

Breakout Sessions



Environmental Services

Grid Modernization

Safety

Supply Management

System Planning / T&D

Industry Spotlight Sessions

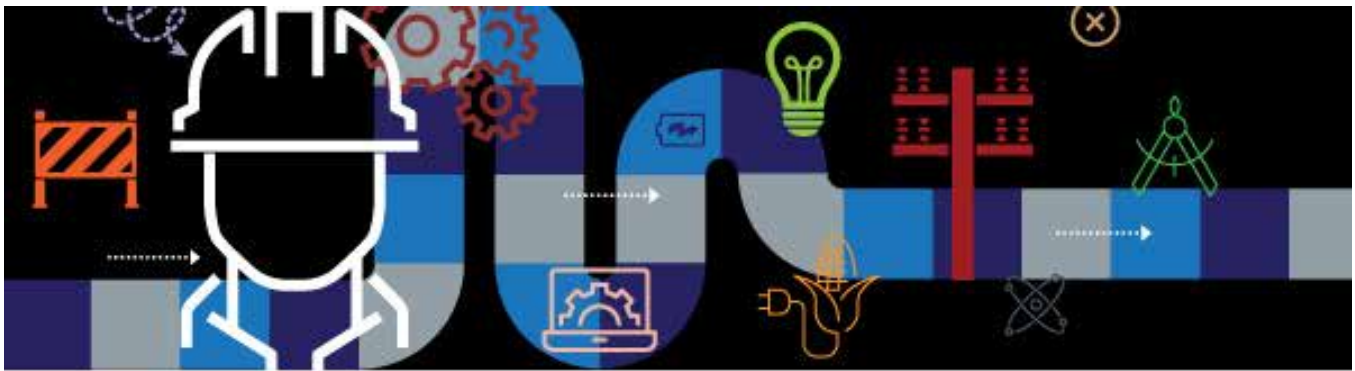
Tuesday, March 23

11 a.m. - Noon	Opening General Session: APPA CEO's Address: State of Public Power Honoring Our Colleagues: RP ₃ Recognition					
12:15 - 1:15 p.m.	Environmental Regulations: What's New and What's Next	Installing and Commissioning Optical Current Transformers	Understanding the Mutual Aid Process	Roundtable: Supply Management	Importance of Engineering Excellence	Grid Modernization: Key Drivers for a Smart Energy Future
1:45 - 2:45 p.m.	Navigating the Complexities of Electricity Markets	Securing Substations from Vandalism <i>(joint session)</i>	Lessons in Restoration: Hurricane Laura	How Does Your Warehouse Measure Up?	Securing Substations from Vandalism <i>(joint session)</i>	Milwaukee Commitment to Safety
3 - 4 p.m.	Managing the Risks with Natural Gas Supply	To Broadband or Not to Broadband?	Providing Real-World Experience Through Virtual Training	Tracking Contract Deliverables	Defining Resiliency: What Does It Mean for You?	
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Reduce, Repower, Replace	Key Design Considerations for Energy Storage	Safety Manual Roundtable	Auditing the Warehouse Audit	Focus on Fuse Coordination	
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Networking Event: Virtual Pub Trivia!					

Wednesday, March 24

10 - 11 a.m.	Online Networking: 1) Women in Public Power Hour or 2) Data Debate: Benchmarking Operations					
11 - 11:30 a.m.	General Session: APPA Board Chair's Address Honoring Our Colleagues: • Safety Awards • DEED Award of Continued Excellence					
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Decarbonization Strategies for a Flexible Future	Securing the Supply Chain: Risks and Best Practices <i>(joint session)</i>	Evolving Your Safety Training	Securing the Supply Chain: Risks and Best Practices <i>(joint session)</i>	Planning Ahead for Distributed Energy Resources	Public Utility Asset Data for Improved Maintenance, Compliance, and Reliability
1:15 - 2:15 p.m.	Implementing Coal Ash and Wastewater Requirements	Smart Utilities for a Smart Future <i>(joint session)</i>	Cultural Solutions for Operational Excellence: Part 1	Why Can't I Do That?	Smart Utilities for a Smart Future <i>(joint session)</i>	Improving System Reliability through Holistic Planning & Data Analytics
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Making Community Solar Work for Public Power	Grid Modernization Roundtable	Cultural Solutions for Operational Excellence: Part 2	Supply Management Potpourri	Make a Drone Do It	Getting Ahead of Distribution Problems with Grid Edge Analytics
4 - 5:15 p.m.	Closing General Session Find a Way: Fighting to Live Your Dream					

