As CEO of CILCORP Inc., a NYSE company, from 1988 through 1999, Robert Viets played a significant role in energy deregulation. The company’s major subsidiary provided electricity and natural gas to retail customers in central Illinois with prices regulated by a state commission. He led a national effort to accelerate deregulation of retail energy markets and was the first to demonstrate the benefits by opening residential and commercial customer test markets to competition in the company’s otherwise regulated service area. CILCORP’s financial returns to shareholders during his term as CEO ranked among the highest in the electricity and natural gas utility industry. He later provided consulting services to AES and to other energy and telecommunications providers.

Viets received a bachelor’s degree in economics from Washburn University and, while attending law school at Washington University, began his business career as an auditor with Arthur Andersen & Co. He is a Certified Public Accountant. He joined Central Illinois Light Company (predecessor to CILCORP) in 1973 and advanced through financial and operating positions prior to becoming CEO. He has served as a member of the boards of directors of CILCORP, RLI Corp., Consumers Water Company, Philadelphia Suburban Water Company, Patriot Coal Corp., Peoria Savings & Loan Association, First of America Bank—Illinois, and Lincoln Office Supply Company.

Viets served terms as chair of the Bradley University Board of Trustees, Methodist Health Services Corporation, Advanced Medical Transport, Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois, Heart of Illinois United Way campaign, and Lutheran Hillside Village campaign. He was a member of the transition teams for two Illinois governors, the Illinois Coal Development Board, and the General Trustees of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

Viets and his wife, Karen, reside in Naples, Florida, and have one son.