

Northwestern University Electricity Dialogue

“Resilience, Reliability, and Regionality in the Western Interconnect: Bringing It Altogether”

Thursday, November 30, 2023 – Friday, December 1, 2023

Wasatch Ballroom—Hyatt Centric Park City
3551 N Escala Ct.
Park City, UT 84098

The challenges confronting the electricity systems in the Western Interconnection are considerable: weather extremes, electrification, decarbonization, and developing electricity markets, to name a few. Yet, the goals remain the same: assured reliability, enhanced resilience and improving regionality. This Western version of the Northwestern University Electricity Dialogue, by bringing together regulators, thought leaders, and industry executives together in a small-group, deep dive setting, discusses these challenges and goals with the hopes of illuminate what is going on, how they can be addressed and achieved and enrich the ongoing efforts.

Thursday, November 30, 2023

11:00-12:30 **Lunch** (White Pine Rotunda)

12:30-12:45 **Convening, Welcome, and Introduction** (Wasatch Ballroom)

- **Derek Gundersen**, Assistant Director of Program Operations, Northwestern Center on Law, Business and Economics
- **Lynne Kiesling**, Director, Institute for Regulatory Law & Economics; Senior Research Affiliate, Northwestern Center on Law, Business, and Economics, Research Professor, CU Denver
- **Elizabeth Kronk Warner**, Dean, S.J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah
- **Thad LaVar**, Chair, Utah Public Service Commission

12:45-1:30

Opening Keynote Address: *Protecting Customers in the Face of Uncertainty*

- **Introduction: Lea Márquez Peterson**, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission
- **Keynote Speaker: Allison Clements**, Commissioner, U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

1:30-3:00

Session One — Industry Leaders Panel

The session is devoted to hearing from top utility executives on how they and their companies are working to meet the West's challenges and goals as well as balancing the often-competing obligations.

- **Moderator: Hayley Williamson**, Chair, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
- **Doug Cannon**, President and CEO, NV Energy
- **Jeff Cook**, Vice President of Planning and Asset Management, Bonneville Power Administration
- **Robert S. Kenney**, President, Xcel Energy-Colorado
- **Philip D. Moeller**, Executive Vice President, Business Operations Group and Regulatory Affairs, Edison Electric Institute

3:00-3:30

Break

3:30-5:00

Session Two — Technologies, Costs, Reliability, and the Electricity Transition

The economics, policies and promise of advancing technologies are reshaping the electricity landscape. Whether it is solar, wind, tidal, small nuclear, or smart homes each utility system needs to adapt to technological changes as well as adapting to customer demands. This session of experts will discuss these pressures as well as the needs of the transmission grid to support and enable the transition to assure that that lights stay on at affordable costs.

- **Moderator: Letha Tawney**, Commissioner, Oregon Public Utilities Commission
- **Scott Burns**, Vice President, Innovation, NRG Energy
- **Gary Hoogeveen**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Rocky Mountain Power
- **Michael Lee**, CEO, Octopus Energy USA
- **Hilary Pearson**, VP of Policy & External Affairs, Line Vision

5:00-6:00

Break

- 6:00 – 7:00 **Cocktail Reception** (White Pine Rotunda)
- 7:00-8:30 **Dinner & Keynote Address: *Western Market Evolution, Past, Present, and Future*** (Wasatch Ballroom)
- **Introduction: Eric Blank**, Chair, Colorado Public Service Commission
 - **Keynote Speaker: Steve Wright**, Board Member and Chair of the Interim Markets+ Independent Panel, Southwest Power Pool