Visit the Virtual Expo—open throughout the conference



March 23 - 24
2021

THE ACADEMY
Engineering & Operations
Virtual Conference

AMERICAN
PUBLIC POWER
ASSOCIATION

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

KEYNOTE SPONSOR



11 a.m. – Noon

Opening General Session

11 a.m. – Noon ET / 10 – 11 a.m. CT / 9 – 10 a.m. MT / 8 – 9 a.m. PT

Recommended CEUs .1 / PDHs 1 / CPEs 1.2

Welcome

Todd Dlouhy, *Manager, Procurement & Stores, Lincoln Electric System, Nebraska, and Chair, APPA Engineering & Operations Section*

Honoring our Colleagues

RP3 Recognition

The State of Public Power

The public power community faces many challenges – from quickly shifting operating procedures during the pandemic to responding to increasingly intense events and incorporating new technologies and generating assets. Get the latest update on how APPA is working to help our members navigate this increasingly complex industry, identify opportunities to propel public power forward, and protect your interests in Washington, D.C. and beyond.

Joy Ditto, *President & CEO, American Public Power Association*

Noon – 12:15 p.m.

Break

Noon – 12:15 p.m. ET / 11 – 11:15 a.m. CT / 10 – 10:15 a.m. MT / 9 – 9:15 a.m. PT



American Public Power Association

Key to Sessions



Environmental Services



Grid Modernization



Safety



Supply Management



System Planning/
Transmission &
Distribution

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

12:15 – 1:15 p.m. ET / 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CT / 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. MT / 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. PT
Recommended CEUs .1 / PDHs 1 / CPEs 1.2



Environmental Regulations: What's New and What's Next

A new Administration is likely bringing a new approach to air, water, and waste rules and regulations, all while rule changes from the previous Administration go into effect – which impose new requirements on generating units. Join this session to get a clearer picture of the regulatory and policy landscape on environmental issues – from the gray areas in the Clean Air Act to the future policies likely to affect your utility.

Carrie Jenks, *Executive Vice President, M.J. Bradley & Associates, Concord, Massachusetts*; and **Jim Roewer**, *Executive Director, Utility Solid Waste Activities Group, Washington, D.C.*



Installing and Commissioning Optical Current Transformers

Walk through one utility's experience in installing and commissioning optical CTs and a process bus relay system applied to Series capacitors. Gain lessons learned from the project from both the utility and vendor perspective, and tips for applying optical instrument transformers and IEC61850 process bus sample values.

Adam O'Leary, *P&C Engineer II, and Frank Ronci*, *Senior Director Electrical & Controls—New York Power Authority, White Plains, New York*



Understanding the Mutual Aid Process

The public power mutual aid network is a powerful ally in getting your system restored after a major event – whether a hurricane, winter storm, or pandemic. Learn how the network operates and who to call (and when) in the event a disaster strikes your territory, or how to offer help as part of the network. Also get an overview of what resources you can count on and use from the Public Power Mutual Aid Working Group for your storm preparedness and response.

Kate Leese, *Managing Partner, Kinetics Consulting, Detroit, Michigan*; **Kenny Roberts**, *Senior Training & Safety Specialist, Electricities of N.C.*; and **Giacomo Wray**, *Engineering Services Specialist, APPA*



Roundtable: Supply Management

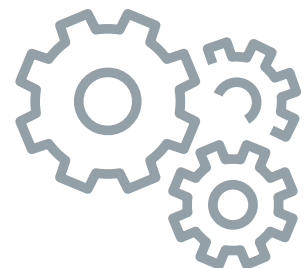
Network with colleagues and discuss your supply management challenges and practices, including any lessons learned during the pandemic or related to new supply chain risk management rules.



Importance of Engineering Excellence

Recent storms and wildfires have highlighted the importance of having strong engineering practices to help reduce outages and outage times. For public power, engineers have often worked their way up the utility and have utility specific knowledge and insights into how day-to-day practices can make a big difference on reliability. Learn what tools and ideas public power engineers have brought to their utilities and the resulting improvements.

Scott Sligh, *Chief Engineer, Riviera Utilities, Foley, Alabama*



Industry Spotlight Session: Grid Modernization: Key Drivers for a Smart Energy Future

The future for utilities includes increased customer interaction, decentralization and integrated distribution planning for integration of microgrids and energy storage, interoperability of various technologies, and cybersecurity--all critical components for successful operations.

