

MACRUC 31st Annual Education Conference

Hilton Columbus Downtown

Columbus, Ohio | June 15 – June 18, 2026

Friday, June 12, 2026

MONDAY, JUNE 15

Additional Workshops and Tours

These events are not part of the official MACRUC agenda

[Leveraging Data for Regulatory Decision-Making](#)

[Physical Infrastructure of Broadband Delivery Site Visit](#)

4:00 – 6:30 p.m. | Registration

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. | Capital City Kickoff Welcome Reception Stories on High, 28th Floor of Hilton

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

7:30 – 4:00 p.m. | Registration Desk

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. | Midwest Meet Up Breakfast

8:30 – 10:15 a.m. | General Session #1:

Welcome to Columbus

Remarks by William Fehrman, Chairman, President and CEO, American Electric Power

State Solutions for the Capacity Crunch

Welcome and MACRUC Business Meeting: Hon. Dennis Deters, Ohio, MACRUC President

Remarks by William Fehrman, Chairman, President and CEO, American Electric Power (AEP)

State Solutions for the Capacity Crunch:

Much has been said about what PJM's management should have, would have, and still can do to address the resource adequacy issues of the region—with States often acting as mere commentators or complainants as the drama unfolds. This panel seeks to turn attention back to States themselves and to consider the approaches at their disposal to expand capacity (or mitigate the need for additional capacity) in an affordable, least-regrets manner. Each panelist will propose at least one concrete solution, while having a chance to ask pointed questions of their peers!

Moderator: Hon. Kumar Barve, Maryland

- Christopher Barton, Manager, Business Development, Williams Company
- Mason Emmett, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Constellation
- Travis Kavulla, Head of Policy Base Power Company
- Nicole Luckey, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Invenergy
- John Slocum, Head of Government Affairs, Sparkfund

10:15 – 10:45 a.m. | Buckeye Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. | Concurrent Sessions A 1 - 4

A1: The IRP Evolution: Balancing Reliability, Growth, and State Goals:

As we navigate the complex issues associated with the transformation of the electric system to meet increasing energy demand, Integrated Resource Planning offers a valuable tool to determine and plan for generation resources needed to both maintain reliable, resilient, and affordable electric service for customers and address other state policy priorities including environmental and economic development goals.

Panelists will discuss the experiences and opportunities associated with Integrated Resources Planning - during both the planning and execution phases - from two perspectives:

- (1) Different models for approaching integrated resource planning in vertically integrated states including best practices and what opportunities to improve planning exist in today's environment of rapid load growth; and

(2) How can deregulated states develop integrated resources plans for needed generation and what lessons and planning tools or models from vertically integrated states can be best leveraged while preserving retail competition.

Both perspectives will also discuss the respective roles and responsibilities of the state, the utilities, and other important stakeholders like RTOs in developing and implementing an IRP.

Moderator: Hon. Kim Barrow, Pennsylvania

- Hon. Kelsey Bagot, Virginia
- Hon. Zenon Christodoulou, New Jersey
- Katherine Smith, Managing Counsel-State Regulatory, Public Service Electric and Gas Co.
- Timothy Burdis, Director of State Policy Solutions, PJM
- Sarah Freeman, Principal, Regulatory Assistance Project

A2: Ethics Session: Disclosure, and Trust: Ethical Decision-Making in Public Governance

This program has been approved for 1 hour of CLE credit for Professional Conduct/Ethics in the following states: Ohio, Kentucky, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. See App for information about New York credits.

In the complex landscape of public governance and regulatory oversight, the principles of impartiality and integrity are foundational to maintaining public trust. This session examines the ethical and practical challenges faced by commissioners and staff when navigating real or perceived conflicts of interest. Participants will explore how advance waivers, recusal standards, and disclosure norms can safeguard the decision-making process while ensuring transparency and accountability. Drawing on the framework of the ABA Model Rule 1.7 and related ethical standards, this session provides guidance on identifying potential conflicts, assessing when impartiality might reasonably be questioned, and implementing best practices to preserve both procedural fairness and public confidence in institutional decisions.

Moderator: Hon. Angie Hatton, Kentucky

- Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Senior Advisor and Attorney, Stevens Lee
- Charlotte Mitchell, Partner, McGuireWoods
- Ryan Palmer, Of Counsel, Verrill Law

A3: The FCC in a Broadband-Only World: Public Interest, Power, and the Future of Communications Regulation

As communications policy enters a fully broadband era, the role of the Federal Communications Commission is under debate. This session explores the growing tension between rhetoric and enforcement—examining how public statements about protecting consumers and competition compare with regulatory actions in practice.