Friday, December 1, 2023

- 7:15-8:15 **Breakfast** (White Pine Rotunda)
- 8:15-8:30 **Reconvening & Welcome** (Wasatch Ballroom)
- 8:30-10:00 **Session Three — Markets, the Electricity Transition, and Assuring Regional Resilience and Reliability**
The development of electricity markets, both real-time and day-ahead markets, are underway in the West. While touching on the status of those efforts, this session will primarily discuss how such markets can, will, could and should lower costs (or at least inhibit their increase!) and promote greater regional reliability.
- **Moderator: Tammy Cordova**, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
 - **Stacey Crowley**, Vice President of External Affairs, California Independent System Operator (ISO)
 - **Julie Fedorchak**, Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission
 - **Kara B. Fornstrom**, Director, Center for Energy Regulation & Policy Analysis
 - **Melanie Frye**, President & CEO, WECC
- 10:00-10:30 **Break**
- 10:30-12:00 **Session Four — Weather and the Energy Transition: Policies and Preparation**
While the drought conditions in the West may be over, the threat from weather remains. Whether it is from extreme events or long-term trends, the need to

plan and prepare is still present. This session will examine the remaining threats, planning and preparation efforts that are underway and still needed, as well as some of the longer-term policies, especially those limiting greenhouse gas emissions, that a number of western states have enacted to address, as well as the longer-term risks.

- **Moderator: Gabriel Aguilera**, Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
- **Ilkay Altintas**, Chief Data Science Officer, University of California San Diego, Supercomputer Center; Founding Board Member, Climate and Wildfire Institute (CWI)
- **Jeremy Bluma**, Sr. Advisor, National Renewable Energy Coordination Office, Bureau of Land Management
- **Anne Sherwood**, Area Vice President - Wildfire Mitigation: Regulatory and Policy, Xcel Energy
- **Caitlin Shields**, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

12:00

Adjourn

Confirmed Utility Commissioners (as of 11/28/2023):

1. **Gabriel Aguilera**, Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (*Panel Moderator*)
2. **Eric Blank**, Chairman, Colorado Public Utilities Commission (*Keynote Introduction*)
3. **Allison Clements**, Commissioner, U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (*Keynote Address*)
4. **Tammy Cordova**, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (*Panel Moderator*)
5. **Megan Decker**, Chair, Oregon Public Utility Commission
6. **Julie Fedorchak**, Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission (*Panelist*)
7. **Art Graham**, Commissioner, Florida Public Service Commission
8. **Thad LeVar**, Chairman, Public Service Commission of Utah (*Introduction*)
9. **Edward Lodge**, Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
10. **Anthony O'Donnell**, Commissioner, Montana Public Service Commission
11. **Lea Márquez Peterson**, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission (*Keynote Introduction*)
12. **Tricia Pridemore**, Commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission
13. **Letha Tawney**, Commissioner, Oregon Public Utilities Commission (*Panel Moderator*)
14. **Hayley Williamson**, Chair, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (*Panel Moderator*)

Confirmed Participants (as of 11/28/2023):

15. **Ilkay Altintas**, Chief Data Science Officer; Founding Board Member, Climate and Wildfire Institute (CWI), University of California San Diego, Supercomputer Center

16. **Jeremy Bluma**, Sr. Advisor, National Renewable Energy Coordination Office, Bureau of Land Management
17. **Scott Burns**, Vice President, Innovation, NRG Energy
18. **Doug Cannon**, President and CEO, NV Energy
19. **Jeff Cook**, Vice President of Planning and Asset Management, Bonneville Power Administration
20. **Stacey Crowley**, Vice President of External Affairs, California Independent System Operator (ISO)
21. **Kara B. Fornstrom**, Director, Center for Energy Regulation & Policy Analysis, University of Wyoming
22. **Melanie Frye**, President & CEO, WECC
23. **Gary Hoogeveen**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Rocky Mountain Power
24. **Robert S. Kenney**, President, Xcel Energy-Colorado
25. **Lynne Kiesling**, Co-Director, Institute for Regulatory Law & Economics; Senior Research Affiliate, Northwestern Center on Law, Business, and Economics, Research Professor, CU Denver
26. **Michael Lee**, CEO, Octopus Energy USA
27. **Philip D. Moeller**, Executive Vice President, Business Operations Group and Regulatory Affairs, Edison Electric Institute
28. **Hilary Pearson**, VP of Policy & External Affairs, Line Vision
29. **Anne Sherwood**, Area Vice President - Wildfire Mitigation: Regulatory and Policy, Xcel Energy
30. **Caitlin Shields**, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
31. **Elizabeth Kronk Warner**, Dean, S.J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah
32. **Steve Wright**, Board Member and Chair of the Interim Markets+ Independent Panel, Southwest Power Pool