Join the utility solutions experts at Eaton as they discuss grid modernization technologies and the increased value of data analytics to monitor and manage grid assets while enhancing reliability and resiliency.

Jacob Chacko, *Utility Marketing Manager, Eaton, Waukesha, Wisconsin*

1:15 – 1:45 p.m.

Break

1:15 – 1:45 p.m. ET / 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. CT / 11:15 – 11:45 a.m. MT / 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

Reminder: Make time to network and chat with your peers and visit the Virtual Expo—through the conference portal!

1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

1:45 – 2:45 p.m. ET / 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. CT / 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. MT / 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. PT

[Recommended CEUs .1](#) / [PDHs 1](#) / [CPEs 1.2](#)



Navigating the Complexities of Electricity Markets

The proliferation of renewables and changing resource adequacy requirements are making electricity markets more complicated to navigate, no matter which region you're in. Discuss recent developments in multiple RTO/ISOs and get an overview of resource adequacy requirements. Understand how renewables factor in limits and how market rules differ around the country. Hear how utilities have been impacted by these requirements. Learn how you can ensure compliance as well as safe, reliable service to customers.

Matt Larson, *Partner, Wilkinson, Barker and Knauer, LLP, Denver, Colorado*; **David Sapper**, *Director of Market Intelligence, Customized Energy Solutions, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*



Securing Substations from Vandalism

The civil unrest in the past year has led to several high-profile cases of vandalism to property. Join this session to hear what mitigation strategies and technologies federal officials and other utilities have deployed to protect soft targets and field assets. Discuss ideas for reducing threats to these assets and what technologies can help monitor and protect your facilities.

David Eisenreich, *Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C.*; and **Shaun Guilfoil**, *Security Analyst, Colorado Springs Utilities*



Lessons in Restoration: Hurricane Laura

Gain insight into the restoration process and challenges from a major regional event from key players involved in restoration from Hurricane Laura in 2020. The category 5 hurricane damaged hundreds of miles of transmission lines, which left hundreds of thousands of electric customers without service and required weeks of construction before the first substation could be re-energized. Learn how smaller public power utilities managed restoration efforts, and how the nationwide (and sometimes worldwide) mutual aid network worked to get people and material to the most critical places.

Kevin Bihm, *General Manager, Louisiana Energy and Power Authority*; **Greg Labbe**, *Electric Operations Manager*, and **Jason Miller**, *Electrical Distribution Engineering Coordinator—Lafayette Utilities Systems, Louisiana*

Key to Sessions



Environmental Services



Grid Modernization



Safety



Supply Management



System Planning/
Transmission &
Distribution



How Does Your Warehouse Measure Up?

Compare how your warehouse operations measure up to your peers in this review of the public power supply management benchmarking survey. Discuss practices in the areas measured in the survey, including warehouse efficiency, productivity, and turnaround times.

Tom Finn, *Materials Manager, Norwich Public Utilities, Connecticut*; **Chris McKinney**, *Warehouse Manager, Fayetteville Public Works Commission, North Carolina*; and **Brad Spratt**, *Manager of Supply Chain Services, Muscatine Power and Water, Iowa*

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Industry Spotlight Session: Milwaukee Commitment to Safety

Hear an overview of the multiple ways Milwaukee Tool is involved in health and safety--from an explanation of the "seven focus pillars" to improve H&S to how they fit in the NIOSH hierarchy of controls. Dive deeper into multiple solutions that showcase safety technologies, disruptive innovation in PPE, and highlights on how these all help to improve productivity along the way.

Mike Dumoit, *Senior National Account Manager, and Raffi Elchemmas*, *National Manager, Health and Safety—Milwaukee Tool, Wisconsin*

2:45 – 3 p.m.

Break

2:45 – 3 p.m. ET / 1:45 – 2 p.m. CT / 12:45 – 1 p.m. MT / 11:45 a.m. – Noon PT

3 – 4 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

3 – 4 p.m. ET / 2 – 3 p.m. CT / 1 – 2 p.m. MT / Noon – 1 p.m. PT

[Recommended CEUs .1 / PDHs 1 / CPEs 1.2](#)



Managing the Risks with Natural Gas Supply

Natural gas is a key part of the public power generating mix, with more than 27% of generation coming from natural gas facilities. The shale gas revolution was a game-changer, but supply challenges from weather events and market price shocks persist. Explore the risks associated with natural gas production, transportation, export, and pipeline regulation and construction. Discuss how you can hedge future commodity price uncertainty and other implications for your utility with the natural gas market.