The discussion will look forward: What is the FCC’s appropriate role in a world where legacy networks have disappeared and virtually all communications ride over broadband? Who monitors service quality when traditional common-carrier frameworks fade? Should VoIP be treated as a Title II service, or does that approach misfit an IP-based ecosystem? And what are the practical consequences—good and bad—of lighter-touch or no regulation at all?

Participants will engage in a candid examination of what a future regulatory structure could look like when everything is VoIP, legacy silos no longer apply, and the communications marketplace is defined by convergence rather than categories. This session is designed for policymakers, regulators, and industry leaders who want to understand not just where communications law has been—but where it must go next.

Moderator: Sherry Lichtenberg, NARUC

- Hon. Daniel Conway, Ohio
- Nell Geiser, Research Director, CWA
- Radhika Karmarkar, Senior Regulatory Counsel, Breezeline
- Evan Swartrauber, Senior Fellow, Digital Progress Institute & Principal/Founder, CorePoint Strategies

A4: Powering the Mid-Atlantic: Building the Infrastructure for a New Energy Era

The Mid-Atlantic is entering a new energy era defined by rapid load growth from data centers, electrification, and industrial expansion—placing unprecedented pressure on both the electric grid and the natural gas pipeline system that underpins regional reliability. This panel examines how policymakers, regulators, utilities, and infrastructure developers can respond to surging demand by coordinating investment in electric transmission and natural gas pipeline capacity, while preserving affordability, reliability, and safety. Panelists will explore the challenges of accurately forecasting demand, distinguishing firm needs from speculative requests, and designing “smart” transmission and pipeline projects that meet real system needs without overbuilding or shifting unfair costs to ratepayers.

Focusing on the intersection of gas and electric systems, the discussion will address how natural gas pipeline constraints affect electric dispatch, resource adequacy, and reliability planning across the Mid-Atlantic, despite the region’s proximity to the gas-rich Appalachian Basin. The panel will also examine the evolving roles of state commissions, FERC, and PHMSA in permitting and oversight, including how regulators assess prudence, rate recovery, and safety compliance for proactive infrastructure investments. Attendees will gain practical insight into how coordinated planning across sectors—and early engagement among utilities, large customers, and regulators—can accelerate infrastructure development at the scale and speed demanded by the regional economy.

Moderator: Hon. Bonnie Suchman, Maryland

- Kamran Ali, Senior Vice President, Transmission Grid Planning & Engineering, AEP
- Paul Briggs, President, Tiger Energy Advisors
- Eric Fox, Director, Forecasting Solutions, ITRON
- Cynthia Niemeyer-Tieskoetter, Senior Policy Advisor, American Petroleum Institute

11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. General Session #2

Lunch then Learn

11:45 – 12:15 Lunch

Dancing with the Stars Season 3

Kick Up Your Heels: A MACRUC Hoedown

Grab your cowboy hats and boots and join us for a lively MACRUC Dancing with the Stars Hoedown! That's right, your favorite MACRUC session is back and is going country this year.

As PJM navigates a stampede of accelerating load growth, generator retirements, interconnection queue backlogs, and the rapid expansion of new technologies, regulators and stakeholders are being asked to take the reins on consequential decisions affecting consumers and grid stability.

Our participants won't be hitting the dance floor; instead, they'll be stepping up to the mic to debate these complex issues. Each speaker has just four minutes to two-step through their arguments before the clock runs out. Our celebrity judges will offer their critiques, but they won't be calling the tune—in the end, after the final do-si-do, the MACRUC audience will have the final say!

Designed for commissioners, policymakers, consumer advocates, and industry participants, this session blends candid dialogue with practical insights into how PJM stakeholders can stay in step while balancing reliability, affordability, and sustainability goals.

Emcee: Hon. Zenon Christodoulou “Com Z of New Jersey”

Dance #1: Cotton Eye Joe: Are political capacity market price collars a good idea?

Marji Philips, Senior Vice President, Wholesale Market Policy, LS Power
&
Abe Silverman, Research Scholar, Johns Hopkins University

Dance #2: The Pony Up Polka: What is the best way to make sure the data centers pay for the costs they bring to the grid?

