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Mike Hightower is a Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff in the Military and Energy Systems Analysis Department at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque. He is a civil and environmental engineer and has over 35 years of experience in research and development projects. His current efforts include research and evaluation of innovative environmental and energy technologies and the security and protection of critical water and energy infrastructures. He also conducts research on the use of distributed and Renewable Energy Technologies and distributed Water and Waste water systems to enhance sustainable economic development, Global Public Health, and Infrastructure Resiliency and Security. Since 2006, Hightower has supported the United States in developing a Science and Technology program plan for addressing energy and water interdependencies, most recently working with the National Science Foundation to conduct a U.S. national workshop on Energy and Water research priorities.

Mr. Hightower holds a BS and MS in Civil Engineering from New Mexico State University. He has published over 100 technical papers and reports including articles in *Nature*, three reports to Congress, and authored chapters in two books, one on *Advanced Desalination and One on Energy* and one on *Energy and Water Challenges*.