

# MACRUC

Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners

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

Draft Agenda as of Tuesday, March 21, 2023

### Sunday, June 25, 2023

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4:30 – 6:00 pm

Registration

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5:00 – 6:00 pm

Welcome Reception

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### Monday, June 26, 2023

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8:00 – 9:00 am

Continental Breakfast

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9:00 – 10:15 am

**Opening General Session**

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## Join MACRUC President Gladys Brown Dutrieuille to kick off the 28th Annual Education Conference

- **Hon. Willie Phillips, Invited**
- **Senator Joe Manchin, West Virginia (Invited)**
- **MACRUC Confirmation of Officers**

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10:15 – 10:30 am

Networking Break

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10:30– 11:30 am

Concurrent A1:

### There's Gold in that Wastewater!

The deployment of fuel cell technology at wastewater sites has the potential to revolutionize the water-treatment world, allowing for a new age of wastewater, completing a circular loop.

Attendees will learn the huge potential in digester sludge life beyond dumping, burying, or burning, and treated water returning to usable sources and how to simplify hydrogen generation.

Between digestion and landfill harvesting this available biofuel has been overlooked and can now be captured and utilized with fuel cell technology making harvesting the waste in wastewater plausible and practical, while producing hydrogen generation and storage in the very same fuel cell system, using hydrogen for power, and fueling vehicles, thus increasing versatility of wastewater sites.

*Moderator: Hon. Mary-Anna Holden, NJ*

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**Concurrent A2:**

**Interregional Transmission Planning: Do We Need It and Is It Possible?**

As the U.S. transitions to a lower-carbon electricity future, today's electric grid must try to integrate greater diversity of generation resources, including the growing installation of offshore wind turbines. Simultaneously, the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events impacting grid operators and regulators must make difficult decisions on how to ensure cost-effective, reliable service. Stronger interregional connections would enable the increasing load centers in the East Coast to receive abundant and affordable Midwest energy resources.

In this discussion, we will explore and learn together from leaders with national and state expertise how can how can federal and state regulators reach consensus to strengthen transmission planning and the interconnection on the consumer benefits associated with upgraded interregional transmission capacity.

*Moderator: Judge Jehmal Hudson*

*Moderator: Commissioner Michael Richard*

*Speakers:*

*Barbara Tyran, ACORE*

*Joe DeLosa, Brattle*

*David Townley, CTC Global*

*Jeff Dennis, Deputy Director, GDO, DOE*

**Can We Meet Our Decarbonization Goals with New Nuclear?**

**Concurrent A3:**

As states look to decarbonize the electricity sector, new nuclear reactors may offer great potential to reach these U.S. carbon reduction goals. State regulators play a critical role in shaping policies surrounding the research, development, and commercial deployment of these emerging technologies. This session will explore the motivations for decarbonization, the benefits, costs and challenges associated with small modular reactors and advanced reactors, and examples of federal or state regulations supporting new nuclear and state carbon reduction goals.

*Moderator: Hon. Kim Duffley, NC*

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11:30 – 11:45 am

Networking Break

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11:45 – 12:45 pm

Concurrent B1:

The Issue that Isn't Going Away: Gas/Electric Coordination

Abstract under construction

*Moderator: Hon. Kent Chandler, KY*

*Participants:*

*Hon. Charlotte Mitchell, NC*

Concurrent B2:

Renewable Energy in the MACRUC Region

Abstract still in the wind.

*Moderator: Hon. Zenon Christodoulou, NJ*

Concurrent B3:

What's happening in the Telecommunications Industry?

Abstract to be called in soon.

*Moderator: Hon. Mary Pat Regan, KY*

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1:00 – 3:30 pm

**General Session 2:  
Lunch and Learn: Technical Assistance Opportunities  
for Grid Resilience**

This session will:

- Review Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunities for grid resilience planning under Section 40101d of the IIJA
- Describe structured grid resilience planning process, objective setting, and opportunities to leverage into coordinated grid resilience state planning efforts.
- Assist states with identifying viable performance metrics for grid resilience.
- Gather insights from participants regarding states' technical assistance needs to enhance ongoing coordinated grid resilience planning efforts.