Pamela Quinlan, Principal, GQS New Energy Strategies
&
Maureen Willis, Consumers' Counsel and Agency Director, Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Dance #3: Boot Scoot Boogie: How can PJM develop a believable load forecast?

Hon. Dennis Deters, Ohio
&
Monica Ghattas, Exelon

Thank Dance #4: The Two-Step: Why should someone invest in generation capacity in my state?

Hon. Dan Conway, Ohio
&
Hon. Kumar Barve, Maryland

Dance #5: Achy Breaky Heart: Who has the better construct – Virginia or Pennsylvania?

Hon. Kelsey Bagot, Virginia
&
Hon. Steve DeFrank, Pennsylvania

1:30 – 2:00 p.m. | Buckeye Coffee Break

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Concurrent Sessions B 1 - 4

B1: An AfforDERble Solution: How DERs Can Keep Capacity High and Costs Low

As states look for ways to address affordability concerns while meeting load growth demands, DERs can offer a cost-effective, scalable solution. By combining DERs such as batteries, solar, and smart devices, states can serve, shift, and reduce demand, deferring capital investments and improving utilization of our existing infrastructure. DERs can also provide capacity relief from significant projected new peak load growth from data center build-out through 2030, as well as the resulting capacity costs increases. Regulators are wrestling with how to structure DER entry into capacity markets and resource planning amid this tidal wave of data center demand. That prompts the questions: what role can DERs play in addressing the upcoming capacity crunch, what regulatory changes can help them scale to meet this challenge in wholesale markets and at the retail level? How can residential, commercial, and industrial customers participate in meaningful programs alike?

Moderator: Hon. Denise Sheehan, New York

- Hon. Bonnie Suchman, Maryland
- Chloe Holden, Strategic Research Manager, Advanced Energy United
- Anne Hoskins, SVP of Policy and Market Development, Generac
- Anwar Khan, President, Solar Landscape

B2: Navigating AI

This session examines the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence on utility and telecommunication operations, focusing on its ability to perceive environments and act intelligently to achieve specific goals. Participants will explore how AI reshapes customer service through automated resolution and call center applications while assisting commissions with various applications such as preparing for rate cases and record keeping. The discussion will further address "behind-the-scenes" advancements in security systems and infrastructure protection, such as predictive maintenance and 5G optimization. Participants will tackle the human element by identifying emerging career paths and organizational strategies to bridge skill gaps,

providing a strategic roadmap of lessons learned to maximize AI's potential for both business efficiency and consumer satisfaction.

Moderator: Hon. Laura Nichols Samms, Virgin Islands

- Deb Degillio, SVP, Chief Technology & Innovation Officer, American Water
- Hensey Fenton, Comcast
- Kurt John, Chief Information Security Officer, Con Edison
- Adam Pollock, Technical Advisor to Commissioner Judy Chang, FERC

B3: Hot Topics & Cool Solutions

Keeping up with the changes and new mandates in the water sector can feel like a full-time job. This panel cuts through the noise with "hot takes" on the industry's most urgent boiling points. Experts will break down the essentials of PFAS compliance, lead service line replacement, and the rising tide of affordability challenges. We will also dive into practical strategies for customer communication and the role of AI in streamlining daily utility operations. Join us for a fast-paced briefing designed to give you the clarity and cool-headed solutions you need to navigate these ever-evolving issues.

Moderator: Hon. Charlotte Lane, West Virginia

- Don Denton, Senior Vice President, Nexus Water Group
- Maryanne Hatch, VP, Rates and Regulatory Affairs, Veolia North America
- Jay Kooper, VP, General Counsel and Secretary, Middlesex Water
- Dr. Matthew Klein, Chief Strategy Officer, Delta Bravo AI

B4: Island to Inland: Reliability, Creativity and Reform

The Mid-Atlantic region faces a capacity adequacy challenge unlike any in recent memory. Surging electricity demand from data centers and large industrial loads is straining PJM's interconnection queue, capacity market, and transmission infrastructure, raising urgent questions about whether the resource mix can keep pace.

At the same time, the U.S. Virgin Islands are undertaking an ambitious clean energy transition designed to improve grid resilience and reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels in one of the nation's most weather-exposed jurisdictions. Planned investments in solar, wind, and storage resources highlight how smaller island systems are confronting many of the same reliability, affordability, and infrastructure challenges facing mainland markets.

