



NECPUC 76th Symposium Agenda – PLELIMINARY, SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Omni Mount Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, NH
May 19-21, 2024

(Panelists listed in alphabetical order)

Sunday, May 19

- 3:00-6:00 p.m. ***Registration Desk Open***
- 5:45 p.m. ***Pre-Dinner Reception***
Sponsored by Pierce Atwood LLP, Womble Bond Dickinson LLP, and Day Pitney LLP
- 7:00 p.m. ***Dinner***
- 8:00 p.m. ***Dessert Reception***
Sponsored by Hewitt & Hewitt, National Association of Water Companies, and Nuclear Energy Institute

Monday, May 20

- 7:15 a.m. ***Breakfast***
- 7:45 a.m. ***Ethics CLE session #1 of 2 (optional)***
Donald M. Kreis, JD, New Hampshire Consumer Advocate
Hon. Carleton Simpson, Commissioner, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
- 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ***Registration Desk Open***

9:00 a.m.

Symposium Opens

Hon. Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, NECPUC President

9:15 a.m.

Plenary Session

Grid-Enhancing Technologies (GETS): A Least-Cost Approach to Meeting the Challenge of Future Load Growth

Moderator: Hon. Carolyn Gilbert, Commissioner, Maine Public Utilities Commission

While there may not be agreement on the exact path to decarbonization, experts agree that we are going to need significant investment in transmission to get us there. Grid-enhancing technologies (GETS), together with load management, have the potential to expand the capacity of the grid more cost effectively than solely building more poles and wires. GETS are a family of technologies that maximize the transmission of electricity across existing infrastructure. One frequently cited GET is dynamic line rating, but GETS include sensors, power flow control devices, and analytical tools. In this panel we will discuss the potential of GETS, why they are an important tool in New England, barriers to adoption, and potential regulatory or policy solutions to speed adoption. We will also hear success stories of GETS implementation.

Panelists:

- **Rob Gramlich**, President, Grid Strategies, LLC
- **Ariel Horowitz**, Deputy Director for Grid Modernization, Grid Deployment Office, U.S. Department of Energy
- **Tiffany Menhorn**, Principal, Menhorn Group
- **Rebecca Towne**, Chief Executive Officer, Vermont Electric Cooperative

10:15 a.m.

Break

Sponsored by Sense and HData

10:45 a.m.

Plenary Session

Evaluating Resource Costs: Considerations for Regulators

Moderator: Hon. Pradip K. Chattopadhyay, Commissioner, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

In evaluating the comparative costs and benefits of varying energy supply resources, it can be challenging to distinguish underlying market dynamics from policy-driven factors such as financial subsidies and tax credits. This panel will explore ways for regulators and stakeholders to understand those factors and what that means for the supply portfolio and the regional energy system now and in the future. It will also include a comparative discussion of how these issues are approached in European markets, and what lessons our region can learn from those approaches.

Panelists:

- **Marc Brown**, Vice President, State Affairs, Consumer Energy Alliance
- **Cristoph Graf**, Senior Economist, Institute for Policy Integrity, New York School of Law
- **Richard Levitan**, Principal, Levitan Associates

12:00 p.m.

Lunch

12:00 p.m.

Concurrent lunch for PUC and other state and federal government staff

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Registration Desk Open

1:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Emerging Opportunities for Managing Water Infrastructure Energy Use

Moderator: Hon. John W. “Jack” Betkoski, III, Vice Chairman, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

In many communities, the water utility is the single largest user of electricity. This panel will consider current best practices and future opportunities for managing that energy use, to reduce both costs to water utility customers and demand on the electricity system.

Panelists:

- **Dan Forman**, CEO, Copper Labs
- **Jennifer K. Muir, P.E.**, President, JKMuir
- **Sharon Nall**, Water Infrastructure Energy Program Manager, N.H. Department of Environmental Services
- **Craig J. Patla, P.E.**, President, Connecticut Water Company

Connectivity State of the Art: Pathways for Empowering Consumers and Utilities

Moderator: Hon. Karen Charles, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable

Telecommunications is the essential link for enabling technologies that empower consumers and enable electric utilities to manage a grid that is increasingly complex. This panel brings together industry leaders to discuss how telecommunications infrastructure is supporting consumers and utilities in meeting their energy, reliability, and sustainability goals.

Panelists:

- **Sam Bitterman**, Director, Strategic Initiatives & Rates, Anterix
- **Colin Gibbs**, Vice President, Energy Services, Sense

- **Michael Jennings**, Vice President of Energy Delivery, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative

2:45 p.m.

Break

Sponsored by American Clean Power Association

3:15 p.m.

Plenary Session

Presentation of George Dunn Award
 Invitation to 2025 NECPUC Symposium

3:30 p.m.

Plenary Session

Getting the Recipe Right: Balancing Regulatory and Incentive-Based Approaches to Meet Policy Goals

Moderator: Hon. James M. (Jamie) Van Nostrand, Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities

When seeking to achieve public policy outcomes, agencies and regulators can use a combination of both regulations and incentives. This panel will explore the approach taken by one such agency – the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – to balance the use of those “carrots and sticks” to achieve those outcomes in an effective and equitable fashion. Attendees will hear from the EPA Region 1 Administrator, as well as several EPA partners and stakeholders.