Jude Clemente, *Senior Market Analyst, Trane Technologies, Monroeville, Pennsylvania*

Key to Sessions



Environmental Services



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Safety



Supply Management



System Planning/
Transmission &
Distribution



To Broadband or Not to Broadband?

Increased reliance on networked devices and strong internet connectivity has renewed interest in municipal broadband deployments - but is broadband right for you? Examine the pros and cons of offering broadband services (including economic development and utility automation) and learn how to avoid common mistakes in conducting a feasibility study.

Thomas Asp, *Senior Communications and Automation Consultant, Power System Engineering, Madison, Wisconsin*; and **Stacy Cantrell**, *VP of Engineering, Huntsville Utilities, Alabama*



Providing Real-World Experience Through Virtual Training

Virtual and augmented reality can simplify and improve safety training — providing an efficient and safe working environment for employees to learn key skills and practice important movements. Learn how utilities have used these new technologies for maintenance work, online testing, and accident investigation and recreation. Get a demonstration of a safety e-learning course to directly experience the technology and consider the possibilities for your training needs.

Brian Doubinin, *CEO, 3DInternet, Los Angeles, California*



Tracking Contract Deliverables

Walk through one utility's journey in implementing a contract management system to relive the key lessons learned in developing contract life cycle management practices and strategies for overcoming common challenges in the implementation process.

Gary Holcomb, *Director of Procurement*, and **Joel Wilson**, *Contracts Manager*—*Garland Power and Light, Texas*



Defining Resiliency: What Does It Mean for You?

As natural disasters are on the rise, resiliency has become the new buzz word — the federal government has embraced it, and many states and communities are trying to define it. Explore how to define resiliency for your utility – and the different ways to outline the unique risks and challenges within your environment and systems. Come and learn what other public power utilities are doing to harden distribution systems and to facilitate bouncing back after disasters.

Brian Wilbur, *Director of Power Transmission & Distribution*, *Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, California*

4 – 4:30 p.m.

Break

4 – 4:30 p.m. ET / 3 – 3:30 p.m. CT / 2 – 2:30 p.m. MT / 1 – 1:30 p.m. PT

Reminder: Make time to network and chat with your peers and visit the Virtual Expo—through the conference portal!

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. ET / 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. CT / 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. MT / 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. PT

[Recommended CEUs .1](#) / [PDHs 1](#) / [CPEs 1.2](#)



Reduce, Repower, Replace

Learn how public power utilities are repowering or replacing coal fired generation with natural gas combined cycle combustion turbines or installing reciprocating internal combustion engines. Discuss the common challenges constructing, permitting and operating new CTs and RICE units amidst the industry's energy transition to lower and non-emitting generation resources.

Mike Radakovitz, *Electric Production Superintendent*, *Holland Board of Public Works, Michigan*; and **Loren Smith**, *Electric Utility Director*, *Stillwater Electric Utility, Oklahoma*



Key Design Considerations for Energy Storage

Battery storage has been called the "Swiss army knife" of solutions because of its versatility. But the tools on a Swiss army knife wear down if you use them the wrong way. Examine the different considerations in engineering a battery storage system, from the application to operating implications on the system, RTO/ISO requirements, market opportunities, and how to make it economically viable. Discuss findings from a recent DEED project, including best practices for sizing, procuring, and operating battery storage.

Kyle Brown, *Electric Planning Engineer*, *Greenville Utilities Commission, North Carolina*; and **Jim Tarpey**, *Project Executive*, *Convergent Energy and Power, New York*

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Safety Manual Roundtable

Join the Safety Manual Revision Task Force to discuss revisions to the 17th Edition of the American Public Power Association's Safety Manual – including suggestions for best practices and strategies to promote a culture of safety in public power.

Jon Beasley, *Vice President of Safety & Training, Electric Cities of Georgia*; **Bob Scudder**, *Ph.D., CSP, CIH, CET, Industrial Hygiene/Corporate Risk Manager, Grand River Dam Authority, Oklahoma*; **Mike Willetts**, *Director of Safety and Training, Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association*; and **Brandon Wylie**, *CUSP, Director of Training and Safety, Electric Cities of Georgia*



Auditing the Warehouse Audit

Dive into the key findings that public power utilities uncovered in conducting audits of their procurement practices and warehouse operations, and discuss what recommendations emerged from the audits that you can replicate at your utility.