Renewables and storage are well-positioned to help address these challenges across both regions. Offshore wind offers capacity factors approaching conventional generation, making it a potentially significant contributor to firm capacity needs—though deployment remains highly dependent on the federal policy environment. Meanwhile, PJM's interconnection queue already contains substantial solar, storage, and onshore wind capacity awaiting study, representing a near-term pipeline that could meaningfully support load growth if current bottlenecks are resolved in time.

Realizing this potential will require resolving several persistent market design and policy debates, including interconnection queue reform, Connect and Manage frameworks, Surplus Interconnection Service (SIS)

eligibility, capacity accreditation for intermittent resources, co-location policy, transmission expansion, and reliability backstop procurement mechanisms.

Moderator: Hon. Michael Richard, Delaware

- Hon. Ray Williams, Virgin Islands
- Molly Knoll, Align Energy Advisors
- Josh Ryor, Principal, Northeast Region, US Program, Regulatory Assistance Project
- Bahaa Seireg, Senior Director, Eastern Regional Electricity & Transmission Policy, American Clean Power Association.

3:00 – 3:30 p.m. | Buckeye Coffee Break

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. | General Session #3

Jumpstarting Growth: Legislative Solutions for Capacity Hurdles

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Investing in Resilient Infrastructure: Balancing Affordability, Compliance, and Long-Term System Reliability

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The Hidden Reliability Risk

Jumpstarting Growth: Legislative Solutions for Capacity Hurdles

As electricity demand surges, state legislatures are implementing new statutory frameworks to ensure grid reliability and resource adequacy. This session features policymakers discussing "creative pathways" to clear capacity hurdles, with a focus on analyzing regulatory frameworks designed to streamline energy facility siting and permitting. By exploring these legal mechanisms, the panel will demonstrate how states are reducing administrative friction to accelerate critical infrastructure projects.

Participants will examine incentive structures used to promote new generation, including the legal nuances of developing on brownfield sites and modernizing "behind-the-meter" standards. Attendees will also assess jurisdiction and compliance by evaluating the intersection of state mandates with regional transmission organization (RTO) requirements and federal standards. Finally, the session allows attendees to compare legislative strategies across various state models to understand how different legal tools impact long-term resource adequacy and the evolving energy landscape.

Moderator: Hon. Jenifer French, Ohio

- The Hon. Brian M. Chavez, Ohio State Senate, District 30, Chair of the Senate Energy Committee and the Vice Chair of the Senate Finance Committee for the 136th General Assembly.
- The Hon. Adam Holmes, Ohio House of Representatives, Chair of the House Energy Committee,
- The Hon. Tristan Radar, Ohio 13th District, Ranking Member on House Energy Committee
- The Hon. Kent Smith, Ohio State Senate, District 21, Ranking Member on Senate Energy Committee

Investing in Resilient Infrastructure: Balancing Affordability, Compliance, and Long-Term System Reliability

Facilitator: Hon. Michael Bange, New Jersey

- Colleen Arnold, President, Aqua Water

The Hidden Reliability Risk

Facilitator: Hon. Andrew Wood, Kentucky

- Nicholas Cupps, CEO, Davy Gas, Inc.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. | Midwest Meet Up Breakfast

7:30 – 4:00 p.m. | Registration Desk

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. | General Session #4 - Part 1

The State of Play: Navigating State Roles in Transmission Cost Allocation Under FERC Order 1920

The State of Play: Navigating State Roles in Transmission Cost Allocation Under FERC Order 1920

With the issuance of FERC Order 1920, the landscape of regional transmission planning has shifted significantly, placing "Relevant State Entities" at the center of the debate over who pays for the grid of the future. By requiring transmission providers to open a six-month State Engagement Period, the Order grants states an unprecedented opportunity to negotiate and propose their own cost-allocation methods for long-term projects. However, as the compliance deadline approaches, the practical application of these rules is exposing deep regional fractures.

Is the "beneficiaries-pay" principle being upheld, or are costs being unfairly shifted? How are multi-state regions like PJM navigating the friction between state-led public policy goals and federal reliability requirements? This session provides a high-level progress report on the implementation of Order 1920,

examining whether the new state-centric framework is fostering regional consensus or creating further legal and regulatory gridlock.

