



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 (3rd 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—3rd Floor)
Informal Arrival Lunch (St. Clair—3rd Floor)
- 12:15-12:30 **Welcome and Opening Remarks** (Lakeshore Ballroom—3rd Floor)
 • **Doug P. Scott**, Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission
- 12:30-1:30 **Opening Keynote Discussion** (Lakeshore Ballroom—3rd Floor)

 • **Moderator: Doug P. Scott**, Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

 • **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—3rd 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—3rd 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—3rd Floor)

6:00 **Dinner** (St. Clair—3rd Floor)

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

8:30-10:00 **Session Three — State-RTO Issues and Challenges: Inter-RTO Transfers, Transmission Congestion, and Resource Availability**
(Lakeshore Ballroom—3rd Floor)

- **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)

10:00-10:15 **Break**

10:15-11:45 **Session Four — State-RTO Issues and Challenges: Gas-Electric Harmonization and Load Forecasting**
(Lakeshore Ballroom—3rd 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
- **Tony Clark**, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

- **Susan F. Tierney**, Senior Advisor, Analysis Group

11:45-1:00

Conclusion, Close & Lunch (St. Clair—3rd Floor)

With thanks to our sponsors:

**Edison Electric Institute
Midcontinent Independent System Operator
PJM Interconnection
Southwest Power Pool
Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP**

Confirmed Utility Commissioners (as of 4/23/2024):

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. **Andrew J. French**, Commissioner, Kansas Corporation Commission
8. **Kayla Hahn**, Commissioner, Missouri Public Service Commission
9. **John S. Harvey**, Commissioner, Public Service Commission of Utah
10. **Marcus Hawkins**, Commissioner, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (*moderator*)
11. **Darcie Houck**, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission (*keynote introduction*)
12. **Jehmal Hudson**, Chair, Virginia State Corporation Commission
13. **Sarah Martz**, Board Member, Iowa Utilities Board
14. **Ann McCabe**, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission
15. **Pat O'Connell**, Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
16. **Stacey Paradis**, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission
17. **Conrad Reddick**, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission
18. **Ann Rendahl**, Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (*moderator*)
19. **Doug P. Scott**, Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission
20. **Justin Tate**, Commissioner, Arkansas Public Service Commission
21. **Emile C. Thompson**, Chairman, Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia
22. **Kevin Thompson**, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission
23. **John Tuma**, Commissioner, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (*moderator*)

Confirmed Participants (as of 4/23/2024):

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

Confirmed Registrants (as of 4/23/2024):

43. **Isabelle Abbott**, Advisor to Commissioner Paradis, Illinois Commerce Commission
44. **Nick Abraham**, Manager, Regulatory Strategy, ITC Holdings Corp.
45. **Tom Aridas**, Director, Gas Regulatory Planning & Policy, WEC Energy Group
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48. **Lisa Barrett**, Policy Director, Advanced Energy United
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72. **Michelle Gardner**, Executive Director - Regulatory Affairs, NextEra Energy Resources
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81. **Ryan Hadley**, Executive Director, Indiana Office of Energy Development
82. **Cassandra Hadwen**, Advisor to Commissioner McCabe, Illinois Commerce Commission
83. **Robert Haggart**, Advisor to Chair Scott, Illinois Commerce Commission
84. **Asim Haque**, Senior Vice President, State Policy and Member Services, PJM Interconnection
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97. **Christopher Kennedy**, Partner, Whitt Sturtevant LLP
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99. **Joseph Kerecman**, Director, Calpine
100. **Lynne Kiesling**, Director, Institute for Regulatory Law & Economics; Senior Research Affiliate, Northwestern Center on Law, Business, and Economics, Institute for Regulatory Law & Economics
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102. **Paige Knutsen**, Executive Director, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance – MEEA
103. **Ryan Kohler**, Director, Office of Regional Markets, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
104. **Glenn Krassen**, General Counsel, NOPEC, NOPEC (Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council)
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123. **Brad Pope**, Legal & Regulatory Affairs, OMS
124. **Tanya Rabczak**, The Accelerate Group
125. **Maria Robinson**, Director of the Grid Deployment Office, U.S. Department of Energy
126. **Bria Shea**, Regional VP, Regulatory Policy, Xcel Energy
127. **Bridget Sheehan**, Office of General Counsel, Illinois Commerce Commission
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