



## **Northwestern University Electricity Dialogue**

### ***The State-RTO Partnership: Policies, Markets, Reliability, and the Energy Transition***

**Monday, April 22 — Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

**Hyatt Centric Magnificent Mile**

**Lakeshore Ballroom (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**

**633 N. St. Clair Street**

**Chicago, IL 60611**

*The spring 2024 Northwestern University Electricity Dialogue will bring together regulators, thought leaders, and industry executives in a small-group setting, allowing for a deep dive into the challenges facing state-RTO partnerships, with the hopes of illuminate what is going on, how these challenges can be addressed and the best way to enrich ongoing efforts.*

*Over the years, and since the creation of the RTO/ISOs, an important relationship has developed between RTO/ISOs and state regulators. This Dialogue goes so far as to call that relationship a “partnership” given their important and increasingly interdependent roles. Beyond exploring the nature and accuracy of this partnership label, this Dialogue will examine the expanding planning and operational horizon from the near-term to the long-term. Panelists will discuss how the states and RTO/ISOs are working together and areas where improvement is needed to ensure the states and RTOs/ISOs can handle the challenges confronting the electricity systems: differing business models, extreme weather volatility, the speed of the resource transition electrification, decarbonization, and ever-changing electricity markets, to name a few. Yet, the goals remain the same: assured reliability, affordability, enhanced resilience and improving regionality.*

## **Monday, April 22, 2024**

- 11:00-12:15      **Registration Check-In** (Lakeshore Ballroom—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
**Informal Arrival Lunch** (St. Clair—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)
- 12:15-12:30      **Welcome and Opening Remarks** (Lakeshore Ballroom—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
    • **Doug. P Scott**, Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission
- 12:30-1:30      **Opening Keynote Discussion** (Lakeshore Ballroom—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
  
    • **Moderator: Julie Fedorchak**, Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission; President, National Association of Regulatory Commissioners  
  
    • **Keynote Speakers:**  
        ▪ **Manu Asthana**, President and CEO, PJM Interconnection  
        ▪ **John Bear**, CEO, MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator)
- 1:30-1:45      **Break**
- 1:45-3:15      **Session One — States and RTOs Working Together to Assure Reliable Grid Operations: Resource Planning and Operational Preparedness** (Lakeshore Ballroom—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
  
    • **Moderator: Ann Rendahl**, Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
    • **Jeff Bladen**, Global Director of Energy, Meta  
    • **Dana Guernsey**, Chief Executive Officer, Voltus, Inc.  
    • **Julie Pierce**, Vice President of Strategy and Planning at Minnesota Power  
    • **Sally Talberg**, President, Talberg Policy Solutions
- 3:15-3:30      **Break**
- 3:30-5:00      **Session Two — States and RTOs Working Together to Assure Reliable Grid Operations: Resource Adequacy and Transmission Planning** (Lakeshore Ballroom—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
  
    • **Moderator: Kent Chandler**, Chairman, Kentucky Public Service Commission  
    • **Seth Blumsack**, Professor of Energy Policy and Economics, Pennsylvania State University; Co-Director, Penn State Center for Energy Law and Policy  
    • **Lanny Nickell**, EVP and COO, Southwest Power Pool

- **Ellen Nowak**, Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs, ATC
- **Laura Rauch**, Executive Director of Transmission Planning, MISO

5:00                      **Networking Reception** (St. Clair—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

6:00                      **Dinner** (St. Clair—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

6:45                      **Dinner Keynote Address: "A Multi-Jurisdictional Utility Perspective: Working Within and Across State Lines"**  
(St. Clair—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

- **Introduction: Darcie Houck**, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
- **Keynote Speaker: Amanda Rome**, Executive Vice President and Group President, Utilities and Chief Customer Officer, Xcel Energy

## **Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

7:30-8:30                **Breakfast** (St. Clair—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

8:30-10:00            **Session Three — State-RTO Issues and Challenges: Inter-RTO Transfers, Transmission Congestion, and Resource Availability**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor—Grand Ballroom)

