

# MACRUC

Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners

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

This agenda is updated regularly.

Draft Agenda as of Friday, May 19, 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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## Opening General Session

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

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

### Networking Break

### 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.

#### Concurrent A1:

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

*Participants:*

- *Paul Heitmann, Program Manager, Grid Modernization, NJ Board of Public Utilities*
- *Jay Kooper, Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary, Middlesex Water*
- *Mark McDonough, President, NJ American Water*

## 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.

Concurrent A2:

*Co - Moderators:*

*Hon. Jehmal Hudson, VA*

*Hon. Michael Richard, MD*

*Participants:*

- *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?

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

Concurrent A3:

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or state regulations supporting new nuclear and state carbon reduction goals.

*Moderator: Hon. Kim Duffley, NC*

*Participants:*

- *Hon. Dennis Deters, OH*
- *Kati Austgen, Senior Project Manager, New Reactors, Nuclear Energy Institute*
- *Adam DeMella, GE Power Portfolio*
- *Doug Vine, Director of Energy Analysis, C2ES*

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11:30 – 11:45 am

## Networking Break

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11:45 – 12:45 pm

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

### Concurrent B1:

45 years after the passage of the Fuel Use Act effectively forced electric generators to use fuel other than natural gas, natural gas generation produced nearly 40% of electricity in the United States. According to EIA, in 2022 the United States saw a record low of interstate natural gas pipeline capacity additions. On the heels of winter storms Uri and Elliott, and against a backdrop of nationwide conversations regarding resource and energy adequacy, this panel will discuss the issues that are anticipated and persist with the continued dependence on natural gas to produce electricity. The session will discuss the future of pipeline investment, the reliability of the gas production and transmission system, planning a reliable bulk electric system with today's and tomorrow's gas system, and review issues and solutions of gas/electric coordination generally.

*Moderator: Hon. Kent Chandler, KY*

*Participants:*

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- *Hon. Charlotte Mitchell, NC*
  - *Beth Garza, Senior Fellow, R Street*
  - *Patricia Jagtiani, Executive Vice President, Natural Gas Supply Association*
  - *Chris Moser, Executive Vice President, Head of Competitive Markets and Policy, NRG*
  - *Jordan Nader, Public Utilities Engineer, NC*

## Renewable Energy in the MACRUC Region

New Jersey is the leader in the development of our nation's nascent offshore wind energy sector. Our State and its workforce are poised to be the region's manufacturers, engineers, and deployment and interconnection specialists for this vital new addition to our energy mix. New Jersey has extensive and first mover experience in the coordination that is required to make these projects commercially feasible and publicly beneficial. This distinguished panel discussion will bring together specialists with various areas of expertise and perspective to answer questions about the science, reliability, finance, and public opinion regarding offshore wind energy.

### Concurrent B2:

*Moderator: Hon. Zenon Christodoulou, NJ*

*Participants:*

- *Sheila Manz, Technical Director – Decarbonization Planning, GE Energy Consulting*

## What's happening in the Telecommunications Industry?

This session is all about what's happening in the telecommunications industry! Speakers will discuss the following hot topics:

- Grid resilience
- Cyber Security
- Utilities (middle mile and last mile)
- BEAD Program: Infrastructure, adoption, challenges
- Demo of crowd sourcing mapping tool

### Concurrent B3:

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Moderator: Hon. Mary Pat Regan, KY

Participants:

- Michael Chowaniec, BEAD Program, Charter Communications
- Glen Fishbourne, GEO Partners
- Bobbi Harris, Executive Director, Utility Broadband Alliance

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1:00 – 2:15 pm

## **General Session 2:**

### **Lunch and Learn: \*Ten Minute Hot Topics\***

#### Clean Hydrogen—“additionality” doesn’t add up:

*Kathleen Barron, EVP and Chief Strategy Officer, Constellation*

*Facilitator: Hon. Steve DeFrank, PA*

#### Investor Debates:

*Julien Dumoulin-Smith, Managing Director, Head of US Power, Utilities & Clean Energy Research,  
Bank of America Securities*

*Facilitator: Hon. Diane Burman, NY*

#### What’s Hot in Hydrogen? Unlocking the Potential of Hydrogen:

*Ross Groffman, Vice President, Development, NextEra Energy Resources*

*Facilitator: Hon. John Howard, NY*

#### Congressional Permitting Reform Bills: What They Are and Why They Matter to MACRUC

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*Christina Hayes, Executive Director, Americans for a Clean Energy Grid*  
*Facilitator: Hon. Jason Stanek, MD*

Unfinished Business from Winter Storm Uri?