Moderator: Hon. Dennis Deters, Ohio

- Mark Christie, Director, William & Mary Law School Center for Energy Law and Policy, Former Chair, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Kim Duffley, Senior Director of Energy Policy and Legal Counsel, NARUC
- Ben Sloan, Executive Director, OPSI

9:30 –10:30 a.m. | General Session #4 - Part 2

Power Play: New York’s Nuclear Bet and the Regional Ripple Effect

Power Play: New York’s Nuclear Bet and the Regional Ripple Effect

New York’s decision to advance a new advanced nuclear facility through the New York Power Authority has implications that reach well beyond state borders. As load growth accelerates and dispatchable, zero-carbon resources become increasingly valuable, this session brings together Nuclear Regulatory Commissioner David Wright, the Chair of the Kentucky Commission, and the NYPA SVP of Nuclear Development, Todd Josifowski, to examine what this project means for reliability and regulation.

The SVP of Nuclear Development of NYPA will outline the strategic rationale for the project — including projected load growth, reliability needs, decarbonization mandates, site selection considerations, financing structure, and how the proposed facility would integrate into wholesale markets and transmission planning. The discussion will address why advanced nuclear is being pursued now, how risks are being managed, and what safeguards are in place to protect ratepayers.

Commissioner Wright will clarify federal licensing authority, safety standards, modernization of the reactor approval process, and the boundaries between federal oversight and state decision-making.

Kentucky has become one of the more active states in exploring nuclear energy policy over the past several years with efforts spanning the General Assembly, the governor’s office, and the Kentucky PSC. Chair Hatton will discuss the growing conversations in Kentucky and how the state is responding to increased interest in the role of nuclear energy in the state. Her participation will provide valuable insight into how state commissions across the country are approaching questions related to affordability, reliability, permitting, and long-term planning as interest in advanced nuclear expands.

Panelists will also explore broader regional implications — including impacts on capacity markets, transmission expansion, and coordination between neighboring grid operators. For Mid-Atlantic regulators, this session offers a candid and balanced discussion of how one state’s nuclear initiative could shape wholesale markets, regulatory frameworks, and energy policy across the interconnected Northeast.

Moderator: Hon. Kelsey Bagot, Virginia

- Hon. Angie Hatton, Kentucky
- Hon. David Wright, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
- Todd Josifowski, SVP, Nuclear Development, New York Power Authority (NYPA)

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. | Buckeye Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. | Concurrent Sessions C 1 - 4

C1: The Regulatory Compact and the Cost of Growth: Rethinking Line Extension Policies and Long-Term Affordability

This session examines the regulatory compact and its role in balancing utility financial viability with the mandate for just reasonable rates. While market volatility often drives short-term bill fluctuations, long-term ratepayer affordability is dictated by the institutional frameworks governing infrastructure financing and cost-sharing.

Participants will conduct a legal analysis of Line Extension Allowances (LEAs)—foundational tools designed to uphold the obligation to serve while preventing inequitable cross-subsidization. As several jurisdictions move to phase out LEAs for natural gas utilities, our panel will evaluate the resulting impact on equity and economic efficiency. Attendees will gain insight into how properly structured line extension policies prevent uneconomic expansion and support the growth necessary to stabilize rates for all customers.

Moderator: Hon. Larry Friedeman, Ohio

- The Hon. Frederick Hoover, Maryland
- Juan Alvarado, Managing Director, American Gas Association
- Andy Tubbs, President and CEO, Energy Association of Pennsylvania
- Jamie Van Nostrand, Policy Director, Future of Heat Initiative

C2: Second Act for Coal?

This panel will ask industry to consider the approaches at their disposal to expand capacity or to mitigate the need for additional capacity in an affordable, least regrettable manner. The discussion will also address how EPA standards create a "retirement cliff" that complicates long-term resource planning and what can be done. This session will also examine the emergence of "Reliability Must-Run" contracts and federal emergency orders used to keep retiring units online to prevent grid instability.

