

MACRUC 30th Annual Education Conference

June 22 – 25, 2025

Louisville, Kentucky

The Brown Hotel

This agenda is subject to change and updating.

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SUNDAY		
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Registration Open	Bluegrass Room – 2nd Floor
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Run for the Roses Reception	Sky Terrace – 16th Floor

MONDAY		
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration Open	Bluegrass – 2 nd Floor
8:00 -8:20 a.m.	Commissioner Only Business Meeting	Brown Room – 3rd Floor
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Race Day Rise and Dine Continental Breakfast	Bluegrass Room – 2 nd Floor
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.	General Session Welcome to MACRUC 30th Annual Education Conference Hon. Jehmal Hudson, MACRUC President, Virginia Chief Legal Officers: <i>Navigating U.S. Power Sector Challenges</i> The role of the Chief Legal Officer (CLO) is evolving rapidly, requiring a strategic and adaptive mindset to address the complexities of today's business environment. In the electric power sector, these dynamics are compounded by rising demand, aging infrastructure, and the increasing need for sustainability. As legal departments are pushed toward digital transformation, CLOs must balance regulatory challenges, operational efficiency, and the integration of innovative technologies. This session will bring together experts from both	Crystal Ballroom – 3 rd Floor

the legal and energy sectors who have navigated these challenges firsthand. Attendees will gain insights into how CLOs are adapting to these shifts, embracing collaboration, and driving proactive strategies that align legal operations with the broader goals of sustainability and operational excellence. Join us for a deep dive into the intersection of legal leadership and the evolving electric power landscape.

Moderator: Hon. Jehmal Hudson, VA

Participants:

- Colette Honorable, Chief Legal Officer and Corp. Secretary, Exelon
- Jim Kerr, Chairman, President & CEO, Southern Gas
- Kodwo Ghartey-Tagoe, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, Duke Energy
- Wendy Stark, Deputy General Counsel, PPL

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Derby Brew Coffee Break	Bluegrass – 2nd Floor
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions A	Secretariat – 1st Floor
A1	AI, Regulation and Ethics Abstract under development	
A2	Workforce Development Race The panel will discuss the growing need for work force development in the utility sector. How do we ensure an adequate workforce that is well trained and can support future needs. What emerging industries can support future generations? Moderator: Hon. Michael Bange, New Jersey	Citation – 1st Floor
A3	Telecommunications session Moderator: Hon. Laura Nichols-Samms, Virgin Islands Participant: Hon. Mary Pat Regan, Kentucky	Crystal Ballroom – 3rd Floor
11:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch then Learn <i>Lunch 11:30 – 12:00</i> <i>Learn 12:00 – 1:00</i>	Crystal Ballroom – 3rd Floor

Season 2: Dancing with the Stars – Disco Edition

Join us as we “boogie” through key challenges, from resource adequacy to price formation, and hit the right steps in balancing supply and demand. With a spotlight on the latest trends and updates, you’ll understand how to “shake your groove thing” while mastering the technical footwork required for successful market participation. Prepare to partner up with regulators and industry experts and perform the perfect routine to tackle the hottest PJM issues, all while keeping your energy high and your moves smooth. Let’s dance our way through PJM’s dynamic challenges — disco style!

The Hustle: Federal or State Policies (or Data Centers) - What is driving prices up?

Hon. Dan Conway, Ohio

The Moonwalk: Should Governors file complaints against PJM?

Hon. Kim Barrow, Pennsylvania

The Boogie: Can competitive markets rise to the resource adequacy challenge?

Dr. Arnie Quinn, Senior Vice President, Vistra Energy

The Bump: Who will add dispatchable MWs to the grid first – Maryland or New Jersey?

Hon. Kumar Barve, MD

Host:

**John Travolta ‘aka Glen Thomas’
President, GT Power Group**

Judges to be announced.

1:15 – 1:45 p.m.

Derby Brew Coffee Break

Bluegrass – 2nd Floor

1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions B

B1

A New Planning Paradigm: Integrating Across the Gas and Electric Sectors

Secretariat – 1st Floor

As states and utilities face increasing pressures related to affordability, extreme weather events, load growth, building efficiency, decarbonization, and evolving policy landscapes, the interdependencies between gas pipeline systems and electric grids have gained significant attention. The separate operations of these systems no longer suffice in addressing the complexities of modern energy challenges. This session will delve into the emerging concept of a new planning paradigm that integrates both the gas and electric sectors. By evolving state-level energy system planning frameworks, states can better account for the interactions and dynamics between these systems, fostering more efficient and resilient energy solutions. Attendees will learn about the experiences and challenges faced by states and industry experts who are at the early and middle stages of this transition. This discussion will provide valuable insights into how integrating gas and electric system planning can lead to more effective energy management, improved affordability, and enhanced system reliability, while navigating the uncertainties of policy and climate change.

