

# MACRUC

Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners

## 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference

Draft Agenda as of Wednesday, April 27, 2022

### Sunday, June 19, 2022

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|                |   |                  |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| 4:30 – 6:00 pm | Registration for pre-registered attendees.<br>There will be no onsite registration. | Marquis Ballroom |
| 5:00 – 6:00 pm | Welcome Reception for on-site attendees   | Grand Ballroom   |

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### Monday, June 20, 2022

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| 9:00 – 10:30 am | <b>Opening General Session</b> | Marquis Ballroom |
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Join MACRUC President Tony O'Donnell of Maryland for the kick-off the MACRUC 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference

- Remarks by NARUC President Judy Jagdmann, VA
- Remarks by Hon. Willie Phillips, FERC

#### Retail Competition in the Mid-Atlantic: Challenges, Opportunities and the Road Ahead

It's been more than twenty years since consumers were given the option to choose their electricity and gas supplier. How have

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the retail markets developed in the Mid-Atlantic states during that time and what changes are necessary to deliver more of the promised benefits? This panel of current and former MACRUC regulators and consumer advocates will consider a variety of reforms to the competitive market structure that enhance the customer shopping experience, including supplier consolidated billing, data access, seamless moves, as well as discuss the latest trends in consumer protection.

- ***Hon. Jason Stanek, Maryland***
- ***Travis Kavulla, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, NRG Energy, Inc.***
- ***David Lapp, People's Counsel, Maryland Office of People's Counsel***
- ***Robert Powelson, President and CEO, National Association of Water Companies***
- ***Kristina Montgomery, Director of Retail Policy, Vistra, RESA Chair, MD, DC & DE***

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10:30 – 10:45    **Networking Break**

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10:45– 11:45    **Concurrent A1:**

### **Duct Tape Won't Fix This Leak**

Methane leakage is a major source of greenhouse gas emission. Leakage also constitutes safety and cost implications for utility customers. This panel will discuss these implications within the context of main replacement programs, commodity purchasing, certified natural gas programs, and cutting-edge leak detection/emission technology. The critical question of what, if any, role regulators play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through commodity procurement policies will be debated.

- ***Hon. Friedeman, Ohio***

**Concurrent A2:**

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## **Support the Existing and Bring in the New Nuclear**

Nuclear energy is making the headlines around the MACRUC region. This panel will explore what states are doing to encourage new nuclear and preserve the existing nuclear fleet. Panel participants will also discuss what states can expect to see in terms of challenges and successes for the future of nuclear in their states and across the MACRUC region.

- *Hon. Tony O'Donnell, Maryland*
- *Hon. David Wright, Nuclear Regulatory Commission*
- *Hon. Mary-Anna Holden, New Jersey*
- *David Springe, Executive Director, NASUCA*

### **Concurrent A3:**

## **From L1 to Fast Charge - Planning Tomorrow's National EV Charging Network Today**

With the deployment of Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act funds to support a nationwide public charging network, how can Commissions, private sector EV charging providers, and utilities work together to support these efforts? Panelists will discuss how utilities and the private sector can support the EV deployment through federal cost-share requirements, appropriate siting and locational-valuing of charging infrastructure, and responsible deployment of National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program funds.

- *Hon. Obi Linton, Maryland*
- *Carine Dumit, Director, Market Development & Public Policy, EVgo*

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11:45 – 12:00    **Networking Break**

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12:00 – 1:00    **Concurrent B1:**

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## Know Your State's Freedom of Information and Right to Know Laws

This session will cover the following issues relevant to State Commissions. MACRUC will be submitting information for CLE Ethics hours. Attendees will learn

- ✚ Learn what the Courts are deciding with respect to protected information.
  - ✚ How your Commission or utility can be better prepared to deal with information requests.
  - ✚ Learn what your State's laws require of a public agency when responding to information requests.
- ***Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission***
  - ***John Herzog, First Deputy Chief Counsel, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission***

### Concurrent B2:

## Expansion of Interregional Transmission Planning

With the 2021 Texas power outage, the 2021 California heat wave, and other energy crises, along with the US transition to a lower-carbon electric future, the discussion concerning development and expansion of interregional transmission planning is at the forefront of many states. While FERC encourages regional planning authorities to coordinate interregional transmission planning, there has been no clear directive or process for the development of those plans. In response to a recent FERC ANOPR, many parties expressed favor for the development of an interregional planning process, which shows the continuous interest in this topic. In this discussion we will explore the benefits, barriers, and steps that are needed to encourage expansion of interregional transmission planning.

