

# MACRUC 29th Annual Education Conference

June 23 - 26, 2024

Louisville, Kentucky

The Brown Hotel

This agenda is subject to change and updating.

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## SUNDAY

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Registration Open	Bluegrass Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Run for the Roses Reception	Sky Terrace – 16 <sup>th</sup> Floor

## MONDAY

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration Open	Bluegrass Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
7:45 – 8:00 a.m.	Commissioner Only Business Meeting	Broadway A
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Race Day Rise and Dine Continental Breakfast	Bluegrass Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
9:00 – 10:30	<b>General Session</b>  <b><u>This two-part General Session will cover the following topics:</u></b>  <b>The Views on Resource Adequacy from the Capitals: <i>A Legislator Panel</i></b>  Featuring: <i>The Honorable Lorig Charkoudian, Maryland State Delegate, District 20</i>  <i>The Honorable Dick Stein, Ohio State Representative, 54th Ohio House District</i>  &  <b>FERC Focus: Ensuring Effective State Engagement</b>  Now more than ever, relations between federal and state regulators are critical. The Federal Energy Regulatory	Crystal Ballroom – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor

Commission (FERC) is embarking on some of the most important policies in a generation regarding transmission, wholesale energy markets, and the energy transition. Each policy impacts state electricity regulation and, most importantly, retail customers. Therefore, a solid understanding between the state and federal regulators is essential as these new policies take shape. This session is a timely dialogue between key officials at the state and federal level about the best ways for both regulators to engage with each other. How can we as regulators work together effectively for the common interest of the customer? In this session, regulators will discuss the best ways for states to engage with FERC and how states and the federal government can ensure this critical relationship works best for the public at large.

***Moderator: Hon. Kent Chandler, Kentucky***

***Participants:***

- ***Matt Christiansen, FERC***
- ***Karin Herzfeld, FERC***
- ***Emma Nicholson, FERC***
- ***Kim Smazcniak, FERC***

**10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Derby Brew Coffee Break**

**Bluegrass  
Room**

**11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions A**

**A1 Artificial Intelligence**

*Moderator: Hon. Rory Christian, New York*

**A2 Charge Up: Increasing Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure**

As electric vehicle sales shares approach the double digits nationwide, estimates suggest that public charging will deliver over 20% of the electricity electric vehicles would use in 2030. The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) allocated \$7.5 billion toward building over half a million public chargers by 2030. With \$70 million in BIL funding, Kentucky will install fast chargers every 50 miles along several interstates. Since 2019, Kentucky has seen \$11.6 billion in planned EV investments from companies like Ford, creating more than 10,000 new jobs. What regulatory barriers to public charging infrastructure exist? What regional best practices exist and how can we replicate them in other states? How can the private sector supplement public charging and how can policies support this? Federal investment is not the only investment in the charging infrastructure, MN8 Energy and Mercedes to have made over \$1 billion in financial commitments to build charging infrastructure in North America. How can we expand private investment in the energy system, both in chargers and upstream, to accelerate deployment?

*Moderator: Hon. Angie Hatton, Kentucky*

*Participants:*

- *Hon. Bonnie Suchman, Maryland*
- *Justin Harrod, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet*
- *Brian Kee, Manager, EV Charging Policy, MN8*
- *Carter Wood, Electric Vehicle Policy, Ford Motor Company*

**A3**

**Checking in on Customer Choice**

Most MACRUC States allow customers to choose their own energy supplier. As a result, more than half the electricity in the region is supplied to customers by competitive retailers, not utilities. These retailers are regulated by States in their exclusive role as the regulators of retail sales, and not FERC, which regulates the other side of the competitive market: wholesale generators and RTOs. This panel checks in on what's going right and wrong in the State-regulated retail markets, by asking industry and regulatory participants their views and concerns. This group will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of current offerings and regulatory schemes, including whether customers are having their needs met, what technological and risk-management innovations are in the works, and whether additional regulatory reforms and protections are needed.

*Moderator: Hon. John Williams, Ohio*

*Participants:*

- *Hon. Fred Hoover, Maryland*
- *Scott Hudson, President, Vistra Retail*
- *Rasesh Patel, President, NRG Consumer*
- *Shay Reed, Energy Buyer, Costco Wholesale*

**12:00 – 1:45 p.m.**

**Lunch then Learn: Waltzing and ...Wholesale Markets?**

Dancing with the Stars meets PJM issues.

