

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.	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 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 – 2nd Floor

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions A Crystal Ballroom 3rd 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 – 1st 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

Telecommunications session

Citation – 1st Floor

Moderator: Hon. Laura Nichols-Samms, Virgin Islands

Participant:

- Hon. Mary Pat Regan, Kentucky

11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch then Learn

**Crystal Ballroom
3rd 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

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

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

Citation - 1st 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- 2nd Floor

3:15 – 5:00 p.m.

General Session

**Crystal Ballroom
3rd 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
16th Floor**

TUESDAY

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Registration Open	Bluegrass Foyer 2 nd Floor
7:45 – 8:45 a.m.	Race Day Rise and Dine Continental Breakfast	Bluegrass – 2 nd Floor
8:45 – 10:15 a.m.	General Session Hot Topic Quick Talks <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 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	Crystal Ballroom 3 rd Floor
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Derby Brew Coffee Break	Bluegrass – 2 nd Floor
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions C C1 Nuclear Renaissance: Passing Fancy or Emerging Reality? <p>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.</p> <p>Moderator: Hon. Angie Hatton, Kentucky</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kim Duffley, NARUC	Crystal Ballroom 3 rd Floor

- Marcus Nichol, Executive Director, New Nuclear, NEI
- Dwayne Pickett, Vice President of Regulatory Advocacy, Constellation rick

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

Citation – 1st 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 – 2nd 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 ETHICS #2 Abstract under construction Citation – 1st Floor

Moderator: Hon. Jenifer French, Ohio

Participants:

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 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
3rd Floor**

**Family Feud
&**

Learn 1:30 – 3:00

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 1st 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
3rd 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.*

12:30 – 3:00

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

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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