68th Annual Symposium

June 7-9, 2015 ● Hyatt Regency Newport Goat Island ● Newport Rhode Island
PROGRAM FOR 68TH ANNUAL NECPUC SYMPOSIUM

Sunday, June 7, 2015

3:00 to 5:00 ISO-NE Budget Discussion
ISO-NE will present administrative and capital budget information to the state public utility commissions, public advocates, Attorneys General and any other members of the public who wish to attend.
- Robert Ludlow, VP, Chief Financial and Compliance Officer, ISO-NE

6:00 p.m. Pre-dinner Reception
Sponsored by Pierce Atwood LLP and Brown Rudnick LLP

7:00 p.m. Dinner
Brenton Hall

8:30 p.m. Dessert reception
Sponsored by NEPGA, Nuclear Matters and NEI

Monday, June 8, 2015

7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast Buffet begins
Rose Island

8:30 a.m. Plenary Session
Grand Ballroom
- Moderator: Margaret Curran, NECPUC President and Chair of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
- United States Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
- Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Plenary Panel
Grand Ballroom
Energy from Afar: Do we need it, and if so, how do we bring it to New England? Does meeting New England’s power demand require transmission lines, pipelines, or both? How would these delivery options be appropriately sized, and what are the challenges to development? How do local resources such as distributed generation, energy efficiency, and demand response fit into meeting New England’s power needs? This panel will address these issues and more.
- Moderator: Margaret E. Curran, Chair, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
- Katie Scharf Dykes, Deputy Commissioner for Energy, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Tom Kiley, President, Northeast Gas Association
- Judith Lagano, Vice President of Asset Management, NRG Energy
- Peter Rothstein, President of New England Clean Energy Council
- Gordon van Welie, President and Chief Operating Officer of ISO-NE
Noon  Luncheon  
* Brenton Hall  
- Margaret Curran, NECPUC President and Chair of Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission  
- Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo  
- Joel Gordon, Chair of NEPOOL  

1:45 p.m.  Plenary Session  
* Grand Ballroom  
- Moderator: Margaret Curran, NECPUC President and Chair of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission  
- Chairman Norman Bay, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  

2:15 pm  Plenary Panel  
* Grand Ballroom  
Our Changing Internet and Its Regulation. Our panelists will engage in a lively discussion regarding the future of internet regulation in the United States, providing their perspectives on the net neutrality and Open Internet Order debates, including the Federal Communications Commission’s Title II jurisdiction and related appeals.  
- Moderator: John Burke, Former Member, Vermont Public Service Board  
- James Bradford Ramsey, General Counsel, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners  
- Daniel Lyons, Associate Professor, Boston College Law School  

3:00 p.m.  Break  

3:15 pm  Ethics CLE for lawyers  
* Vanderbilt  
- Herbert DeSimone, Commissioner, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission  

6:15 p.m.  Pre-dinner Reception  
* South Lawn*  
Sponsored by the Retail Energy Supply Association, Itron, and Robinson & Cole LLP  

7:15 p.m.  New England Clambake  
* Waterfront Pavilion*  

8:30 p.m.  Dessert Reception  
* Rose Island Ballroom  
Sponsored by the Northeast Gas Association  

*In case of inclement weather, the reception and Clambake will take place in the Grand Ballroom and associated foyer.*
Tuesday, June 9, 2015

7:30 a.m.  Continental Breakfast Buffet begins  

8:30 a.m.  Concurrent Sessions

A. Methane Emissions and Solutions in Natural Gas.  
   Ballroom AB
   The issue of methane gas emissions has been the subject of studies at both the national and local levels. The Federal government has announced plans to propose new regulations aimed at cutting methane emissions by up to 45 percent from 2012 levels by 2025. On a state level, the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities has commissioned a study on lost and unaccounted for (“LAUF”) gas and methane emissions using Massachusetts-specific distribution system data. Locally, a recent study conducted by scientists at Harvard suggests that the amount of methane leaking from natural gas pipelines, storage facilities and other sources in the Boston area is triple what was expected. Methane emissions harm the environment and are the equivalent of money disappearing into thin air. In this session you will hear from the experts on the scope of the problem, the potential harm, and what can be done to combat it. Replacing leak-prone pipe is expensive so how do regulators strike the right balance and what mechanisms are effective?
   • Moderator: Secretary Matthew Beaton, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
   • Erica Bowman, Vice President, Research & Policy Analysis, America’s Natural Gas Alliance
   • Kathryn McKain, School of Engineering and Applied Science and Department of Earth and Planetary Science, Harvard University
   • James Rice, Senior Manager, ICF International
   • Paul Roberti, Commissioner, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission

B. Siting Projects  
   Ballroom CD
   Siting anything can be a challenge these days. This session will focus on challenges and opportunities in getting a project built, including environmental, economic, engineering, aesthetic, and local concerns.
   • Moderator: Martin Honigberg, Chairman, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
   • David Beron, Project Manager, National Grid
   • Janet Coit, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
   • Paul Flemming, Director Power & Gas Services, ESAI
   • Mary Usovicz, Senior Vice President, TRC Solutions

10:00 a.m.  Break
10:15 a.m.  Concurrent Sessions

A. Telecom Session:  

Ballroom AB
The Network of the Future – How Do We Get There from Here?  The telecommunications network is undergoing profound technological change. What will the network of the future look like?  What are its characteristics, and how do they differ from present networks?  How robust and reliable will it be?  Will public safety be enhanced?  How can we ensure that the widest practicable set of consumers enjoy the benefits of future networks?  What do consumers need to know?  What other issues arise for consumers?  This round-table forum will address issues like these, and will suggest topics for further thought and discussion.