Contestants have four minutes to showcase their perspectives on PJM's toughest wholesale market issues. Our discerning panel of judges will base scores on:

How the contestants backed up their fancy footwork with facts, did their musicality match practicality, overall impact on the performance.

Attendees will learn valuable information to take back to their own dance floor.

Audience judging will be included.

**Host:** *Hon. Charlotte Mitchell, North Carolina*

**Judges:**

- ❖ *Neil Chatterjee, Hogan and Lovells*
- ❖ *Asim Haque, Sr. Vice President, Governmental & Members, PJM*

**Crystal  
Ballroom**

❖ *Glen Thomas, President, GT Power Group*

**The Tango:** *Who will build the MW's that PJM says it needs to meet future demand?*

✚ *Phil Moeller, Executive Vice President, EEI*

✚ *Todd Snitchler, President and CEO, Electric Power Supply Association*

**The Cha-Cha:** *Should states whose policies force the closure of large power plants be required to pay for the transmission costs associated with those closures?*

✚ *Hon. Dan Conway, Ohio*

✚ *Hon. Kumar Barve, Maryland*

**The Rumba:** *Is the PJM market monitor too powerful?*

✚ *Marji Phillips, Sr. VP, Wholesale Market Policy, LS Power*

✚ *Greg Poulos, Executive Director, Consumer Advocates of the PJM states (CAPS)*

**The Foxtrot:** *Given the variety of state policies, should the PJM state hold together in a single RTO or should the states breakup?*

✚ *Hon. Charlotte Lane, West Virginia*

✚ *Hon. Kimberly Barrow, Pennsylvania*

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions B

Grand Foyer

B1

**You've Been Hacked. Now What?**

Cyber security breaches have become increasingly prevalent, posing significant threats to utilities across all sectors. One such alarming incident occurred in January 2024 when a ransomware incident affected software applications and systems in a portion of Veolia North America's Municipal Water division.

This session will begin with an overview of how this ransomware attack comprised Veolia, how they quickly mobilized their IT and Security Incident Response Teams and cooperated with law enforcement and other third parties. Attendees will learn valuable lessons from actions taken by Veolia. The conversation will emphasize the urgency for proactive cybersecurity strategies and the critical role regulatory commissioners play.

*Moderator: Hon. Dennis Deters, Ohio*

*Participants:*

- *Douwe Busschops, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Veolia North America*
- *Lynn Costantini, Deputy Director of Center for Partnerships and*

**B2 Natural Gas Potpourri**

In today's rapidly changing energy landscape, discussions surrounding gas issues have never been more pertinent. Through concise, dynamic presentations, our experts will offer valuable insights, challenges, and opportunities on the following topics:

- Hydrogen Injection
- Price Volatility
- Natural Gas role as a bridge fuel
- Infrastructure improvements to reduce greenhouse gas.
- Economic Development Programs
- Perspectives on Community Development

The audience is encouraged to come with questions, suggestions, and thoughts.

*Moderator: Hon. Lawrence Friedeman, Ohio*

*Participants:*

- *Hon. Jenifer French, Ohio*
- *Juan Alvarado, Managing Director, Energy Analysis, AGA*
- *Erich Evans, Director of Sustainability Strategy & Integration at NiSource, Inc.*
- *Dan LeFevers, Director of State and Consumer Programs, GTI*
- *Andy Luttner, Division Director, Central and East Kentucky, Development, Retention, and Administration, Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development*
- *Com. Craig Mathies, Board of Commissioners, Somerset County, Maryland*

**B3 Coal to Coast: Navigating our Evolving Energy Future through today's Diverse Headwinds**

This panel will explore how states can incorporate ambitious offshore wind goals with diverse policy objectives. Experts will discuss the status of offshore wind, coordination between regulators, developers, and the industry, along with how the transmission grid must be modernized to encourage flexibility and efficiency as our energy mix continues to evolve.

The format of this session will allow developers, thought leaders, and commissioners to interact in an open and dynamic format to better understand how offshore wind will allow states to meet their energy goals, environmental concerns, and ratepayer expectations.