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**Tuesday, June 27, 2023**

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8:00 – 9:00 am

Continental Breakfast

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9:00 – 10:15 am

**General Session 3:  
Is there a Bad Moon Rising (or are We just Dancing  
in the Moonlight)?**

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Recently, analysts discussed the possibility of the Mid-Atlantic region having generation shortfalls in the next few years. To prevent this power drain from happening, an “energy transition” needs to take place, yet the how’s and whys remain elusive. Regulators are walking a tightrope as they try to ensure safe, adequate, reliable delivery of electric service during this cleaner and greener conversion. This panel will review current trends in resource adequacy within the context of the clean energy transition with consideration for shifting fuel supply, variability, changing climates, extreme weather events, and possible paths to avoid a power deficit. Hear what type of capacity accreditation is needed for the energy supply of the future. This panel will explore PJM’s ongoing efforts to identify and balance the appropriate levels of reliability and resource investments.

*Moderator: Hon. Charlotte Mitchell, NC*

*Participants: Hon. Dan Conway, OH*

*Asim Haque, VP, State & Member Services PJM*

*Glen Thomas, President, GT Power Group*

*TBD – Utility*

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**10:15 – 10:30 am**

**Networking Break**

Foyer

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**10:30 – 11:30 am**

**Concurrent C1:**

**Decarbonization: How much will it cost Local Distribution Companies?**

There are State statutory mandates to decarbonize and switch to zero emission generation, electrify space and hot water heating and transportation. While much attention has been given to the efforts to decarbonize the generation, transmission and transportation sectors, very little public discussion has been devoted to the cost associated with the increase in demands put on electric distribution systems.

Recently announced long term plans have been released by electric utilities showing that

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capital investments in their distribution networks may need to double in the next twenty years to fully accommodate building and transportation electrification. These investments will need to start almost immediately to meet statutory mandates. Attendees will hear from a representative from the first municipality in New York to commit to a full conversion; the financial sector to discuss the challenges of this rapid recapitalization, the utility sector will address implementation challenges and a commissioner will speak to the role of the regulator in the process.

*Moderator: Hon. John Howard, NY*

**Concurrent C2:      Session TBD**

*Moderator: Hon. Ted Trabue, DC*

**Concurrent C3:      Failing Waters – A Conversation about Small Systems**  
**We are floating some ideas on the abstract**

*Moderator: Hon. Jeff Hughes, NC*

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**11:30 – 11:45 am**

**Networking Break**

Foyer

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**11:45 – 12:45 pm**

**Breach of Personal Information: Notification, Laws and Ethical  
Responsibility**

**Concurrent D1:      All states have security breach notification laws that require businesses or  
governments to notify consumers or citizens if their personal information is**

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breached. This course will discuss the laws in various states, what defines personal information (PI), and the duties and ethical treatment of personal information by government agencies.

- What types of personal information (PI) are defined by these laws?
- What duties do these laws impose upon the government agency?
- Who in the government agency determines if a breach has occurred?
- Government agency must report breach within specific time frame.
- Responsibilities of outside contractors working for the government agency.
- What provisions must the agency include in the contract to cover a contractor's duties and responsibilities if a breach occurs?
- Requirements of government agency to notify persons affected by breach of personal information.
- How Can and Should affected persons be notified?

Facilitators:

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary, PA

Robert Gramola, Acting Executive Director, PA

Concurrent D2:

Recognizing Synergies and Opportunities Between Regulators, Utilities, and the Agricultural Sector in the MACRUC Footprint

The relationship between regulators, utilities, and the agricultural sector is becoming increasingly intertwined with continued push to invest in innovative clean energy solutions to address the decarbonization policies and activities. This panel will focus on the ongoing synergies taking place with these critical stakeholders to address the

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long-term decarbonization pathways, frameworks and market opportunities.