- ***Hon. Emile Thompson, District of Columbia***
- ***Hon. Michael Richard, Maryland***
- ***Larry Gasteiger, Executive Director, WIRES***
- ***Suzanne Glatz, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Interregional Planning, PJM***

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- **Barbara Tyran**

## Concurrent B3:

### **Broadband Availability and Affordability**

Congress appropriated an historic 45 billion dollars for Broadband Deployment and an additional \$14.2 billion dollars for the affordable broadband connectivity program (ACP) in the recent Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA"). In the legislation, Congress states, "[a]ccess to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband is essential to full participation in modern life in the United States." The statute also requires recipients of broadband deployment to provide an affordable service as part of their funding. The IIJA, along with prior funding awarded over the past several years by the FCC to carriers for broadband deployment through the CAF, the CAF II and the RDOF will continue to close the digital gap in the states. The panel discussion will explore what, if anything, state commissions can do to assist in the efforts to ensure that the money flowing into the states to build networks will support service offerings on those funded networks that are affordable

- **Hon. Dan Conway, Ohio**
- **Hon. Upendra Chivukula, New Jersey**
- **Ben Aron, Assistant VP, State and Regulatory Affairs, CTIA, The Wireless Industry**
- **Mike Romano, Senior, VP of Industry Affairs and Business Development, The Rural Broadband Association (NTCA)**

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1:00 – 2:15

## **General Session**

### **Lunch and Learn:**

#### **Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition:**

#### **Feds, States and Industry Working Together**

Accelerating the clean energy transition to achieve carbon neutrality brings new opportunities as well as some tough challenges. To lead the clean energy transition, integrating clean energy resources into the regional transmission and distribution system will require

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cooperation and collaboration among policymakers, utilities, and public utility commissions as well as the successful navigation of the complex array of federal and state regulations. Accelerating the clean energy transition, however, will encounter obstacles along the way. So, completing the goal requires a united approach, spanning sector-specific technology supported by sector-specific technology and organizational planning. Join us to for a facilitated discussion on federal and state energy policies, clean energy procurement, achieving net-zero carbon emissions, and corporate sustainability.

- ***Hon. Jehmal Hudson, Virginia***
- ***Kelly Speakes-Backman, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Energy***
- ***Joe Dominguez, CEO, Constellation***

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## **Tuesday, June 21, 2022**

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9:00 – 10:00 am

### **Concurrent C1:**

Marquis Ballroom

#### **Who Ya Gonna Call?**

When it comes to a weather event, our utilities have voluminous emergency management manuals. Mutual aid protocols are established and available. We know that when a storm is imminent, Mutual aid is on the way, sometimes before the first rain drop hits the ground. When it comes to a Cyber breach, where there is no warning, and the results potentially devastating, who are you going to call? What resources and mutual aid are available, what is their function? Who can help you get back online, operational, and up to speed? What is the path to enabling utilities with potentially competing profit motives to work together for the benefit of the state? This panel will discuss the roles of the police, FBI, Homeland Security, DOE, CISA and others, and how you can begin the road to creating an intrastate cyber mutual aid for utilities – what are the advantages, pitfalls and hurdles that must be overcome?

- ***Hon. Dianne Solomon, New Jersey***
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- *Hon. Gladys Brown-Dutrieuille, Pennsylvania*

## Concurrent C2:

### **Partnerships in Environmental Justice & Energy Equity - MSIs and electric companies are joining forces in the MACRUC region**

In the U.S., there are an estimated 700 minority-serving institutions (MSIs) that provide pathways to STEM careers and workforce readiness for millions of students. A number of these colleges and universities serve as anchors in cities where the implications of the climate crisis and energy burden remain pervasive. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA) presents a unique opportunity with its expansive investment commitments to environmental justice, energy equity, and clean energy deployment by injecting hundreds of billions of dollars into underserved and under-resourced communities' representative of the MSI student population. From brainstorming to shovel ready, this panel explores the steps necessary to explore the opportunity for a collaborative environment to forge sustainable relationships, economic equity, climate-focused research, and workforce development opportunities in the context of IIJA investments across key energy sectors.

- *Hon. Obi Linton, Maryland*
- *Hon. Upendra Chivukula, New Jersey*
- *Brady Walker, Head of Govt. Affairs and Policy, Orsted*

## Concurrent C3:

### **Turbines in the Wind: Lessons Learned and What the Future Holds**

The MACRUC states have been leading the way in offshore wind energy procurement, with many projects approved at the state level for construction. This panel, consisting of industry experts and representatives of states with projects

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underway, will explore lessons learned from early rounds of offshore wind energy procurement. Current efforts to integrate offshore generating resources into the onshore grid will be a particular focus of attention. Additionally, panel participants will discuss what they expect for the offshore wind industry along the east coast states in the future.

- ***Hon. Harold Gray, Delaware***
- ***Hon. Bob Gordon, New Jersey***
- ***Joe DeLosa, The Brattle Group***
- ***David DePippo, Dominion Energy***
- ***Suzanne Glatz, Director, Strategic Initiatives & Interregional Planning, PJM***

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10:00 – 10:15

Networking Break

Foyer

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10:15 – 11:15

### **Concurrent D1:**

#### **Living in Harmony: Non-Wires Alternatives and Wholesale Markets**

Several states have developed programs that allow for harmonious participation for non-wires alternatives in both the state and wholesale market programs such as New York's Distribution Load Relief Program and Commercial Services Relief Program and New England's Connected Solutions. This panel will focus on the design of these non-wires solutions and how they can be harmonized with wholesale market participation. Panelists will also discuss how programs can be designed in such a way that double counting and out of market subsidies are not a concern.

