

PROGRAM FOR 71st ANNUAL NECPUC SYMPOSIUM

Sunday, May 20, 2018

- 4:00 p.m. ISO-NE Budget Discussion
ISO-NE will present administrative and capital budget information to the state public utility commissions, consumer advocates, Attorneys General, other state officials and invited guests.
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
- 8:30 p.m. Dessert Reception
Sponsored by the Nuclear Energy Institute and the National Association of Water Companies

Monday, May 21, 2018

- 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast Buffet begins
- 9:00 a.m. Plenary Session
Welcome: *Hon. Mark Vannoy*, NECPUC President and Chair of the Maine Public Utilities Commission
Hon. Angus King, United States Senator, State of Maine (video address)
Hon. Robert Powelson, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Plenary Session
Wholesale Markets Panel

In 2017, ISO New England cautioned that our power system is “skating by” on the coldest days and in 2018, cautioned about worsening constraints. Exploring these reliability-centric market challenges will test the most often cited goals of competitive wholesale markets: placing risks of business decisions on investors rather than consumers and meeting consumers’ needs and preferences with lowest costs, while not diminishing environmental quality, compromising energy efficiency, or jeopardizing reliability. As state officials consider the challenges, one thing is clear: consumers will fund any solutions. On this panel, regulators will share some of their preliminary questions and concerns.

Are the risks and the precise problem fully defined? What are the metrics by which potential solutions should be evaluated? How will the region make sure that the costs of proposed solutions have a reasonable relationship to asserted risks?

Moderator: *Hon. Mark Vannoy*, NECPUC President and Chair of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

Participants:

Gordon van Welie, President and Chief Executive Officer, ISO-NE

Robert Stein, Vice Chair, NEPOOL Reliability Committee, and Principal, Signal Hill Consulting Group

State official participants TBA

Noon

Luncheon

Hon. Mark Vannoy, NECPUC President and Chair of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

Hon. Jack Betkoski, President, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and Vice Chair, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Invitation to 2018 NECPUC Symposium, *Hon. Katie Dykes*, Chair, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Tom Kaslow, Chair, New England Power Pool and Director, Market Design & Policy, FirstLight Power Resources

Presentation of George Dunn Award to Staff by *Hon. Mark Vannoy*, NECPUC President and Chair of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

1:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

A. Water Panel:

Understanding and Managing Risk in the Water Industry

Sources of water supply provide the foundation for the delivery of quality water utility service. Vulnerabilities related to supply, treatment, or demand can create significant challenges which require timely assessment and action. These vulnerabilities can be explored through case studies, for example, the purchase of new infrastructure, or addressing natural disaster such as drought via preparation and response. This panel will discuss various means managing resources to ensure quality water service while balancing competing factors and interests.

Moderator: *Hon. Margaret Curran*, Chairperson, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission

Participants:

Rick Knowlton, President, Maine Water Company

Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section, State of Connecticut Department of Public Health

Jeff McNelly, Director, Telephone and Water Division, Maine Public Utilities Commission

David Radka, Director of Water Resources and Planning, Connecticut Water

Jeff Ulrich, Direct of Supply Operations, Aquarion Water

B. Telecom Panel:

Peering Behind the Curtain on Net Neutrality: What you really need to know

For the first time in at least a decade, the Federal Communications Commission has been the subject of dinner table conversation. Between the challenging back story, the media tempest, and the prospects, everyone seems to have an opinion, even if details come from newspaper headlines. Is anyone harmed without net neutrality? Is regulating the internet the answer? This panel of esteemed experts will go beyond the soundbites to discuss what the FCC's actions mean with respect to on-the-ground impacts, industry evolution, and the long term regulatory outlook.

Moderator: *Hon. Travis Kavulla*, Vice Chair, Montana Public Utilities Commission

Participants:

Professor Daniel Lyons, Associate Professor, Boston College

Sarah Morris, Director of Open Internet Policy, Open Technology Institute

3:00 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

A. Technical Innovation Panel

Innovation at the Bleeding Edge: The future of the Grid.

This panel will begin by visioning what the grid of the future could look like in 2030 and beyond. It will then discuss issues related to the fact that some forms of innovation make more economic sense in areas with certain geographic or other characteristics (e.g., urban areas, areas which require major distribution system upgrades, etc...). The panel will consider:

- Whether regulators should be concerned about creating "haves" and "have nots" associated with access to various forms of grid innovation?
- What is universal service? What forms of innovation should be considered "universal" going forward?
- What questions should regulators be asking as they consider proposals regarding grid modernization or innovation initiatives?

Moderator: *Hon. Michael Caron*, Commissioner, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Panelists:

Cindy Arcate, President and Chief Executive Officer, PowerOptions
Anne Margolis, Renewable Energy Development Director, Vermont Department
of Public Service

B. Natural Gas Panel:

Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of Natural Gas Distribution Systems

This panel will include a discussion about the establishment of a positive safety culture among utilities and their contractors; a review of a serious incident caused by the failure of a defective plastic pipe fusion joint; a review of the risk of cross bores when installing pipe by horizontal directional drilling; and an overview of a robust Distribution Integrity Management Program.