Focus on Fuse Coordination

Gather together to debate the merits and challenges of different fuse coordination philosophies, share tips for fuse-saving coordination and strategies for fuse-blowing coordination.

Caleb Harrison, *Automation Systems Application Director, S&C Electric Company, Chicago, Illinois*

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Virtual Pub Trivia

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. ET / 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. CT / 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. MT / 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. PT

Join us for Virtual Pub Trivia! Join a team of your public power colleagues to test your collective knowledge on general trivia covering a wide range of topics. From history to pop culture to public power and more, there's something for everyone! Grab a drink and get ready for a fun-filled, fast-paced afternoon of trivia, camaraderie, and a chance to earn prizes.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

10 – 11 a.m.

Online Networking

10 – 11 a.m. ET / 9 – 10 a.m. CT / 8 – 9 a.m. MT / 7 – 8 a.m. PT

Choose from two online networking options:

- 1 **Women in Public Power Hour:** Our popular networking event for women working in public power takes on a new format this year. Join your peers for morning conversation to celebrate successes and share challenges.
- 2 **Data Debate: Benchmarking Operations:** Join your colleagues in an engaging discourse over several controversial and insightful findings on utility operations. Explore the latest public power operations benchmarking data while adding color to the conversation with your technical expertise.

And you can always visit the **Virtual Expo** to connect with industry suppliers—open throughout the conference!



KEYNOTE SPONSOR



11 – 11:30 a.m.

General Session

11 – 11:30 a.m. ET / 10 – 10:30 a.m. CT / 9 – 9:30 a.m. MT / 8 – 8:30 a.m. PT
Recommended CEUs .1 / PDHs .5 / CPEs .6

Welcome

Liz Jambor, Ed.D., DEED Board Chair and Manager, Data Analytics & Business Intelligence, Austin Energy, Texas

Honoring our Colleagues

Recognition of the 2020 DEED Award of Continued Excellence and Safety Award winners

Chair's Address

Well before APPA was founded, public power utilities set a strong foundation in their communities that allowed for resilience and innovation. Then as now, engaging with our communities and connecting with our customers reminds them of the value of community ownership.

Jolene Thompson, President & CEO, American Municipal Power, Inc., Columbus, Ohio; and Chair, American Public Power Association

11:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Break

11:30 – 11:45 a.m. ET / 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. CT / 9:30 – 9:45 a.m. MT / 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. PT

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. ET / 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. CT / 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. MT / 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. PT
Recommended CEUs .1 / PDHs 1 / CPEs 1.2



Decarbonization Strategies for a Flexible Future

Public power utilities are increasingly on the hook to find cost effective means to reducing CO2 emissions. Learn how two leading public power entities have steered a path toward carbon free generation without getting locked into high-cost supply contracts. Explore the details of unique multi-utility modular nuclear projects in the West and get strategies for setting realistic goals to meet the evolving needs of the times.

Mason Baker, General Counsel, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems; and **Angela Rodriguez**, Director of Climate Strategy & Sustainability, CPS Energy, San Antonio, Texas



Securing the Supply: Risks and Best Practices

Mitigating and managing risk is increasingly critical to supply chain management. Ask the experts about your supply chain risk management challenges and how new NERC supply chain management security standards and federal R&D efforts will affect your standards and practices.

Shari Gribbin, Managing Partner, CNK Solutions, Washington, D.C.; and **Brian Irish**, Manager of Cyber Security Assurance, Salt River Project, Phoenix, Arizona

CONCURRENT
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LINEMAN.EDU



Evolving Your Safety Training

Linework has evolved and your crews have adapted to new tools and structures, but chances are, your training hasn't changed much. Hear how the experts recommend you refocus your priorities to adjust your training and work processes to promote a culture of safety at every level. Discuss how to incorporate new ideas and methods – while staying grounded in fundamentals – at this back-to-basics session.

Mike McCleary, Manager of Member Services Development, Florida Municipal Power Agency



Planning Ahead for Distributed Energy Resources

You've heard the warnings: if you don't have a plan to manage the impending boom of customer-sited distributed energy resources, then you can expect a severe impact on your distribution system. Discover how other utilities have structured plans for managing DERs and walk through how to perform a good engineering analysis before you act. Discuss and share strategies for assessing and handling intermittent generation, operational islanding, power quality disruption, and safety and security concerns. Hear case studies of DER system integrations using Fault-Location, Isolation and Service Restoration (FLISR), Volt-Var Optimization (VVO) and Distribution System State Estimator (DSSE).