• Moderator: Gregory M. Kennan, Fagelbaum & Heller LLP
• Jarrett Devine, Emergency Communications Coordinator, Region 1, Federal Emergency Management Agency
• Fletcher Kittredge, Chief Executive Officer, GWI
• Karen Charles Peterson, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable
• Paul Vasington, Director - State Public Policy, Verizon


Ballroom CD
What is happening in other parts of the world that we can learn from?  What global issues warrant special attention from a New England perspective?  Find out what other countries are focused on, including their successes and failures, and bring that knowledge to your state.

• Moderator: Arthur House, Chairman, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
• Rick Weston, Principal and China Programs Director, Regulatory Assistance Project
• Richard Cowart, Managing Director and European Programs Director, Regulatory Assistance Project
• Paul Roberti, Commissioner, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission

Noon:  Luncheon  

Brenton Hall
• Chairman Angela O’Connor, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
• EISPC Presentation by Jeannette Brinch, Director, Eastern Interconnection States’ Planning Council
• NARUC Presentation by Robert F. Powelson, Second Vice President and Commissioner, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
• Presentation of George Dunn Award to Staff by Margaret Curran, President of NECPUC and Chairman of the Rhode Island PUC
1:30 p.m.  Concurrent Sessions

A.  Phase II of the Integrated Grid  
*Ballroom AB*
Last year we discussed the value of the integrated grid in the framework of the EPRI Phase I investigation. This year we will focus on Phases II and III of the EPRI project and look at the benefit-cost framework and the technology pilot projects. The framework serves as a comprehensive methodology outlining a transparent, repeatable and consistent approach to integrate distributed energy resources on the electric power system. The pilots will enable a better understanding of the Framework’s technical applications and identify potential technology gaps.

- Moderator and Speaker: Barbara Tyran, Director, Washington & State Relations at Electric Power Research Institute
- Abigail Anthony, Director of Grid Modernization and Utility Reform, Acadia Center
- Camilo Serna, Vice President Strategic Planning & Policy, Eversource Energy

B.  Water Session  
*Ballroom CD*
Comprehensive Water Planning – The Development and Implementation of a Comprehensive Water Plan for the State of Connecticut. This panel will provide an overview of Connecticut’s comprehensive water plan, including a discussion of the history and background of water planning, the establishment of the Water Planning Council, the goals and objectives of the development and implementation of a state water plan, and how the State approached crafting a forward-looking plan that is truly a working document. Discussion will include the legislative mandate for the water plan, and as well as next steps for Connecticut.

- Moderator: John E. (Butch) Howard, Chairman, Public Service Commission of South Carolina
- Jack Betkoski, Chairman of the Connecticut Water Planning Council and Vice Chairman of the Public Utility Regulatory Authority
- David LeVasseur, Water Planning Council Member and Undersecretary of Intergovernmental Policy at the Office of Policy and Management for the State of Connecticut
- Ellen Blaschinski, Public Health Branch Chief, Connecticut State Department of Public Health (DPH) Regulatory Services Branch

3:00 p.m.  Break
3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

A. Whiz Bang New Stuff
   Ballroom AB
   Come hear and ask questions about cutting edge new products, technology, services and concepts in the energy world.
   • Moderator: Sarah Hofmann, Commissioner, Vermont Public Service Board
   • Paul Armstrong, Director, Business Development, Gas Technology Institute
   • Scott DePasquale, Chairman and CEO, Utilidata
   • Tim Guiterman, Director of EM&V Solutions, EnergySavvy
   • Betty Watson, Deputy Director of Policy and Electricity Markets SolarCity

B. Market Monitor Report (Closed Session)
   Vanderbilt
   In accordance with the ISO-NE tariff, the Internal Market Monitor must “arrange a non-public meeting open to appropriate state or federal government agencies, including the Commission and state regulatory bodies, attorneys general, and others with jurisdiction over the competitive operation of electric power markets, subject to the confidentiality protections of the ISO New England Information Policy, to the greatest extent permitted by law.” In accordance with the ISO-NE tariff, this is non-public session.
   • Jeff McDonald, Internal Market Monitor, ISO-NE

6:15 p.m. Pre-dinner Reception Sponsored by ISO-NE
   Ballroom Foyer

Dinner on your own in beautiful Newport, following the reception.

Wednesday, June 10, 2014
Non-public session for Commissioners, Staff, NESCOE and invited guests.