Moderator: *Hon. Randall Davis*, Commissioner, Maine Public Utilities
Commission

Panelists:

Nathan Dore, Inspector, Maine Public Utilities Commission

Mark Bruce, Cross Bore Safety Association

Robert Hall, Director, National Transportation Safety Board, Office of Railroad,
Pipeline, & Hazardous Materials Investigations

Christopher LeBlanc, Vice President, Gas Operations, Unitil

4:45 p.m. Break

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

7:15 p.m. Dinner

8:30 p.m. Dessert Reception
Sponsored by the Northeast Gas Association

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast Buffet begins

7:30 a.m. Telecom Breakout Breakfast

Come discuss various telecommunications issues with Commissioners, state staff,
and telecommunications professionals.

9:15 a.m. Coffee Chat
The State/Federal Divide: Beyond the Headlines

From resilience and cybersecurity to state policies that may intersect with
wholesale markets, the juncture of state and federal jurisdiction with respect to

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today's biggest issues is multifaceted and often confounding. This panel will provide an update on the legal framework that applies to this evolving area and explore emerging areas of concern. What solution sets are squarely within the jurisdiction of states and what is in the gray? What questions should policymakers and stakeholders consider? What can be learned from other parts of the country? This panel will discuss these issues and more.

Participants:

Kate Konschnik, Director of Climate & Energy Program, Duke University
Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions

Hon. Travis Kavulla, Vice Chair, Montana Public Utilities Commission

Hon. Anthony Clark, Senior Advisor, Wilkinson Barker Knauer and former FERC
Commissioner and Chairman of the North Dakota Public Service Commission

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Plenary Panel:
Hair-Raising Hazards: Analytical Frameworks for Risk & Catastrophic Events

Managing risk, in particular high impact/low frequency events, has been a substantial topic of conversation throughout the utility industry during the past year. From cybersecurity to federal action on resilience, the utility industry is grappling with how to think about, and what actions to take, regarding potentially catastrophic events. What analytical frameworks can we use to analyze risk and proposed responses to perceived risks? Can those frameworks help us think about massive cybersecurity or weather events? What can we learn from experts outside our industry help inform our thinking about these types of events and the investments that may be necessary to address them?

Moderator: *Hon. Bruce Williamson*, Commissioner, Maine Public Utilities
Commission

Panelists:

Andrew Bochman, Senior Cyber & Energy Security Strategist, Idaho National
Labs

Susan Ginsburg, Co-Founder and President, Criticality Sciences

David Mordecai, Lead Investigator, RiskEcon Lab for Decision Metrics, Courant
Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University

Richard B. Jones, SVP Research & Engineering, Hartford Steam Boiler

12:15 p.m. Luncheon

Hon. Mark Vannoy, NECPUC President and Chair of the Maine Public Utilities
Commission

Hon. Paul LePage, Governor, State of Maine

1:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

A. How Big a Buttress?

Regulation and Risk Management in the Face of High Impact, Low Frequency Events

During the plenary session, the panel discussed big-picture analytical frameworks for thinking about risk, and what prospective action might be taken in view of catastrophic events. We will now turn to regulatory aspects of risk. From distribution system planning to prudence reviews, and from wholesale market design to extreme weather conditions, regulators are faced with how to address high impact/low frequency events every day. What regulatory frameworks should be applied to thinking about these events so that decisions fairly balance cost and consequence? What, if anything, do utilities and regulators need to change about the way they perceive their jobs in response to these kinds of risk? How should societal resources be allocated in a way that most sensibly prioritizes which challenges to deal with? How do we assure equity not only between groups of ratepayers but also across utilities and utility types (e.g., gas, electric, water)? How should regulators assess the cost effectiveness of partial risk mitigation?

Moderator: TBA

Participants:

Thorn Dickinson, Vice President-Business Development, Avangrid

Dalia Patino Echeverri, Gendell Associate Professor of Energy Systems and Public Policy, Duke University

Richard B. Jones, SVP Research & Engineering, Hartford Steam Boiler

Samantha Kappagoda, Investigator, RiskEcon Lab for Decision Metrics, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University

B. Electric Vehicles – Getting things Moving in New England

This panel will provide an update on what the New England States are doing with respect to electric vehicles (“EVs”) and EV infrastructure – and then answer the question, “what’s next?” What investments are being made today and who is making them? What is out there on the horizon? What equity issues should be considered as the region contemplates major investment in new infrastructure? What structures can support excellent infra- and intra-state decision-making?

Moderator: *Marion Gold*, Commissioner, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission

Participants:

Matt Stanberry, Vice President, Market Development, Advanced Energy Economy
June Tierney, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Service
Additional panelists TBA

3:00 p.m. Break

3:30 p.m. Afternoon Sessions

A. Ethics CLE for lawyers (3:30-4:30)

Hon. Martin Honigberg, Chair, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
Bill Hewitt, Roach Hewitt Rupert Sanchez & Bischoff

B. Metrics for Resilience in Theory and in Practice – A Workshop

Joe Eto, Staff Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

4:45 p.m. Pre-dinner Reception Sponsored by ISO-NE

6:30 p.m. Non-public dinner for state officials and NESCOE

Wednesday, May 23, 2017

Non-public session for state officials and their staff, NESCOE and invited guests.