- **Moderator: John Tuma**, Commissioner, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
- **Lauren Azar**, Azar Law LLC
- **Joshua C. Macey**, Assistant Professor of Law, The University of Chicago Law School
- **Dusky Terry**, President, ITC Midwest and ITC Great Plains
- **Carrie Zalewski**, Vice President, Markets & Transmission, American Clean Power Association (ACP)

10:00-10:30           **Break**

10:30-12:00           **Session Four — State-RTO Issues and Challenges: Gas-Electric Harmonization and Load Forecasting**  
(Lakeshore Ballroom—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

- **Moderator: Marcus Hawkins**, Commissioner, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
- **Betsy Beck**, Global Energy Markets and Policy, Google

- **Michael Bryson**, Senior Vice President of Operations, PJM Interconnection
- **Christopher T M Clack**, Vice President, Integrated Systems Planning, Pattern Energy Group
- **Tony Clark**, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
- **Susan F. Tierney**, Senior Advisor, Analysis Group

12:00-1:00

**Conclusion, Close & Lunch** (St. Clair—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

***With thanks to our sponsors:***

**Edison Electric Institute  
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Southwest Power Pool**

**Confirmed Utility Commissioners (as of 4/9/2024):**

1. **Phillip L. Bartlett, II**, Chairman, Maine Public Utilities Commission
2. **Michael T. Carrigan**, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission
3. **Kent Chandler**, Chairman, Kentucky Public Service Commission (*moderator*)
4. **Zenon Christodoulou**, Commissioner, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
5. **Daniel R. Conway**, Vice Chair, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
6. **Megan Decker**, Chair, Oregon Public Utility Commission
7. **Julie Fedorchak**, Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission; President, National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (*keynote moderator*)
8. **Andrew J. French**, Commissioner, Kansas Corporation Commission
9. **Kayla Hahn**, Commissioner, Missouri Public Service Commission
10. **John S. Harvey**, Commissioner, Public Service Commission of Utah
11. **Marcus Hawkins**, Commissioner, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (*moderator*)
12. **Darcie Houck**, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission (*keynote introduction*)
13. **Jehmal Hudson**, Chair, Virginia State Corporation Commission
14. **Edward Lodge**, Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
15. **Sarah Martz**, Board Member, Iowa Utilities Board
16. **Ann McCabe**, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission
17. **Pat O'Connell**, Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
18. **Stacey Paradis**, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission
19. **Conrad Reddick**, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission
20. **Ann Rendahl**, Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (*moderator*)
21. **Doug P. Scott**, Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission
22. **Justin Tate**, Commissioner, Arkansas Public Service Commission

23. **Emile C. Thompson**, Chairman, Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia
24. **Kevin Thompson**, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission
25. **John Tuma**, Commissioner, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (*moderator*)

**Confirmed Participants (as of 4/9/2024):**

26. **Manu Asthana**, President and CEO, PJM Interconnection
27. **Lauren Azar**, Azar Law LLC
28. **John Bear**, CEO, MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator)
29. **Betsy Beck**, Global Energy Markets and Policy, Google
30. **Jeff Bladen**, Global Director of Energy, Meta
31. **Seth Blumsack**, Professor and Associate Department Head, John and Willie Leone Family Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering, The Pennsylvania State University; Co-Director, Penn State Energy and Economics and Policy Initiative
32. **Michael Bryson**, Senior Vice President of Operations, PJM Interconnection
33. **Christopher T M Clack**, Vice President, Integrated Systems Planning, Pattern Energy Group
34. **Tony Clark**, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
35. **Dana Guernsey**, Chief Executive Officer, Voltus, Inc.
36. **Joshua C. Macey**, Assistant Professor of Law, The University of Chicago Law School
37. **Lanny Nickell**, EVP and COO, Southwest Power Pool
38. **Ellen Nowak**, Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs, ATC
39. **Julie Pierce**, Vice President of Strategy and Planning at Minnesota Power
40. **Laura Rauch**, Executive Director of Transmission Planning, MISO
41. **Amanda Rome**, Executive Vice President and Group President, Utilities and Chief Customer Officer, Xcel Energy
42. **Sally Talberg**, President, Talberg Policy Solutions
43. **Dusky Terry**, President, ITC Midwest and ITC Great Plains
44. **Susan F. Tierney**, Senior Advisor, Analysis Group
45. **Carrie Zalewski**, Vice President, Markets & Transmission, American Clean Power Association (ACP)

