

# 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 'Come as you are attire'	Sky Terrace 16th Floor

MONDAY		
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration Open	Bluegrass Room 2nd Floor
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Race Day Rise and Dine Continental Breakfast	Bluegrass Room 2nd Floor
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.	<b>General Session</b>  <b>Welcome to MACRUC 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference</b> <b>Hon. Jehmal Hudson, MACRUC President, Virginia</b>  <b>Chief Legal Officers:</b> <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 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	Crystal Ballroom 3rd Floor

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:

- Carlos Brown, President, Dominion Energy Services. Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer
- David Dardis, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal and Policy Officer, Constellation
- 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, EVP, Utilities and Chief Legal Officer, PPL Corporation

**10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Derby Brew Coffee Break Bluegrass – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions A Crystal Ballroom 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**A1**

**Ethics in AI: Challenges and Considerations for Utility Regulation**

As artificial intelligence (AI) increasingly becomes a tool for decision-making in the utility sector, regulators and industry professionals face pressing ethical questions about its use in regulatory proceedings. This panel discussion will explore the ethical implications of AI in utility regulation, focusing on how AI systems are being integrated into regulatory processes, decision-making, and service delivery. Topics will include issues of fairness, transparency, bias, accountability, and the protection of consumer rights, particularly as AI technologies are applied to areas such as rate-setting, grid management, and customer service. Panelists will provide practical insights into navigating these challenges within the context of utility regulation, highlighting the role of ethics in ensuring that AI-driven decisions align with public interest, regulatory frameworks, and social equity. This session is designed for utility professionals, regulators, and legal practitioners involved in utility proceedings. CLE Ethics credit application in process.

Moderator: Hon. Karen Kemerait, North Carolina

Participants:

- Jennifer Berrier, Executive Director, Pennsylvania PUC
- Jason Stevenson, Account Executive HData

**A2**

**Workforce Development Race**

**Secretariat – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

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

Participants:

- Joe Checkley, President IBEW Local 94
- Natalie Chesko, President Aqua New Jersey
- Maria Bocanegra, President Peoples gas and North Shore Gas
- Frank Troy, Vice President, Walker

**A3**

**BEAD Program Updates: Policy Shifts, Legal Challenges, and the Future of Broadband Deployment**

**Citation – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

This session explores key developments in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, focusing on pole attachment challenges under both state and FCC jurisdictions, and sharing lessons learned. It examines proposed legislative changes, including the SPEED for BEAD Bill and the Broadband Buildout Accountability Act. The session also compares broadband and LEO satellite technologies across varying contexts and reviews major court cases affecting broadband policy, including the Supreme Court's upcoming decision on the Universal Service Fund and ongoing disputes over copper network retirement. A Q&A session concludes the discussion.

Moderator: Hon. Laura Nichols-Samms, Virgin Islands

Participant:

- Hon. Mary Pat Regan, Kentucky

**11:30 – 1:00 p.m.**

**Lunch then Learn**

**Crystal Ballroom  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

*Lunch 11:30 – 12:00*

*Learn 12:00 – 1:00*

## **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
- Todd Snitchler, President & CEO, EPSA

**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, Maryland
- Zenon Christodoulou, New Jersey

**Host:**

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

**Judges:**

- ❖ **Asim Haque**
- ❖ **Charlotte Mitchell**

❖ **Rob Powelson**

<b>1:15 – 1:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Derby Brew Coffee Break</b>	<b>Bluegrass – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>
<b>1:45 – 2:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions B</b>	
<b>B1</b>	<b>A New Planning Paradigm: Integrating Across the Gas and Electric Sectors</b>  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	<b>Secretariat – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor</b>
<b>B2</b>	<b>Addressing Transmission Challenges in the Mid-Atlantic: Balancing Costs, Benefits, and Community Support</b>  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	<b>Crystal Ballroom – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor</b>

communities and landowners to build support for essential infrastructure.

Moderator: Hon. Michael Richard, Maryland

**B3**

**Regulatory Decisions and Utility Financials:  
Impact on Share Prices, Dividends, and Inflation  
Hedging**

**Citation - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

This session will explore the critical role regulatory decisions play in shaping utility companies' financial outcomes and stock prices. It will examine how regulators' choices on rate increases, return on investments, and infrastructure spending impact utility income, dividend payouts, and overall profitability. Additionally, the session will discuss how these decisions influence investor portfolios and the broader market, as well as strategies to hedge against inflation in the utility sector. In addition to panelists -a regulatory commissioner will provide insights into how regulatory policies balance industry growth with consumer protection and long-term stability.

Moderator: Hon. Kim Drexler, Delaware

**2:45 – 3:15 p.m.**

**Derby Brew Coffee and Dessert Break**

**Bluegrass- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**3:15 – 5:00 p.m.**

**General Session**

**Crystal Ballroom  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**3:15 – 4:15**

**Sustainable Spirits: Distilling a Greener Future**

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.