Moderator: Hon. Steve DeFrank, Pennsylvania

B2

Addressing Transmission Challenges in the Mid-Atlantic: Balancing Costs, Benefits, and Community Support

Crystal Ballroom – 3rd Floor

The Mid-Atlantic region faces rising electric bills and aging infrastructure, requiring significant transmission investments to ensure grid reliability, affordability, and meet growing demand. However, challenges include determining cost allocation, balancing grid development costs, and addressing landowner and community concerns. This panel will explore methods to mitigate these issues, including: (1) evaluating the benefits of transmission projects and sharing information to aid decision-making, (2) balancing generation and transmission investments to reduce costs, and (3) engaging communities and landowners to build support for essential infrastructure.

Moderator: Hon. Michael Richard, Maryland

B3	FINANCIAL Session Abstract under construction Moderator: Hon. Kim Drexler, Delaware	Citation - 1st Floor
2:45 – 3:15 p.m.	Derby Brew Coffee and Dessert Break	Bluegrass- 2nd Floor
3:15 – 5:00 p.m.	General Session	Crystal Ballroom – 3rd Floor
3:15 – 4:15	<p>Sustainable Spirits: Distilling a Greener Future</p> <p>This session will provide an understanding of the eco-friendly practices employed by Kentucky distilleries. Speakers will discuss how company strategies mitigate environmental challenges faced by the bourbon industry, such as water usage, energy consumption, agricultural practices, and waste generation.</p> <p>Topics of relevance to audience include efficient water use and treatment, energy conservation and renewable energy use. Waste reduction in the reuse or recycling of byproducts, even in the barrel use, packaging and bottling process.</p> <p>Moderator: Kent Chandler, Commissioner Emeritus, Kentucky, Resident Senior Fellow, R Street Institute</p> <p>Participants:</p> <p>Rachel Nally, Director, Environment & Sustainability, Heaven Hill Brands</p>	
4:15 – 5:00 p.m.	The Taste of Sustainable Spirits	Sky Terrace – 16th Floor

TUESDAY

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Registration Open	Bluegrass Foyer – 2nd Floor
7:45 – 8:45 a.m.	Race Day Rise and Dine Continental Breakfast	Bluegrass – 2nd Floor
8:45 – 10:15 a.m.	General Session Bench Banter with FERC Chair & TBD	Crystal Ballroom – 3rd Floor

Bench Banter: QA Session with FERC Chair Mark Christie and Judge Kelsey Bagot, Virginia

10:15 – 10:30 a.m. **Derby Brew Coffee Break** **Bluegrass – 2nd Floor**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions C**

C1 **Nuclear Renaissance: Passing Fancy or Emerging Reality?** **Citation – 1st Floor**

A growing number of states are evaluating whether to pursue construction of a new fleet of nuclear reactors to meet growing demand from data centers, manufacturing and electrification. This panel will convene experts to discuss opportunities and challenges of building new nuclear plants, the relationship between existing and new nuclear units, and how commercial arrangements and federal and state policies can work together to bring new nuclear online.

Moderator: Hon. Angie Hatton, Kentucky

Participants:

- Kim Duffley, NARUC

C2 **Emerging Trends in Protecting Regulated Utilities** **Secretariat – 1st Floor**

The protection of regulated utilities is a critical aspect of ensuring national security, economic stability, and public safety. As utilities face increasing threats from both cyber and physical security risks, emerging trends are reshaping how governments and private entities safeguard these vital sectors. This session will explore two pivotal areas of focus: the first being supply chain management as a national security concern, specifically examining how utilities and states can mitigate risks to energy systems posed by foreign threats to procurement processes. The second area delves into the evolving landscape of incident reporting in response to cyber threats. With federal efforts to harmonize incident reporting across industries, utilities and states must adapt to new frameworks that promote timely and efficient responses to cybersecurity incidents. Participants will highlight the importance of collaborative efforts between government agencies, regulatory bodies, and utilities in enhancing resilience against modern security challenges.