Steve Rupp, *Director of Consulting Services*, and **Dr. Jens Schoene**, *Director of Research Studies—EnerNex Corporation*



Industry Spotlight Session: Public Utility Asset Data: A Common Thread for Improved Maintenance, Compliance, and Reliability

Hear about a clear approach and practical actions to make the most of utility asset data for maintenance and operations. Learn how small changes to existing processes can provide tangible benefits to stakeholders while improving maintenance effectiveness, regulatory compliance, and overall reliability. Topics include: capturing inspection and test data, ensuring good data stewardship, providing transparency into asset condition data, and making informed decisions from asset data insights.

Come away with actions to improve your existing processes or begin a new effort to improve maintenance and reliability with better data management.

Dennis Washburn, *Principal Product Manager, Electric Grid Ecosystem, DNV GL, Corvallis, Oregon*

12:45 – 1:15 p.m.

Break

12:45 – 1:15 p.m. ET / 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CT / 10:45 – 11:15 a.m. MT / 9:45 – 10:15 a.m. PT

Reminder: Make time to network and chat with your peers and visit the Virtual Expo—through the conference portal!

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 ET / 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. CT / 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. MT / 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. PT

[Recommended CEUs .1](#) / [PDHs 1](#) / [CPEs 1.2](#)

Key to Sessions



Implementing Coal Ash and Wastewater Requirements

Explore a case study that details the challenges and technology options of a public power utility seeking to implement and comply with new ELG/CCR requirements, including how the utility is navigating this evolving regulatory landscape.

Kimberly Deschenes, *Process Engineering Team Lead, AECOM, Austin, Texas*



Smart Utilities for a Smart Future

What makes the myriad "smart" devices (thermostats, speakers, metering, lighting, etc.) truly smart is the integration with and application of these technologies to systems and services to create efficiencies. Review the opportunities and threats from integrating smart devices and connecting to communications networks, and potential solutions to deliver new services, improve efficiency and reliability, foster economic development, and enhance the quality of life in your community.

Robbie Carlson, *Sales Engineer, Milsoft Utility Solutions, Abilene, Texas*; **Joel Eves**, *Power Department Director, Lehi City Power, Utah*; **Sean Hamilton**, *General Manager, Sterling Municipal Light Department, Massachusetts*; **Doug Westlund**, *Senior Vice President, AESI-US, Inc., Tucker, Georgia*



Safety Culture Excellence: Part 1

This 2-part Safety Culture Excellence session is designed to ensure that all employees are familiar with the process to achieve safety excellence. Part One will focus on insights into effective safety cultures and proven safety management principles such as the six criteria for safety excellence, safety accountability, why incidents happen, and the traditional incident reaction cycle. Hear an overview of CAT's Zero Incident Performance (ZIP) continuous safety improvement process and review a quick Safety Culture Assessment tool.

Kevin Ellison, *Senior Associate, Caterpillar Inc., Parrish, Florida*



Why Can't I Do That?

RESTRICTED TO UTILITY MEMBERS

Get a briefing from the FBI on ethics in the workplace and how to recognize scams and other fraudulent activities. From how to spot fraudulent invoicing to removing collusion from the bidding process and preventing money laundering – learn how you can keep your supply chain from furthering nefarious activities.

Victoria Madtson, *Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Indianapolis, Indiana*



Industry Spotlight Session: Improving System Reliability through Holistic Planning & Data Analytics

With increased pressure on customer rates, public power utilities are looking for ways to improve system reliability with fewer resources and smaller budgets. By leveraging data and decision analytics, utilities can confidently plan their budgets to maximize reliability improvement.

Review the decision framework, data analytics, and asset management tools that have been successfully used for several utilities across North America. Learn about turning a utility's T&D data into quantifiable asset health scores, leveraging decision analytics to develop an optimized portfolio of actionable projects, understanding the business case for these projects, and geospatial visualization of the investment plan. Review recent case studies, including results used to identify optimized investment portfolios. Learn how their existing data can be utilized to understand long-term investment needs, identify actionable projects into an investment plan, and communicate the plan for both internal and external stakeholders.