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.

Moderator: Kent Chandler, Commissioner Emeritus,

Kentucky, Resident Senior Fellow, R Street Institute

Participants:

- Rachel Nally, Director, Environment & Sustainability, Heaven Hill Brands

4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

**The Taste of Sustainable Spirits**

**Sky Terrace  
16<sup>th</sup> Floor**

## TUESDAY

8:30 a.m. – 2:30  
p.m.

**Registration Open**

**Bluegrass Foyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

7:45 – 8:45 a.m.

**Race Day Rise and Dine Continental Breakfast**

**Bluegrass – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

8:45 – 10:15 a.m.

**General Session**

**Crystal Ballroom  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**Hot Topic Quick Talks**

- **Bench Banter:** QA Session with FERC Chair Mark Christie and Judge Kelsey Bagot, Virginia
- **FERC Chat:** Hon. Willie Phillips, FERC & Hon. Jehmal Hudson, VA
- **PJM & DC PSC:** 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. Dennis Deters, Ohio and Joanna Burkey, Chief Information Security Officer, Hewlett Packard

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

**Derby Brew Coffee Break**

**Bluegrass – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**Concurrent Sessions C**

**C1**

**Nuclear Renaissance: Passing Fancy or Emerging Reality?**

**Crystal Ballroom  
3rd 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
- Marcus Nichol, Executive Director, New Nuclear, NEI
- Dwayne Pickett, Vice President of Regulatory Advocacy, Constellation rick

**C2**

**Emerging Trends in Protecting Regulated Utilities**

**Secretariat  
1<sup>st</sup> 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**

**Citation – 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Participants:

- Hon. Bonnie Suchman, Maryland

**11:30 – 12:00 p.m. Derby Brew Coffee Break Bluegrass – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions D**

**D1**

**To Replace or Repair? Safe and Cost-Effective Solutions for Leak Prone Pipe Mitigation**

**Secretariat  
1st Floor**

The Mid-Atlantic region has aging gas pipelines prone to leaks from corrosion, wear, and environmental factors. Traditional Leak Prone Pipe (LPP) programs often focus on costly replacements involving extensive digging. This session will explore emerging, cost-effective methods for safely repairing LPP, including trenchless technologies and advanced coatings. Panelists will share case studies showcasing the feasibility of these repair methods and discuss regulatory and cost recovery factors. Attendees will learn about current LPP repair options, their safety, affordability, and potential use in Mid-Atlantic states.

Moderator: Hon. Radina Valova, New York

Participants:

Hon. John Williams, Ohio

Hon. Ted Trabue, District of Columbia

**D2**

**Duties Before the Tribunal**

**Citation – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

All attorneys are bound to abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct for the states in which they are admitted to practice law. These rules set standards for professional behavior before all legal tribunals including state public service commissions. This panel visits hypothetical scenarios that an attorney may face while practicing before a commission. Panelists will discuss the ethics of these scenarios as they relate to the duty of candor. Panelists will also address civility and professionalism among the members of the bar appearing before our commissions.

Moderator: Hon. Jenifer French, Ohio

Participants:

**D3**

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

**Crystal Ballroom  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Becker, President, Aqua-North Carolina
- Mary Anna Holden, Managing Director, Grove Street Advisors, LLC
- Robert Powelson, President and CEO of NAWC
- Laura Runkle, President, Virginia American Water

**1:00 – 3:15 p.m.**  
**Lunch 1 – 1:30**

**Lunch Then Learn**

**Crystal Ballroom**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**Learn 1:30 – 3:00**

**Family Feud**  
**&**  
**MACRUC 2025 Presidents Remarks**

**Family Feud**

Host: Hon. Zenon Christodoulou, New Jersey

**Team: Commissioner**

Charlotte Lane, WV

Jehmal Hudson, VA

Ray Williams, VI

**Team: Commissioner Emeritus**

Gladys Brown Dutrieuille

Travis Kavulla

Rick Mroz

Judy Jagdmann

**Remarks from**  
**2025 – 2026 Incoming President**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of The**  
**Brown Hotel.**

**WEDNESDAY**

**7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Kentucky Big Breakfast**

**Bluegrass – 2nd Floor**

**8:30 – 10:15 a.m.**

**Closing General Session**

**Crystal Ballroom**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**Powering the Future: Optimizing Data Centers and  
Utility Synergies for Sustainable Growth  
Part 1 and Part 2**

➤ **Moderator #1: Hon. Steve DeFrank, Pennsylvania**

**Optional Tour: Mill Creek Generating Station**

*This tour is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy-  
NARUC Coal Modernization and Carbon Management  
Partnership.*

*Separate registration required / limited to 24 attendees*  
[Mill Creek Tour Registration](#)

**12:30 – 3:00**

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 SO<sub>2</sub>, 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](mailto:kkline@naruc.org) with any questions.