- ***Hon. John Howard, New York***
- ***Hon. Tony O'Donnell, Maryland***

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## Concurrent D2:

### **PFAs/PFOAs Solutions**

In recent years, much discussion has been given to the problem of the pervasiveness of PFAs and PFOAs, the so-called “forever chemicals.” Delaware Commissioner Kim Drexler will be joined by panelists to discuss how to identify, assess and treat “forever chemical” contamination. As more regions begin to implement stringent PFAs and PFOAs maximum-contaminant level standards, water suppliers and their regulators need to be aware of any available, viable solutions. This panel will feature solution options versus rehashing existing problems and contaminant levels. Panelists will cover contaminant destruction, plant process treatments, legal recourse, and rate recovery without rate shock. This discussion offers an all-angle approach to make PFAs and PFOAs no longer “forever” chemicals.

- *Hon. Kim Drexler, Delaware*
- *David Stanton, President, CleanEarth*
- *David Choate, Vice President, Corporate Engineering, American Water*
- *Jay Kooper, VP, General Counsel & Secretary, Middlesex Water*
- *Stephen B. Genzer, Partner in Saul Ewing Arnstein and Lehr, LLP*

## Concurrent D3:

### **Bridge Building Between the Regulator, the Legislator and Consumer Advocates**

As the roles of regulators, legislators, and key stakeholders overlap, how can bridges be built while acknowledging the independent and diverse roles each plays? This panel will provide various perspectives from current and/or former state utility regulators, current and/or former state legislators and consumer advocates on the independent and intersecting roles of each. How are bridges of communication and collaboration being built today and what are the predictions for the future?

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- *Hon. Kent Chandler, Kentucky*
  - *Hon. Charlotte Lane, West Virginia*
  - *Glen Thomas, President, GTPower*
  - *David Springe, Executive Director, NASUCA*
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11:15 – 11:30 am    Networking Break

Foyer

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11:30 – 12:30 pm    **GENERAL SESSION 3**

Marquis Ballroom

## **Maximizing Shareholder Value Via a Corporate Social Responsibility Purpose—How to Serve the Needs of Investors, Corporations, Customers, and the Larger Society**

Historically, those in the corporate world including the energy space, thought maximizing shareholder value was legally required. Under that myopic view it meant shareholders had a right to expect the maximum possible return on investment—a sort of mandated shareholder primacy. A utility regulatory body seeks to balance shareholder interests against the interests of ratepayers. Today, forward thinking regulators and utilities, recognize that shareholder value is primarily more appropriately earned in return for customer value and even perhaps tackling broader societal value and can be done without sacrificing market and shareholder value. This panel will dive deeper and discuss ESG and CSR's role and how the new models of corporate sustainability play a role in better serving the needs of investors, corporations, customers, and society. What does it look like to change the culture and purpose of a company and how does it increase the value for all, in a measurable and verifiable way?

- *Hon. Diane X. Burman, New York*
  - *Sandra M. Nessing, VP & Chief Sustainability Officer, American Electric Power*
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12:30 – 12:45 pm

## **Officer Installation Remarks: 2022 – 2023 President of MACRUC**

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12:45

### **Networking Activities**

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7:00 – 8:45 pm

### **MACRUC Annual Celebration Dinner**

Horizon Point

*Join friends and colleagues at Horizon Point for the Annual Celebration Dinner.*

*Tickets required and must be purchased in advance.*

*Horizon Point is located by the Falling Rocks building. Attendees will need to take hotel shuttles, drive, or walk.*

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## **Wednesday, June 22, 2022**

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9:00 – 10:00 am

### **GENERAL SESSION 4**

Marquis Ballroom

#### **Show Me the Money: Diving into the Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

The passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) opens funding streams for PUC implementation at a scale that hasn't been seen since the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The bill includes funding opportunities for electrified transportation, energy efficiency, grid infrastructure, and advanced energy metering, among others. However, before states acquire these funds, questions remain on where the funds will go within state government, how states can apply for these funds, which specific programs will receive funding, and what role PUCs will play. This panel will discuss the steps Commissions, and state governments generally, can take to maximize this once in a decade investment opportunity. Panelists will dive into the

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specifics of how these funds will be distributed and how states can prepare to acquire and implement them.

- *Hon. Kim Drexler, DE*
- *Hon. Kent Chandler, KY*
- *J.R. Tolbert, VP, Strategy and Partnerships, Advanced Energy Economy*

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10:15 – 11:15 am

## **GENERAL SESSION 5**

Marquis  
Ballroom

FERC NARUC Task Force on Transmission Planning

- *Hon. Jason Stanek*
- *Hon. Gladys Brown Dutrieuille*

Closing remarks Hon. Anthony O'Donnell, Maryland

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