Joey Nichols, *Director of Grid Modernization & Distribution Planning*, and **Jason De Stigter, P.E.**, *Director of Utility Investment Planning—Burns and McDonnell*

2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Break

2:15 – 2:30 p.m. ET / 1:15 – 1:30 p.m. CT / 12:15 – 12:30 p.m. MT / 11:15 – 11:30 a.m. PT

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. ET / 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. CT / 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. MT / 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. PT

[Recommended CEUs .1 / PDHs 1 / CPEs 1.2](#)



Making Community Solar Work for Public Power

Explore the opportunities, challenges, and latest developments about community solar from the Department of Energy and from public power utilities. Dive into what factors public power utilities examined that make for a successful community solar program through a recent DEED project and learn about recent progress in APPA's ongoing work with the national labs in solving public power community solar challenges. Share your own community solar challenges and learn how to get involved in APPA's initiative.

Marilyn Del Bosque Gilbert, *Energy Manager, Imperial Irrigation District, California*; **Kyle Fricker**, *Technology Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C.*; and **Paul Zummo**, *Director of Policy Research and Analysis, APPA*

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Grid Modernization Roundtable

Connect with other future-focused utility pros to talk about your biggest challenges and brag about your latest successes in doing your part to ready your system for the future or exchange big picture ideas for moving forward together.



Safety Culture Excellence: Part 2

This 2-part Safety Culture Excellence session is designed to ensure that all employees are familiar with the process to achieve safety excellence. Part Two will focus on the Zero Incident Performance (ZIP) process, a high-level overview of the Safety Perception Survey/assessment, applying these principles to the continuous improvement process, and identifying next steps to improving your safety culture.

Kevin Ellison, *Senior Associate, Caterpillar Inc., Parrish, Florida*



Supply Management Potpourri

Get a series of short presentations on supply management. This rapid-fire format features panelists covering topics from pre-bids to procurement laws and making pandemic practices permanent.



Make a Drone Do It

From expediting power restoration to enhancing visual inspections and removing some risk from maintenance, drones are touted as a versatile solution for utilities. Cut through the hype and examine the pros and cons of using drones for day-to-day utility operations, directly from public power utilities that use drones for line design, maintenance, damage assessment, and issue spotting in remote areas. Also discuss how to effectively sort through data and identify priority project areas.

Solomon Brackett, *System Engineer; and Chase Collins, UAS Program Director—Troy Utilities, Alabama*



Industry Spotlight Session: Getting Ahead of Distribution Problems with Grid Edge Analytics

Without analytics, public power utilities have been blind to much of what's happening on their distribution networks. Even with advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), a team of data scientists was required to turn power-quality data into actionable insights for improving grid reliability or business operations.

Several utilities have used are using the insights from data analytics software to improve their overall reliability, increase customer satisfaction, save on equipment and operating costs, gain true operational awareness and reduce regulatory and hazard risks.

Sarah Clark, *AMI Coordinator, Town of Estes Park Power & Communications, Colorado*; **Frank Geiger**, *Product Owner, SLC, DA, LM*; **Peter Londa**, *President & CEO*; **Rick Szijarto**, *Director, Solution Marketing DA/LM—Tantalus*

3:30 – 4 p.m.

Break

3:30 – 4 p.m. ET / 2:30 – 3 p.m. CT / 1:30 – 2 p.m. MT / 12:30 – 1 p.m. PT

Reminder: Make time to network and chat with your peers and visit the Virtual Expo—through the conference portal!



4 – 5:15 p.m.

Closing General Session

4 – 5:15 p.m. ET / 3 – 4:15 p.m. CT / 2 – 3:15 p.m. MT / 1 – 2:15 p.m. PT

Recommended CEUs .1 / PDHs 1.25 / CPEs 1.5

“Find a Way:” Fighting to Live Your Dream

Guided by his philosophy, 'Find A Way,' former running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Chicago Bears; cancer survivor; and ESPN analyst Merrill Hoge will inspire you with his story of strength and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Hoge didn't just dream about this goal. From a young age, he found a way and took action to overcome any obstacle and attain any goal. Concussions that prematurely ended his NFL career, cancer, chemo – nothing could stop him.

Recharge your life with Hoge's unique perspectives on the importance of uncommon behavior, commitment that separates the leader from the pack, and parenting that motivates children to overcome obstacles and take ownership of their lives.

Merril Hoge, Retired NFL Running Back and author of “Find a Way: Three Words That Changed My Life”

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