



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Sunday, June 18

8:30 am – Noon	Preconference Seminars
11 am – Noon	PMA Task Force Meeting
Noon – 1:30 pm	Joint Action Agencies Meeting
1:30 – 5 pm	Preconference Seminars
2 – 4 pm	Advisory Committee Meeting
4 – 5 pm	FERC/NERC Issues Briefing
5 – 6 pm	Women in Public Power Reception
	PowerPAC Reception (<i>PowerPAC members only</i>)
5:30 – 7 pm	Welcome Reception

7:30 am – 7 pm **Registration & Information Desk**
[6ABC Lobby](#)

8:30 am – Noon **Preconference Seminars**

Strategic Workforce Planning



Approved for 3.5 hours Utility Board Training
 .3 CEUs / 3.25 PDHs / 3.8 CPEs, Personnel/Human Resources
 Room: [602-604](#)

Talent management is among the top concerns of management and boards, yet is often separated from an organization's strategic initiatives. Get expert coaching on how you can align your workforce plan around your organization's goals and long-term planning. Perform a preliminary needs assessment and gap analysis for your workforce, incorporating internal and external drivers that are changing your recruitment and retention strategy. Apply a strategic and a risk-based lens

to get an objective view on how to plan and prioritize future needs and begin to map out an action plan for your workforce strategy.

Topics

- Examine internal and external workforce drivers
- Identify future workforce needs and assess potential gaps
- Assess vulnerability and criticality of positions
- Develop an action plan to address workforce priorities

Julie Ryan, Managing Partner, Aether Advisors, LLC

Assessing the Value and Potential Disruption of Distributed Energy Resources



Approved for 3.5 hours Utility Board Training

.3 CEUs / 3.25 PDHs / 3.8 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 606-607

As consumers, developers, and utilities deploy smaller, often variable, energy sources such as solar and wind, these distributed resources have become integral to how utilities manage their local distribution systems. As behind-the-meter installation becomes easier, utilities' work to ensure proper interconnection and management of these assets becomes more complex. Learn more about how different types of resources, including microgrids and battery storage systems, can affect everything from electrical safety to power quality, regulatory compliance, and utility cost allocation and rates. Explore the steps to conducting a comprehensive impact analysis and system study, including technical concerns to be aware of and tools to assess the potential strategic value of DERs.

Topics

- Types and characteristics of distributed energy resources
- Potential issues for public power systems (safety, regulatory compliance, rate pressure)
- Technical concerns with the interconnection of DERs
- Impact analysis and distribution system study tools
- DER strategic value and business case

Joni Batson, P.E., Vice President, Emerging Technologies, and **Joseph Blackwell**, Director, Digital Utility Organization—Leidos; and **John Miner**, P.E., President, Collaborative Learning

Power Up Your Financial Policies



Approved for 3.5 hours Utility Board Training

.3 CEUs / 3.25 PDHs / 3.8 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 608-609

Utilities across the country are seeing a rise in rate challenges, exacerbating

already tight margins and increasing expenses. Discover ways to tighten up policies and rate methodologies to help ensure equitable rate recovery and avoid rate challenges. Discuss the latest trends and practices for areas such as cash reserves, capital plans, inside and outside city rates, contributed capital on grant funds, allocation studies, and payments in lieu of taxes. Review how other utilities are handling common issues and what strategies you can take home to meet your key financial targets.

Topics

- Trends in utility rate design
- Common pitfalls in rate challenges
- Finding and fixing vulnerable financial areas
- Best financial policy practices

Mark Beauchamp, President, **Dawn Lund**, Vice President, and **Chris Lund**, Financial, Business & Technology Consultant, Utility Financial Solutions

11 am – Noon

PMA Task Force Meeting

Room: 618

Noon – 1:30 pm

Joint Action Agencies Meeting

Room: 6E

1:30 – 5 pm

Preconference Seminars

Inspired Public Service: Excellence in Public Power Leadership



Approved for 3.5 hours Utility Board Training

.3 CEUs / 3.25 PDHs / 3.8 CPEs, Personal Development

Room: 602-604

The American public's faith in its government, and government employees, is eroding to crisis levels. Leaders in public service entities have an opportunity to help turn this around through fostering organizational cultures that cause employees to bring their full heart as well as their brains to work. Join current and aspiring public power leaders and policymakers to learn how to create outcomes that produce high customer and community satisfaction. Grow your leadership skills to improve your effectiveness as a public power executive or policymaker, while also increasing your personal satisfaction as a public sector leader. Learn a systemic approach to driving the concept of leading through serving the public interest to improve confidence in your organization, generate pride, improve efficiency and effectiveness, increase employee satisfaction and retention, and support greater public satisfaction.