*Moderator: Hon. Zenon Christodoulou, New Jersey*

*Participants:*

- *Steven Boyle, WindGrid*

- *Erick Ford, NJ Energy Coalition*
- *Michael Mullaley, DOE*
- *Jason Stanek, PJM*

**3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Derby Brew Coffee Break Bluegrass Room**

**3:15 - 4:30 p.m. General Session: Shark Tank Crystal Ballroom**  
*Host: Hon. Jehmal Hudson, VA*  
*Sharks will be announced live during the conference!*

- Let's Keep the Lights On
- Emission Impossible? A Clean Energy Contender
- End of the Transmission Bottleneck
- Reimagining: Possibilities for Grid Modernization

## TUESDAY

**9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration Open Bluegrass Foyer**

**8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Race Day Rise and Dine Continental Breakfast Bluegrass Room**

**9:00 – 10:15 a.m. General Session Crystal Ballroom**

**This two-part General Session will cover the following topics:**

**CEO Panel: Resource Adequacy and the Fight for Reliability**

*Moderator: Hon. Emile Thompson, District of Columbia*

*Participants:*

- *Christine Martin, President, PPL Electric Utilities*
- *Alex Glenn, Executive VP and CEO, Florida and Midwest, Duke Energy*
- *Ben Fowke, Interim CEO and President, AEP*

Electric grid reliability has become a top concern in recent years. A 2023 NERC report identified five key risks that threaten reliability: 1) Energy policy; 2) Grid transformation 3) Resilience to extreme weather events; 4) Security risks; and 5) Critical infrastructure interdependencies. Resource adequacy underscores each of these risks--the ability to ensure there is

enough capacity and reserves to maintain a balanced supply and demand across the vast electric grid. Today's panel will explore how state commissioners collaborate with generation owners and electric distribution companies to maintain resource adequacy in the face of these risks.

&

## Remarks by Hon. Allison Clements, FERC

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

**Derby Brew Coffee Break**

**Bluegrass Room**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**Concurrent Sessions C**

**C1**

**Get the Lead Out!**

EPA's recently proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements requires water systems to remove all the lead service lines in the country by 2037 with few exceptions. *However, half of the service line is typically owned by the individual property owner.* This session will explore these complex topics:

- Why is the EPA requiring lead pipes to be removed?
- What are the public health risks?
- How are water systems identifying the lead service lines?
- How do water systems plan for replacements in the most cost-effective and efficient way?
- How will water systems remove lead pipes on private property?
- How should water systems communicate and coordinate with customers and town officials?

*Moderator: Hon. Jeff Hughes, North Carolina*

*Participants:*

- *Hon. Michael Bange, New Jersey*
- *Sandy Kutzing, Senior Vice President, Lead and Copper Strategy, CDM Smith*

C2

## **Independence, Transparency and Accountability in our RTO: Ensuring the Public Interest**

RTOs are entrusted to plan and operate the transmission grid and run the markets that ensure customer demand is reliably met at low costs and consistent with Federal and State Environmental requirements. It's a balancing act of facilitating robust competition while taking a hands-on approach to planning for the energy transition. When done well, everything is optimized -- asset owners and buyers and sellers' profit and customers enjoy the benefits of this dynamic. The public interest is met. But things rarely go this smoothly. Market and planning rules are getting more and more complex, and an RTO Board is expected to be both removed from the stakeholders and all-around experts. They naturally rely on the expertise of their staff, but also on the very stakeholders they must be independent from. Can RTO Boards make even handed decisions by relying on direct incumbent stakeholder input? Should this direct input be provided in an open forum or behind closed doors? Are RTO Boards properly held accountable in meeting expectations, and to whom?

*Co -Moderators:*

*Hon. Kelsey Bagot, Virginia*

*Hon. Michael Richard, Maryland*

*Participants:*

- *The Honorable Lorig Charkoudian, Maryland State Delegate, District 20*
- *Nick Lawton, Senior Attorney, Clean Energy Program, Earthjustice*
- *Hannah Wiseman, Professor of Law; Professor, College of Earth, and Mineral Sciences; Co-Director, Penn State Center for Energy Law, and Policy*

C3

## **Novel, New and NextGen: Generation and Energy Storage of the Future – Today!**

Novel, new, and next generation- generation and energy storage of the future, today the demand for generation and storage is growing and expected to increase in the next two decades. Pumped Storage is the dominant grid-scale storage solution, representing over 90% of worldwide operational storage. The last PSH facility commissioned in the U.S. was more than 30 years ago. Further, significant technological innovation has been made in electrochemical batteries and geothermal power generation in recent years. This panel will address what new and innovative ways there are to meet resource adequacy. It will also include discussion about the



value these resources may have to a changing grid.

*Moderator: Hon. David Hughes, Virgin Islands*

*Participants:*

- *Paul Jacob, CEO, Rye Development*
- *Dwayne Pickett, VP of Clean Hydrogen Market Development, Constellation*

11:30 – 12:00 p.m.