Moderator: Charlotte Lane, West Virginia

- Christian Beam, President, Monogahela Power
- Michelle Bloodworth, President and CEO, America's Power
- Jimmy Brock, Director and Executive Chair, Core Natural Resources

C3: Cooling & Powering the Cloud: Data Centers and Water Usage

As the digital economy expands, a new heavyweight consumer has arrived at the tap: the data center. This panel will explore the benefits and challenges that data centers pose to water utilities and their customers. Hear from panelists how these large-scale users can provide much-needed solutions for communities by funding essential infrastructure upgrades. However, for communities to see these benefits, regulators and community leaders need to know the right questions to ask. To this end, panelists will discuss the recent White House Data Centers Compact that states that developers must "pay their own way," as well as other considerations like the types of cooling technologies available to reduce water usage, and how data centers can partner with wastewater utilities to use reclaimed water as an alternative cooling source. This panel will seek to provide a roadmap for ensuring that the digital "thirst" for data does not come at the expense of community water security.

Moderator: Hon. Zenon Christodoulou, New Jersey

- Hon. Michael Bange, New Jersey
- James Barbato, Vice President, Aqua America
- Usman Kahan, Senior Solutions Architect, Amazon Web Services
- Pat Kerr, President and CEO, Baton Rouge Water Company

C4: Rate Making 101

The session will provide a high-level overview of the rate setting process. The presentation includes a discussion of how revenue requirement is determined, how rates are determined, the regulatory principles relied upon and alternative rate structures and recovery mechanisms. The discussion will be led by David Spacht, CFO of Artesian Water Company, Inc and President of Artesian Wastewater Management, Inc. David has also been a faculty member for over 30 years of the NARUC Utility Rate School; a premier educational conference held on the east and west coast for new participants in the rate regulatory process.

Introduction: Hon. Joe Coviello, New Jersey

Instructor: David Spacht, CFO, Artesian Water Company

11:45 – 12:00 | Buckeye Coffee Break

12:00 – 1:00 | Concurrent Sessions D 1 - 3

D1: Balancing the Scales: Leveraging Infrastructure Riders and Regulatory Arrangements for Economic Growth

Economic development is inextricably linked to the physical and regulatory infrastructure available to new and expanding businesses. This session explores how states are positioning themselves as premier destinations for industrial and data center growth by utilizing innovative legal and utility mechanisms.

Using Ohio as a primary case study, panelists will analyze the Infrastructure Development Rider (IDR)—a tool codified in state law to fast-track site preparation and natural gas pipeline expansion—alongside "Reasonable Arrangements," (which can include industrial scale electric transmission demand response programs) which are customized utility rate structures designed to attract large-scale employers. The discussion will expand to compare these tools with emerging regulatory frameworks in states like Pennsylvania and Virginia, where commissions are navigating the same "gold rush" of high-load technology and manufacturing sectors.

From the perspectives of state government, utilities, and industrial developers, we will examine how these regulatory tools serve as a catalyst for investment while addressing the critical challenge of maintaining grid stability and ratepayer equity.

Moderator: Hon. Mary Pat Regan, Kentucky

- Patrick Carr, Director, Division of Utility Accounting & Finance, Virginia
- Matt Cybulski, Managing Director, Energy and Power, JobsOhio
- David Proano, Partner, Baker Hostetler

D2: Ethics: Regulating the Algorithm: Ethical Oversight of AI in Utility Decision-Making

This program has been approved for 1 hour of CLE credit for Professional Conduct/Ethics in the following states: Ohio, Kentucky, , New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. See App for information about New York credits.

Artificial intelligence is playing an expanding role in public utility regulation, including rate-setting, grid management, customer service, and compliance functions. While these technologies offer efficiencies and data-driven insights, they also raise significant concerns related to fairness, bias, transparency, accountability, and consumer protection. Utility regulators must ensure that AI-assisted decisions remain consistent with statutory mandates, due process principles, and public expectations of transparency and equity. This session examines the ethical and governance challenges associated with both external and internal uses of AI in utility regulation, with a specific focus on emerging regulatory standards and case law.

Participants will explore how professional duties of competence, confidentiality, supervision, and disclosure apply in an AI-enabled regulatory environment while gaining practical guidance on risk mitigation, governance frameworks, and best practices for responsible AI adoption. Throughout the presentation, attendees will analyze the ethical implications of AI-driven rate-setting and grid management and evaluate how Ohio 621184 APC and similar regulatory benchmarks influence transparency and accountability standards. Furthermore, the session will identify professional responsibility risks regarding data confidentiality and the supervision of automated systems, ultimately providing strategies for implementing oversight frameworks that align with statutory mandates, due process and ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct for attorneys and state administrative law judges.