**Confirmed Registrants (as of 4/9/2024):**

46. **Isabelle Abbott**, Advisor to Commissioner Paradis, Illinois Commerce Commission
47. **Nick Abraham**, Manager, Regulatory Strategy, ITC Holdings Corp.
48. **Charles Buzz Backstrom**, VP Marketing & Business Development, Boardwalk Pipelines
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50. **Lisa Barrett**, Policy Director, Advanced Energy United
51. **Clarence Bell**, Supervisory Energy Industry Analyst, FERC
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55. **Nathan Carrier**, Advisor to Commissioner Reddick, Illinois Commerce Commission
56. **Laura Chappelle**, Partner, Potomac Law Group
57. **Alyssa B. Coffey**, Office of General Counsel, Illinois Commerce Commission

58. **Tricia DeBleeckere**, State Regulatory Affairs, MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator)
59. **Jason Decker**, Vice President Regulatory Policy and Strategy, Comed
60. **John Delurey**, Senior Director, Vote Solar
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62. **Sophia Dossin**, Manager, Eastern Market and Regulatory Affairs, Middle River Power
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65. **Nora Fitton**, Office of General Counsel, Illinois Commerce Commission
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67. **Jess Fyhrie**, Manager, Regulatory Proceedings, Otter Tail Power Co
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69. **Edward Garvey**, Regulatory Strategist, AESL Consulting
70. **Michael Giberson**, Senior Fellow, Energy, R Street Institute
71. **James Gignac**, Midwest Senior Policy Manager, Union of Concerned Scientists
72. **Jon Gordon**, Policy Director, Advanced Energy United
73. **John Gunnells**, Senior Manager, State Affairs, American Gas Association
74. **Robert Habermann**, Senior Counsel for Policy Implementation, New York State Department of Public Service
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76. **Cassandra Hadwen**, Advisor to Commissioner McCabe, Illinois Commerce Commission
77. **Robert Haggart**, Advisor to Chair Scott, Illinois Commerce Commission
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86. **Aubrey Johnson**, VP System Planning, Modeling & Competitive Transmission, MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator)
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91. **Christopher J. Kim**, Deputy Chief, Public Utilities Bureau, Office of the Illinois Attorney General

92. **Paige Knutsen**, Executive Director, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance – MEEA
93. **Ryan Kohler**, Director, Office of Regional Markets, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
94. **Glenn Krassen**, General Counsel, NOPEC, NOPEC (Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council)
95. **Zoe Lanier**, Advisor to Chair Scott, Illinois Commerce Commission
96. **Matthew Larson**, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
97. **Ryan Long**, President Xcel Energy, Minnesota, North Dakota & South Dakota, Xcel Energy
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99. **Jordan May**, Attorney, Illinois Commerce Commission
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105. **James P. O'Brien**, Legal & Policy Advisor to Commissioner Carrigan, Illinois Commerce Commission
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107. **Matt Olsen**, Manager, Regulatory Strategy, Otter Tail Power Company
108. **Margarita Patria**, Principal, Charles River Associates
109. **Toba Pearlman**, Senior Attorney, NRDC
110. **Maria Robinson**, Director of the Grid Deployment Office, U.S. Department of Energy
111. **Bria Shea**, Regional VP, Regulatory Policy, Xcel Energy
112. **Bridget Sheehan**, Office of General Counsel, Illinois Commerce Commission
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125. **Nicholas Wallace**, Associate Attorney, Environmental Law & Policy Center
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129. **Rachelle Whitacre**, Director, Regulatory Affairs, Southern Company/Nicor Gas

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