Confirmed Registrants (as of 11/28/2023):

33. **Sara Baldwin**, Senior Director, Electrification, Energy Innovation
34. **Casey Baker**, Senior Program Manager, GridLab
35. **Kevin Baker**, Deputy General Counsel, Hydro, rPlus Energies
36. **Jeffrey Barrett**, Director of State Affairs, Western Region, Apex Clean Energy
37. **Emily Beard**, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Clements, U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
38. **Jonathan Booe**, Executive Vice President & COO, North American Energy Standards Board
39. **David Boyd**, Regulatory and Policy Strategist, AESL Consulting
40. **Peter Colussy**, Executive Director, NextEra
41. **Lincoln L. Davies**, Dean & Frank R. Strong Chair in Law, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
42. **Francis Durnford**, Executive Director, Market Policy, Powerex
43. **Jose Esparza**, Sr. Vice President, Public Policy, Arizona Public Service (APS)

44. **Shaun Foster**, Manager, Transmission Development Strategy, PGE
45. **Theresa Foxley**, Chief of Staff, rPlus Energies
46. **Jennifer Gardner**, President & Founder, Envision Energy
47. **Michael Giberson**, Senior Fellow, Energy, R Street Institute
48. **Mike Hammer**, Legal Counsel and Administrative Law Judge, Public Service Commission of Utah
49. **Yvonne Hogle**, Executive Staff Director, Public Service Commission of Utah
50. **Sam Johnston**, Policy Manager, Interwest Energy Alliance
51. **Travis Kavulla**, VP, Regulatory Affairs, NRG
52. **Briana Kobor**, Energy Market Development and Innovation, Google
53. **Alyssa Koslow**, Director of Federal Regulatory Affairs & Compliance, Arizona Public Service (APS)
54. **Amber Lee**, Attorney, Stoel Rives LLP
55. **Rebecca Lee**, Senior Manager of Government Affairs, NRG Energy
56. **Jessica Loarie**, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs-West Invenenergy
57. **Seamus Madigan**, Snr. Director Business Development, Mitsubishi Power Americas
58. **Andie Madsen**, JD Student, S.J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah
59. **Elizaveta Malashenko**, Senior Director, Energy, Alvarez and Marsal
60. **Kim O'Guinn**, Director Regulatory Policy, Southwest Power Pool
61. **Jackie Omotalade**, Climate Investments National Director, Dream.Org
62. **Alexander Ovodenko**, Energy Industry Analyst, Office of Energy Policy and Innovation, U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
63. **Masood Parvania**, Roger P. Webb Endowed Professor, Associate Professor, and Associate Chair for Research and Advancement, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Director, Utah Smart Energy Laboratory (U-Smart), University of Utah
64. **Heidi Ratz**, Deputy Director, Policy & Market Innovation, Clean Energy Buyers Association (CEBA)
65. **Rodney Rossus**, Director State Affairs & Compliance, Arizona Public Service
66. **Amy Sopinka**, Director, Market Policy, Powerex Corp
67. **Vijay Satyal**, Deputy Director - Regional Markets, WRA
68. **Branden Sudduth**, VP Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis, WECC
69. **Paul Suskie**, Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Southwest Power Pool
70. **Debrea Terwilliger**, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
71. **Pedro Villegas**, Senior Director, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, NextEra Energy Resources
72. **Rebecca Wagner**, President, Wagner Strategies
73. **Bill Wahl**, Director, LineVision
74. **Jordan White**, Executive Director, NextEra Energy Transmission