Wade Smith

Investor-Owned Utility Segment Alternate

Wade Smith is Senior Vice President, Grid Development, for AEP Transmission. In this position, Mr. Smith is responsible for leading efforts to improve transmission efficiency, contain project costs, and support commitments to NERC compliance and capital excellence.

Previously, Mr. Smith was President and Chief Operating Officer for AEP Texas. As president, he oversaw distribution operations serving more than one million AEP customers in Central and North Texas as well as operating unit safety, customer services, marketing, communications, community affairs, governmental affairs, and regulatory functions.

Prior to that, he served as Vice President, Transmission Engineering and Project Services, for AEP Transmission, responsible for directing the capital service function in transmission, with responsibility for Transmission Asset Management, Transmission Projects Engineering, and the Project and Construction Management groups.

Before joining AEP Transmission, Mr. Smith was Director, Gas Turbine and Joint Venture, Generation, where he was responsible for AEP's combustion turbine-based generation, wind generation facilities, and the jointly-owned coal plants not operated by AEP. Before assuming that role, he was Executive Director, IPP & Wind, and had responsibility for 12 independent power projects.

Mr. Smith began his career with the former Central and South West Corporation, where he worked as an engineer and plant manager.

Mr. Smith earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Texas Tech University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Abilene Christian University. He is also a graduate of The Executive Program-Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia and the MIT Reactor Technology Course for Utility Executives.

Mr. Smith currently serves as a trustee for The Columbus Museum of Art, as a member of the Texas Tech Whitacre College of Engineering Dean’s Council, and as a trustee for BalletMet. He has previously chaired the American Heart Association's Corpus Christi Heart Walk, as well as served on the Executive Committee for the United Way of the Coastal Bend, Board of Trustees for the Del Mar College Foundation, and the Executive Committee of the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association.