Moderator: Hon. Chuck McLean, Maryland

- Hon. Obi Linton, Maryland
- Maureen Harris, NY Commissioner Emeritus, Special Counsel, NYPA,
- Jennifer Berrier, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)

D3: Guarding the Consumer Interest & Utility Regulation

This session examines four critical pillars of consumer protection: the BEAD broadband initiative, Ohio’s PIPP Plus model, protecting consumers from payment scams/predatory practices, and the evolving LIHEAP landscape. As federal mandates and shifting economic conditions strain household affordability, regulators must navigate the logistical hurdles of large-scale assistance programs alongside rising security threats. Panelists will analyze how these intersecting issues shape the future of utility service, infrastructure investment, and ratepayer equity.

Moderator: Hon. John Williams, Ohio

- Barbara Bossart, Chief, Reliability & Service Planning Division, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)
- Monica Martinez, Principal, Ruben Strategy Group LLC & Executive Director, Utilities United Against Scams
- Katrina Metzler, Executive Director, National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition
- Angela Siefer, Executive Director, Digital Inclusion

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Lunch on Own

2:15 – 3:00 | Buckeye Coffee and Treat Break

Treats Powered by EnerKnol

2:45 – 4:15 p.m. | General Session #5

Transmission & Generation: Who Builds & Who’s in Charge?

Installation of MACRUC 2026 – 2027 President

Transmission & Generation in the Mid-Atlantic: Who Builds, Where It Goes, and Who's in Charge?

The Mid-Atlantic faces mounting pressure to add new generation as electrification, data centers, and reliability concerns drive demand. This session explores the need to plan where new capacity should be built so that the transmission needs can be appropriately planned — will supplies be near load, in resource-rich areas, or in transmission-constrained zones. This session will also explore reliability and affordability considerations.

Panelists will examine transmission development processes, improving coordination between PJM Interconnection and New York Independent System Operator, and whether regional planning and procurement should be more closely aligned. The discussion will also address the respective roles of the states and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in siting, markets, and transmission policy—and what regulatory adjustments may be necessary to ensure timely development in a rapidly transforming grid.

Moderator: Hon. Steve DeFrank, Pennsylvania

- The Hon. Zenon Christodoulou, New Jersey
- Stu Nachmias, President & CEO, Con Edison Transmission
- Abe Silverman, Research Scholar, Johns Hopkins University
- Jason Stanek, Executive Director, PJM
- Evan Vaughan, Executive Director, MAREC Action

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Discover Columbus Dinner at COSI: The Center of Science and Industry

Don't miss this all-access pass to one of the most innovative spaces in the country – COSI: the Center of Science and Industry. MACRUC combines a premier dinner with the opportunity to explore world-class exhibits and network with colleagues. Stepping outside our usual environment is where true innovation happens, and there is no better place to recharge your creative batteries than this inspiring museum backdrop, ensuring an evening of meaningful connection and discovery.

Attire: Casual

Transportation from the Hilton will be provided.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. | Midwest Meet Up Breakfast

8:00 – 10:30 | Registration Desk

8:30 – 10:15 a.m. | General Session #6

Plugging into the Future: Making Data Center Load Flexibility a Reality

&

Powering the Digital Surge: Multi-Stakeholder Strategies for Data Center Expansion?

8:30 – 10:15 a.m. | General Session #6:

Plugging into the Future: Making Data Center Load Flexibility a Reality

Facilitator: Hon. Jenifer French, Ohio

- Michael Panfil, Head of Legal and Policy, Emerald AI

Powering the Digital Surge: Multi-Stakeholder Strategies for Data Center Expansion

As the digital economy drives unprecedented demand for power, this session examines the regulatory and economic hurdles of data center expansion in the Mid-Atlantic Region through the lens of government regulators, Independent Power Producers (IPPs), and Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs). Panelists will evaluate solutions for balancing industrial growth with grid reliability, including Commission-approved tariffs, market incentives, and “Bring Your Own Generation” (BYOG) models.

Moderator: Hon. Jehmal Hudson, Virginia

- Bryn Baker, Senior Director, Organized Markets Policy, Corporate Energy Buyers Association (CEBA)
- Brian George, Energy Regulatory & Policy Lead, Google
- Asim Haque, EVP, Governmental and Member Services, PJM
- Willie Phillips, Partner, Holland & Knight, LLC
- Arnie Quinn, SVP, Regulatory Policy, Vistra
- Lloyd Yates, President and CEO, NiSource