Panelists:

- **Hon. David W. Cash**, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1
- **Roger Crouse**, General Manager, Kennebec Water District
- **Crystal Johnson**, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Justice, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- **Hon. June Tierney**, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Service

5:00 p.m.

Ethics CLE session #2 of 2 (optional)

Donald M. Kreis, JD, New Hampshire Consumer Advocate
 Hon. Carleton Simpson, Commissioner, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

5:45 p.m.

Pre-dinner Reception

Sponsored by Retail Energy Supply Association, Robinson+Cole, LLP, and Itron

7:00 p.m.

Dinner

8:00 p.m.

Dessert Reception

Sponsored by Edison Electric Institute

9:00 p.m. ***Evening Reception***
Sponsored by New England Connectivity and Telecommunications Association

Tuesday, May 21

7:00 a.m. ***Run/Walk with a Commissioner!***
Hon. Abigail Anthony, Commissioner, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission

7:15 a.m. ***Breakfast***

7:15 a.m. ***Concurrent Telecom Breakfast***
Join Commissioners, staff, and telecommunications professionals in discussing telecommunications issues and developments.

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ***Registration Desk Open***

9:00 a.m. ***Plenary Session***

Keeping Track of Clean Energy

Moderator: Abigail Anthony, Commissioner, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission

A number of New England states have adopted legally binding economy-wide requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and customers in all states, including some of the largest retail electricity customers in the world, take their voluntary pledges to reduce emissions seriously. Today, the states and retail electricity customers rely on different legal and voluntary definitions and standards for emissions accounting, which can lead to confusing and inefficient outcomes, such as entities that are more than 100% renewable or actual emissions that escape allocation. This panel will explain how states and customers determine their emissions and what changes may be needed to meet state and customer requirements.

Panelists:

- **W. Mason Emmett**, Senior Vice President, Constellation Energy
- **Bryan Gower**, Chief Client Services Officer, M-RETS
- **Gailin Pease**, Senior Data Scientist, Singularity Energy

10:15 a.m. ***Break***
Sponsored by American Petroleum Institute

10:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Joint Gas-Electric Planning: What Needs to Happen to Advance State Climate Efforts and Maintain Reliability

Moderator: Hon. Staci Rubin, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities

As states make progress toward greenhouse gas emissions targets and goals, there is a need for coordinated planning between gas and electric companies and divisions. The clean energy transition requires new planning exercises that allow regulators, utilities, RTOs, and other stakeholders to consider how changes in natural gas consumption and increased electrification impact our infrastructure and wallets. Join a dynamic panel to hear about work that could happen nationally, regionally, and within states about joint electric and gas planning.

Panelists:

- **Charles Dickerson**, President & CEO, Northeast Power Coordinating Council
- **Rita King**, Sr. Director, Smart Grids Innovation & Planning, Avangrid
- **Emily Green**, Senior Attorney, Conservation Law Foundation
- **Hon. Tricia Pridemore**, Commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission; Vice President, NARUC

Retail Demand Response and Load Flexibility

Moderator: Hon. Philip L. Bartlett, II, Chair, Maine Public Utilities Commission

New England faces significant challenges in managing future load growth and ensuring winter resource adequacy. In response, NECPUC recently created a working group to address these issues. This panel will provide an update on the working group's discussions to date, and discuss potential pathways for making greater use of demand side resources to address regional resource and capacity needs.

Panelists:

- **Elizabeth Anderson**, Chief, Energy & Ratepayer Advocacy Division, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
- **Jennifer Downing**, Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office
- **Stephen George**, Manager, Operational Performance, Training, and Integration, ISO New England
- **Chris McCusker**, Vice President, Energy Efficiency and Clean Transportation Programs, National Grid

12:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Fireside Chat Plenary Session with Hon. Cheryl LaFleur

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

Commissioner Michael Caron will moderate an informal conversation with former FERC Commissioner and Chairman **Cheryl LaFleur** on the workings of FERC, its docket of current and emerging national regulatory issues, and what we might expect from a FERC with a majority of new commissioners (pending senate confirmation).

2:15 p.m.

Break

Sponsored by Advanced Energy United

2:45 p.m.

Plenary Session

CEO Roundtable

Moderator: Hon. Carleton Simpson, Commissioner, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

Reliability, Affordability, & Decarbonization: Hear from New England energy CEOs on how public policy and current economic conditions are influencing infrastructure development across the region for distribution, transmission, generation, and market operators.

Panelists:

- **Alicia Barton**, Chief Executive Officer, Vineyard Offshore
- **Thomas Meissner, Jr.**, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Unitil Corporation
- **Joseph R. Nolan, Jr.**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Eversource Energy
- **Gordon van Welie**, President and Chief Executive Officer, ISO New England

4:00 p.m.

Symposium program concludes

Wednesday, May 22

7:15 a.m.

Breakfast