Moderator: Hon. Dennis Deters, Ohio

C3 Strategies for Cost Containment and Efficiency in the Face of Rising Energy Prices **Crystal Ballroom – 3rd Floor**

As U.S. residential electricity prices are projected to reach 16 cents/kWh by 2025—an all-time high in over three decades—the financial burden of rising energy costs is becoming a pressing concern for consumers. Approximately 13% of the population in MACRUC (Mid-Atlantic, Central, and Rocky Mountain Utility Region) faces an average 14% energy burden, underlining the growing challenge of affordability. This panel will address key cost drivers affecting customer rates and will explore strategies aimed at curbing energy expenses while promoting system efficiency. Experts will discuss methods to ensure that utilities utilize the lowest-cost resources, reduce customer exposure to volatile fuel prices, and foster access to solutions that enable consumers to save money. A variety of perspectives will be shared on how states and utilities across the country are grappling with these challenges, with an emphasis on containing costs, preventing inefficient system expansion, and promoting sustainable energy solutions for all stakeholders. The session will provide valuable insights for regulators, utilities, and policymakers striving to balance cost containment with the need for equitable and reliable energy access.

Moderator: Hon. Floyd McKissick, North Carolina

11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Derby Brew Coffee Break	Bluegrass – 2nd Floor
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions D	
D1	GAS SESSION: Repair or Replace Leaking Gas Pipes <i>Abstract under construction</i> Moderator: Hon. Radina Valova, New York Participants: Hon. John Williams, Ohio	Secretariat – 1st Floor
D2	ETHICS #2 Abstract under construction	Citation – 1st Floor

D3

Surviving the Storm: Utilities' Roles in Preparing for and Responding to Extreme Weather

Crystal Ballroom – 3rd Floor

This session focuses on the preparedness and response strategies of utilities in the face of extreme weather events. Experts, including environmental scientists, utility leaders, and climate policy specialists, will discuss the steps utilities are taking to strengthen infrastructure and ensure resilience against future challenges. Key topics include building robust systems, effective policy and regulatory frameworks that support climate adaptation, and fostering community engagement in resilience planning. Attendees will gain valuable insights into collaborative efforts between utilities and other stakeholders in times of crisis, ensuring that communities are better prepared for the impacts of climate change.

Moderator: Hon. Jehmal Hudson, Virginia

Participants:

- Hon. Jeff Hughes, North Carolina
- Shannon Backer, President, Aqua-North Carolina
- Mary Anna Holden, Managing Director, Grove Street Advisors, LLC
- Laura Runkle, President, Virginia American Water

1:00 – 3:15 p.m.
Lunch 1 – 1:30

Lunch Then Learn

Crystal Ballroom – 3rd Floor

**Hot Topics and Debates
&**

Learn 1:30 – 3:00

MACRUC 2025 Presidents Remarks

- **Hon. Willie Phillips, FERC & Hon. Jehmal Hudson, VA**
- **Hon. Emile Thompson, DC & Manu Asthana, President and CEO, PJM**
- **Grid Reliability and Policies**
Hon. Charlotte Lane, WV & Tony Campbell, CEO, East Kentucky Power Cooperative

- **Powering Though the Peril**
Hon. TBD and Joanna Burkey, CSO, HP

Remarks from 2025 – 2026 Incoming President

3:15 p.m. **SESSIONS ADJOURN**

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	A Night at the Races: Dinner and Entertainment Attire: Kentucky Derby Casual Derby Hats encouraged!	Churchill Downs Starting Gate Terrace
	Transportation will be provided. Information on timing will be communicated closer to the event.	Busses will depart from 1st Floor of The Brown Hotel.

WEDNESDAY

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Kentucky Big Breakfast	Bluegrass – 2nd Floor
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8:30 – 10:15 a.m.	Closing General Session Powering the Future: Optimizing Data Centers and Utility Synergies for Sustainable Growth Part 1 and Part 2	Crystal Ballroom – 3rd Floor
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- **Moderator #1: Hon. Steve DeFrank, Pennsylvania**

12:30 – 3:00	Optional Tour: Mill Creek Generating Station <i>This tour is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy-NARUC Coal Modernization and Carbon Management Partnership.</i> <i>Separate registration required limited to 24 attendees</i> Mill Creek Tour Registration
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Join a NARUC tour of Louisville Gas & Electric’s Mill Creek Generating Station, a 1465-MW, four-unit coal-fired power plant in southwest Louisville. In operation since 1972, Mill Creek has implemented advanced pollution controls to reduce SO2, mercury, and particulate emissions. Thanks to the U.S. Department of Energy, NARUC is offering an exclusive tour of the plant to MACRUC commissioners and commission staff. Round-trip transportation between the

Brown Hotel and Mill Creek will be provided by NARUC.
Contact Kathryn Kline at kkline@naruc.org with any
questions.

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