*Moderator: Hon. Diane X. Burman, NY*

### Powering Up Utility Workforce Development: Innovative Ways to Promote Equity

Concurrent D3:

This session will highlight how critical investments in the energy sector can create middle-class jobs for construction workers and promote equity. Panelists will explain best practices in workforce development and feature a case study from the Philadelphia region where residents are benefiting from high quality job opportunities because of the historic levels of capital spending by the area's electric and gas utilities, and where Philadelphia students are being introduced to utility employment opportunities because of additional outreach on apprenticeship programs in the area. The panel can also highlight Chairman Gladys Dutrieuille's leadership on diversity in the public utility space, and how we can build upon that success going forward. An overview of the organizational structure, values, and work of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) would be provided to give context related to the panelists.

*Moderator: Hon. Katie Zerfuss, PA*

*Participants: Hon. Jehmal Hudson*

*Hon. Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, PA*

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1:00 – 3:00 pm

## **GENERAL SESSION 4**

### **Lunch and Learn: Remarks from 2023 – 2024 MACRUC President**

#### **To Everything There is a Season: How Winter Storms and other Extreme Weather Events Impact Reliability**

Extreme weather, including devastating hurricanes, flooding, and ice storms, has created enormous challenges to Mid-Atlantic energy providers and their commitment to providing reliable electric service when customers need it most. In addition, the MACRUC region is tackling the transition to clean energy by discussing various plans to meet clean energy mandates or commitments. Through these challenges, the electric industry is working collectively with state, federal, and local partners to mitigate risk and minimize vulnerabilities from extreme weather events, review and revise regulatory processes and policies to ensure effective preparedness is in place and discuss cost implications.

Join us for a conversation with energy industry leaders on their take on what the industry should be focusing on to help answer the question of how to maintain a reliable grid given the effects of consistent extreme weather events while the country discusses a cleaner energy future.

*Co-Moderators: Hon. Emile Thompson, DC & Hon. Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, PA  
John Crockett, President, Louisville Gas and Electric, KU Energy*

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7:00 – 8:45 pm

### **MACRUC in the Mountains**

Horizon Point

Enjoy a beautiful sunset in the Allegheny Mountains with friends and family. The evening features a buffet dinner, beer & wine, and entertainment.

8:00 – 8:30 am

Continental Breakfast

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8:30 – 10:30 am

## GENERAL SESSION 5

### **Strengthening Communication Between State and Federal Regulators**

With increased communication and engagement, State and federal regulators sometimes must navigate politics while staying focused on serving the public interest. They also must acknowledge the independent and diverse roles each plays as they manage energy policies that affect their states and the nation. This panel will bring together former members of FERC to discuss how communication and collaboration is being built today and what the predictions are for the future?

*Moderator: Hon. Jason Stanek, Maryland*

*Participants:*

*Rich Glick, Immediate Former Chair, FERC*

*Phil Moeller, EVP, Regulatory Affairs, EEI, Former FERC Commissioner*

*Robert Powelson, President and CEO, National Association of Water Companies, Former FERC Commissioner*

### **Modernizing Public Utility Commissions for the 21st Century**

Many of our Regulatory Commissions are increasingly tasked with a broad range of responsibilities that may require skills and expertise in fields that are new and different.

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Commissions can be responsible for implementing and overseeing competitive markets public policy that doesn't fit the traditional regulated utility ratemaking mold. Issues and topics can encompass non-regulated utility concepts such as new product development, consumer marketing, social media advertising, and apps to name a few. Additionally, many states have legislative goals and requirements related to greenhouse gas emissions, competitive wages, and increasing diversity which require skill sets that are new to commissions or are currently procured through experts.

With these changing dynamics in the regulated and competitive market it is prudent that regulators consider means to facilitate nimble policymaking to foster growth and advancement in these areas while still maintaining focus on the original principles of regulating the distribution and transmission of electricity and gas. A roadmap as well as additional resources are needed for commissions to do their jobs effectively and facilitate "speed to market" for innovative products as well as meeting the climate related and social services goals required by many more states. This panel of MACRUC regulators and competitive market participants will delve into a variety of reforms to the traditional Public Service Commission structure – from procedures to personnel – that will position PUCs for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century challenges being put before them.

*Moderators: Hon. Steve DeFrank, PA & Hon. Patty Bubar, MD*

*Participants:*

*John Holtz, Senior Director, NRG Energy, Inc*

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