**Derby Brew Coffee Break**

**Bluegrass Room**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

**Concurrent Sessions D**

**D1**

**A Nuclear Resurgence: From Uprates and License Extensions to Retirements to Restarts**

In recent years, States across the MACRUC region were stepping in to prevent the retirement of merchant nuclear units across the country. Today, shuttered nuclear units are being restarted and operating plants are expanding capacity through uprates and preparing to relicense for another 20 years. This panel will explore how to get the most out of this resilient source of 365, 24/7 emissions-free power in a new era of growing demand.

- \* The importance of existing 365, 24/7 nuclear generation.
- \* Why existing nuclear is the most valuable and most affordable, long term base load clean MW.
- \* The tremendous value in relicensing nuclear plants for as long as they can operate for maintaining the existing and the expanding grid.
- \* The importance of nuclear generation w/r/t data center load growth.
- \* The Palisades example –the importance of revisiting any shuttered nuclear plant.

*Moderator: Hon. Steve DeFrank, Pennsylvania*

*Participants:*

- *Dan Eggers, CFO, Constellation*
- *Dr. Sunil Felix, Nuclear Counselor, French Embassy*
- *Josh Parker, Director, Business Development, BWXT Advanced Technologies*
- *Doug Vine, Director of Energy Analysis, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)*

**D2****Universal Service in 2024 and Beyond**

The 1996 Telecommunications Act (TA96) created a universal service program (USF) to ensure the availability of telecommunications services to all citizens, regardless of their location and at reasonable and affordable rates. The USF is funded by a charge on interstate voice telecommunications services levied against end users. As users have migrated to services such as VoIP, WhatsApp, and other non-traditional services, the revenues that support USF have declined significantly, placing a burden on the users of traditional services, and calling the viability of the program itself into question. As the ACP sunsets, the need to support low-income subscribers through the Lifeline program will only exacerbate this problem. This panel will discuss the status of ACP and potential solutions for the decline in USF revenue. We will also discuss options in which the states can step in to support the universal availability of both voice and broadband communications.

*Moderator: Hon. Mary Pat Regan, Kentucky*

*Participants:*

- *Sherry Lichtenberg, Senior Manager, Policy Dept. NARUC*
- *Greg Guice, Vernon Burger*

**D3****BioGas**

On this panel we'll explore the current state of biogas in the MACRUC region. Expert panelists will discuss current projects within specific MACRUC States and regulatory policies that are enabling projects to successfully provide utility system benefits. Benefits include storage flexibility, high temperature heat, redundancy, and sustainable supply while simultaneously lowering carbon emissions. Panelists will also discuss how biogas can be employed as a dispatchable source of low emissions electricity.

*Co-Moderators:*

*Hon. Jehmal Hudson, Virginia*

*Hon. Katie Zerfuss, Pennsylvania*

*Participants:*

- *Rashi Akki, AgGrid Energy*
- *Andrew Cassilly, Vice President, Government Relations, Bioenergy DevCo*
- *Heather Dziedzic, Vice President, Policy, American*

*Biogas Council*

1:00 – 2:45

**Lunch Then Learn: Hot Topics**  
**We are cooking up some HOT TOPICS.**  
**Stay Tuned...**

**Crystal Ballroom**

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**A Night at the Races Dinner**  
**Attire: Casual**

**Churchill Downs**  
**Starting Gate Terrace**

**Music by Kayley Bishop**  
**According to Keith Urban “Kayley’s voice is like a gumbo of Natalie Maines from The Chicks, Celine Dion, and Jewel!**  
**Kayley was part of Team Blake on the Voice.**

**Transportation will be provided. Information on timing will be communicated closer to the event.**

**WEDNESDAY**

8:30 – 10:30 am

**Closing General Session and Breakfast**

**Crystal Ballroom**

**Data Centers – Driving the Conversation and The Load Growth Part 1 and Part 2**

**Part 1- Where is the horsepower going?**

The first part of this session will explore the use cases, business models and end use of electricity related to data centers. From problem solving, to running our phones, this group will discuss the specific uses of electricity data centers represent.

**Part 2- All Things Demand**

Part two of the session will explore the demands of data centers, from energy and transmission to broadband and personnel. The panelists will discuss what different data center business models look at when siting, what their respective energy demands are going forward, and how certain business models look at site selection.

*Co- Moderators:*

*Hon. Kent Chandler, Kentucky*

*Hon. Kim Drexler, Delaware*

*Participants:*

- *Brian George, US Federal Lead Global Energy Market*

*Development and Policy, Google*

- *Data Center Coalition Representative*