporting the transition toward greater energy sustainability, resilience, and prosperity; initiates and manages projects and client engagements; serves as grant/contract proposal writer, program manager, and consultant; provides analysis, development, and stakeholder engagement services.

### Great River Arts Association

**Grant and Fund Development Officer** (*September 2019-Present*): Leads grant and sponsorship prospecting and development for local arts and events center; advises association leadership and staff in strategic planning and organizational development.

### Public Utilities Reports Inc.

**Editor-in-Chief and Associate Publisher** (*2009-2014*), **Editor-at-Large** (*2001-2009*), **Public Utilities Fortnightly**: Led monthly publication of policy and business journal serving U.S. investor-owned utility executives and regulators; analyzed utility regulation, finance, and strategic trends; represented company in client and stakeholder engagements; managed editorial and production staff, schedule, and budgets; developed and managed paid-circulation marketing programs; conceived and created new publishing and event products; developed industry information database products and publication website and content management platforms.

### Primedia / Intertec

**Editor, Telecom Business** (*2000-2001*): Led re-design and re-launch of business publication serving executives and regulators in the competitive telecommunications industry; managed editorial and production staff, schedule, and budgets; planned and executed development of monthly editorial content.

## PennWell

**Managing Editor, *Electric Light & Power*; co-chair, DistribuTECH (1995-2000):** Served as lead editor and manager of monthly publication serving managers in the U.S. electric utility industry; managed editorial and production staff, schedule, and budgets; co-chaired DistribuTECH program committee and annual conference; represented company in public speaking engagements; led and supported special development projects, including new publications and events, and online media initiatives.

## Burr Research

**Principal (1993-2009):** Established and managed independent communications consultancy, providing analysis, content development, and advisory services to a variety of U.S. and international clients (*e.g.*, IBM, Barclays PLC, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, and U.S. Generating Co.)

**Editor-at-Large, *Inside Counsel / Corporate Legal Times* (2001-2009):** Provided editorial services for monthly corporate legal information services company, covering regulatory law, corporate governance, intellectual property, labor and employment, and U.S. federal courts.

## National Independent Energy Producers

**Communications Director (1992):** Developed and executed communications strategy for national trade association serving developers of independent power generation facilities; represented association in outreach and promotions; served as staff liaison to communications committee; managed publications and special communications projects.

## Independent Energy magazine / Marier Communications

**Editor, *Independent Energy*; chair, *Independent Energy Forum* (1988-1995):** Led monthly editorial publication for international business journal serving developers and financiers of independent power generation facilities; managed editorial and production staff, schedule, and budgets; co-chaired annual *Independent Energy* Forum; led and supported special projects and events.

## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

**St. Cloud State University (1990) –** BA (honors), English and Mass Communications/News-Editorial

**Public Utilities Reports –** PUR Guide Utility Regulatory Program (2001)

**OSP International –** Project Management Institute PMP Certification Program (2014)

## ASSOCIATIONS AND SERVICE

### Professional Associations

- Retail Automated Transactive Energy System Project, Technical Advisory Committee Member – California Energy Commission GFO 15-311 (*January 2018-Current*).
- National Community Solar Partnership, Member – Finance and Business Models Working Group, U.S. Department of Energy (*February 2016-June 2017*).
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers – Member, Power & Energy Society (*2015-2016*).

### Volunteer and Community Service

- Founder and Producer – Little Falls Summer Musical (501(c)(3)) (*May 2019-Current*)
- Scenic Designer – Little Falls Community High School Spring Musical (*2015-Current*)
- Member, Strategic Planning and Building & Grounds Committees – Morrison County Historical Society (*March 2015-Current*)
- Judge, Minnesota History Day – Minnesota Historical Society (*2016-Current*)
- Volunteer – Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site (*2014-Current*)
- Volunteer & Guest Lecturer – Little Falls Community Schools (*2008-Current*)
- Volunteer – Great River Arts Association, Little Falls, Minnesota (*2014-Current*)
- Coach & Referee – Little Falls Community Schools and Little Falls Youth Soccer Club (*2008-2014*)

- Certified Referee – Minnesota State Referee Committee / U.S. Soccer Federation (2012-2014)
- Board Member – Minnesota Astronomical Society (2007-2009)
- Board Member – Naperville Astronomical Association (2002-2003)

## REFERENCES

Professional references and letters of recommendation available upon request.

## REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

- 2017-Current: Consultant, Tribal Microgrid Development and Grantwriting, **Prosper Sustainably**: Leads and supports design, development, and procurement of hybrid solar microgrid systems for critical tribal facilities at Native American reservations.
- 2018-Current: Prime Contractor, Lead Designer, **Minnesota DNR** Red Lake Wildlife Management Area Microgrid Design-Engineering Project: Leads design of two off-grid hybrid solar+LP microgrids for remote DNR sites; Manage project team including EVS Inc. and University of St. Thomas.
- 2018-Current: Principal Investigator, Program Manager, **Massachusetts Clean Energy Center** Community Microgrids Feasibility Assessment Program: Lead collaborative project design and feasibility assessment projects for three multi-user community microgrids (Boston, Pittsfield, and Palmer, Mass.); Manage program team including subcontractor S&C Electric.
- 2016-2017: Chairman, New Paltz Community Energy (NPCE) Public-Private Partnership: Led and facilitated multi-stakeholder community collaboration to develop community shared solar array and resilient microgrid project for the **Town and Village of New Paltz, N.Y.**
- 2015-2016: Prime contractor and principal investigator, **NYSERDA** NY Prize Stage 1 projects. Design, feasibility assessment, and stakeholder engagement for community microgrid projects serving two communities in the Mid-Hudson region of New York State – New Paltz and Warwick.
- 2017: Consultant, military and data center microgrid market assessment and capture strategy planning for California-based **U.S. defense contractor**.
- 2016-2017: Led project to analyze regulatory barriers to microgrid development in seven U.S. jurisdictions and develop potential strategic and legal solutions for a **multinational energy conglomerate**.
- 2015: Consultant and co-author, **Washington D.C. Department of Energy and Environment** Microgrid and District Energy Assessment project (Urban Ingenuity - prime contractor). Led collaborative legal and business model analysis to support D.C. government energy planning objectives.
- 2014-2017: Principal investigator and program management officer (PMO), Olney Town Center Microgrid Project (DE-OE 0000734), **U.S. Department of Energy** National Energy Technology Laboratory. Collaborative project to design, model, and test a public-purpose microgrid control system to protect critical community infrastructure including fire, police, hospital, and other vital services.
- 2013-2016: Facilitator and contractor, **Minnesota Department of Commerce** Division of Energy Resources CHP Stakeholder Engagement process (2014-2015). Led stakeholder meetings and provided synthesis and analysis for a series of engagement reports, including comment period submission synthesis and pre- and post-engagement stakeholder survey reports. Supported Department efforts in CHP Action Plan development and outreach.
- 2013: Led Minnesota Microgrids study project team for **Minnesota Department of Commerce**. Performed analysis and synthesized inputs from more than two dozen contributors to produce study report: *Minnesota Microgrids: Challenges, Opportunities, and Pathways toward Resilience*.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- *Summary Report - Stakeholder Written Comments, 2019 Fuel-Switching Stakeholder Process*, Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources, Sept. 15, 2019.
- *Microgrid Optimized Resource Dispatch for Public-Purpose Resiliency and Sustainability*, Final Report, Olney Town Center Microgrid Control System R&D Project, U.S. Department of Energy Office of Scientific and Technical Information, Sept. 30, 2017.
- “Microgrid Financing: Evolving Options for Cost-Effective Commercial Funding,” Presentation, Microgrid Global Innovation Forum, May 17, 2017.
- “P3 Microgrids: Aligning Interests for Local Sustainability and Resilience,” Presentation, International Electrotechnical Commission – World Smart Cities Forum, April 24, 2017.
- “How Not to Shoot Yourself in the Foot: Smart Planning and P3s,” *Meeting of the Minds Blog*, co-author with Jeffrey Domanski, Institute for Building Technology & Safety, Jan. 23, 2017.
- “What Sustainability Executives Need to Know about Microgrids,” GreenBiz Webinar, Dec. 13, 2016.
- *Combined Heat and Power Stakeholder Engagement Process – Final Report: Options, Outcomes, and Recommendations*, Minnesota Department of Commerce CHP Action Plan Program, February 2015.
- “Regulatory and Business Models for Community Microgrids: Establishing an Economic Foundation for Customer Energy Resilience,” Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers – Power and Energy Society (IEEE-PES) General Meeting, July 28, 2015.
- “Community Microgrid Models: Keeping up with innovation in energy technology and customer needs,” American Bar Association Smartgrids Webinar, June 16, 2015.
- “Resilience through Microgrids: Trends and Opportunities for States and Communities,” (presentation), National Association of State Energy Officials, Feb. 4, 2015.
- Microgrid Institute Roadmap Comments, Resiliency through Microgrids Task Force, Maryland Energy Administration, April 3, 2014.
- “Emerging Models for Microgrid Finance,” *IEEE Electrification*, March 2014.
- *Minnesota Microgrids: Barriers, Opportunities, and Pathways toward Energy Assurance*, Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources, Sept. 30, 2014.
- “Microgrids and the Utility of the Future: Facing the innovation mandate,” (presentation), NYU Law School Symposium, March 2014.
- “Economy of Small: How DG and microgrids change the game for utilities,” *Public Utilities Fortnightly*, May 2013.
- “Microgrid Multi-Play: Creative solutions for energy access, resilience, and sustainability,” (presentation) United Nations Foundation MiniGrids Working Group, Nov. 21, 2013.

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