*Bob Gee, Co-moderator, NAESB*  
*Facilitator: Hon. Kent Chandler, KY*

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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)?**

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*

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*Participants:*

- *Hon. Dan Conway, OH*
- *Jim Burke, CEO, Vistra*
- *Asim Haque, VP, State & Member Services PJM*
- *Glen Thomas, President, GT Power Group*

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10:15 – 10:30 am

**Networking Break**

Foyer

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10:30 – 11:30 am

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

**Concurrent C1:**

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 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*

*Participants*

- *Luis Aguirre-Torres, Senior Advisor, Rewiring America*
- *Christina Ho, VP Strategic Planning, Con Edison*
- *Sloan Millman, Associate Director, S & P Global*



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## Simplifying Outreach and Engagement with Limited-Income

### Customers

#### Concurrent C2:

There's no one-size-fits-all approach to utility customer engagement. Reaching limited-income customers and enrolling them in affordability programs requires a unique approach. To truly achieve inclusivity, we must improve how we find, reach, and enroll limited-income customers to offer programs that benefit them. In this session, we will detail how personalized program offers and customized research methods allow for better engagement and the opportunity to promote valuable programs. This panel will highlight the specific regulatory issues around enrollment requirements, data-sharing limitations, and cross-state coordination.

*Moderator: Hon. Ted Trabue, DC*

*Participants:*

- *Hon. Obi Linton, MD*
- *Carolyn Sloan, Manager, Regulatory Affairs and Market Development Opower Oracle*
- *Sandra Mattavous-Frye, Office of People's Counsel, DC*

## Failing Waters – A Conversation about Small Systems

#### Concurrent C3:

A lot of ingenuity and hard work went into the design and construction of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater. Part of Frank Lloyd Wright's creed was to take into consideration the local environment wherever he worked. This session aims at tapping into the same ingenuity, creativity, and respect for the local environment to avoid the Failing Water that can result when small water and/or wastewater system challenges are not dealt with proactively and in a thoughtful manner. Like so many regulatory issues, individuals and organizations come to the table with different perspectives and can have very different views about what the challenges are and what should be considered and pursued to address those challenges. Come join a facilitated participatory session/small group discussion designed to share and better understand the perspectives and needs of customers, small system managers, large systems that may contribute to a solution, and the regulators that may be called to approve or oversee different approaches and strategies.

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*Moderator: Hon. Jeff Hughes, NC*

*Participants*

- *Hon. Dallas Winslow, DE*
  - *Hon. Jehmal Hudson, DC*
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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 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:

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- *Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary, PA*
  - *Robert Gramola, Acting Executive Director, PA*

## 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 long-term decarbonization pathways, frameworks and market opportunities.

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

### *Participants:*

- *Hon. Kent Leonhardt, Commissioner of Agriculture, West Virginia*
- *Christina Hayes, Executive Director, Americans for a Clean Energy Grid*
- *Leslie Rich, Senior Consultant, Loans Program, Dept of Energy*
- *Jennifer Vandervort, RNG Business Development Manager, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation*

Concurrent D2:

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## 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 utilities, and where Philadelphia students are being introduced to utility employment opportunities because of additional outreach on apprenticeship programs in the area. There will be a discussion on how state utility commissions can support diversity and good paying jobs. An overview of the organizational structure, values, and work of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) will be provided.

*Moderator: Hon. Katie Zerfuss, PA*

*Participants:*

- *Hon. Jehmal Hudson, VA*
- *Ryan Boyer, Philadelphia Trades*
- *Austin Meehan, General Asphalt Paving Company*
- *Seth Shapiro, Philadelphia Gas Works*
- *Esteban Vera, Jr. Laborers' Local 57*

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1:00 – 3:00 pm

## **GENERAL SESSION 4**

### **Lunch and Learn: Remarks from**

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## 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 CEO level 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. Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, PA*

*Hon. Emile Thompson, DC*

#### *Participants :*

- *Calvin Butler, Jr., CEO, President & Chief Executive Officer, Exelon*
- *Bob Blue, Chair, President & Chief Executive Officer, Dominion Energy*
- *John Crockett, President, Louisville Gas and Electric, KU Energy*

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7:00 – 8:45 pm

## MACRUC in the Mountains Dinner

Horizon  
Point

Enjoy a beautiful sunset in the Allegheny Mountains with friends and family. Admittance for attendees is included in the registration fee. Guest tickets available for purchase by June 19. The evening will feature a buffet dinner, beverage tickets, and entertainment.

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**Wednesday, June 28, 2023**

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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*
  - *Suedeem Kelly, Partner, Jenner & Block, Former FERC Commissioner*
  - *Phil Moeller, EVP, Regulatory Affairs, EEI, Former FERC Commissioner*
  - *Robert Powelson, President & CEO, National Association of Water Companies,*
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## 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. 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.

*Co - Moderators:*

*Hon. Patty Bubar, MD*

*Hon. Steve DeFrank, PA*

*Participants:*

- *Hon. Jeff Hughes, NC*
- *Pat Cicero, Consumer Advocate, PA Office of Consumer Advocate*
- *Ray Fakhoury, Regulatory Affairs Manager, Pattern Energy*

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- *John Holtz, Senior Director, NRG Energy, Inc*
  - *Robert Sadzinski, Director, Power Plant Assessment Division, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources*
  - *Daniel Witt, Head of State and Local Public Policy, Lucid Motors*
  - *Tishekia Williams, Managing Director, Duquesne Light Company*
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