Topics

- Engaging mission, vision and values

- Defining strategy and translating into action
- Breaking down silos through a decision-making framework
- Installing useful accountability
- Promoting ethics
- Facilitating broad-based solutions
- Developing communication skills

Steve Wright, *CEO, Inspired Public Service (retired CEO of Chelan Public Utility District, Washington)*

Preparing for an Electric Vehicle-Driven Grid

.3 CEUs / 3.25 PDHs / 3.8 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 606-607

Electric vehicles are officially moving from early adoption to mainstream – but the electric grid is still catching up. Review how to translate the latest market forecasts into a realistic adoption scenario in your community, and what you need to know to accurately project the resulting energy and capacity needs. Discuss how you can prepare for and manage potential grid impacts, from resource planning considerations to developing transportation-specific rates and service policies. Review the basic building blocks of how to plan for load growth related to electric vehicle charging—including plotting out likely load growth, expected load shapes, and ideal locations for light, medium, and heavy-duty vehicle charging.

Topics

- Latest EV market forecasts
- Trends in charging infrastructure
- Forecasting and planning EV-related load growth
- Strategies for mitigating and modifying demand from charging

Bill Boyce, *Principal, Bill Boyce Consulting, LLC (retired from Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California)*

Best Practices in Public Power Governance



Approved for 3.5 hours Utility Board Training

.3 CEUs / 3.25 PDHs / 3.8 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 608-609

If you're like most utility governance officials, you must quickly learn the roles, responsibilities, and expectations that come with the job. Board or city council members, especially new appointees, will get a comprehensive overview of public power and the duties, responsibilities, and legal obligations of people in the governing board. Review the nuts and bolts of governance requirements, such as open meetings and records, fiduciary responsibilities, charters and bylaws, conflicts of interest, and interaction with regulatory agencies. Learn what you can do to encourage effective board meetings and communication

between board members, staff, and stakeholders. Swap strategies for successful board operations and learn techniques for board development.

Topics

- Understanding the public power model
- Duties and obligations of governing board members
- Common challenges and sticky situations for board members
- Making the most of your experience

Steve VanderMeer, *Executive Consultant (retired from Hometown Connections, Inc.)*

2 – 4 pm

Advisory Committee Meeting

[Room: 6E](#)

5 – 6 pm

Women in Public Power Reception

[Room: 611-612](#)

Join the women thought leaders, policymakers, and innovators shaping public power for networking and drinks. Make new friends, share stories, and enjoy great conversations.

5 – 6 pm

PowerPAC Reception (*PowerPAC members only*)

[Room: 613-614](#)

6 – 7:30 pm

Welcome Reception

[6ABC Ballroom](#)

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and drinks while you reconnect with old friends, meet new people, and network with other public power leaders. All conference participants and guests are welcome.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Monday, June 19


7:15 – 8:15 am	Morning Conversations
8:30 – 10:30 am	Opening General Session
10:30 am – 6 pm	Industry Innovations Expo
11 am – Noon	Breakout Sessions
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Breakout Sessions
3 – 4 pm	Breakout Sessions
4:30 – 6 pm	Industry Innovations Expo Reception

7 am – 6 pm **Registration & Information Desk**
[6ABC Lobby](#)

7:15 – 8:15 am **Morning Conversations**
Continental breakfast will be served.

- Advocating for Public Power [Room: 620](#)
- Moving Public Power Forward [Room: 615-616](#)
- Strengthening Grid Security [Room: 618-619](#)
- Promoting Organizational Excellence [Room: 617](#)

8:30 – 10:30 am **Opening General Session**

 **Approved for 2 hours Utility Board Training**
.2 CEUs / 2 PDHs / 2.4 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge
[6ABC Ballroom](#)

Welcome

Debra Smith, General Manager/CEO, Seattle City Light, Washington

An Insider's View of Politics and Personalities in the News

Jessica Yellin, Award-winning Journalist and Former CNN Chief White House Correspondent and author of *SAVAGE NEWS*, a novel.

Whether from sitting down with the newsmakers – including former President Barack Obama and Mrs. Obama, Anthony Fauci, and Meghan the Duchess of Sussex – or reporting on the most impactful news of the day as an Emmy, Peabody and Gracie Award winning political correspondent, Jessica Yellin has been dedicated to giving the audience information, not a panic attack. Now as the founder of News Not Noise, an independent digital media brand, Yellin shares her take on current political events and how people can shape the news for better or worse.

10:30 am – 6 pm **Industry Innovations Expo open**
Hall 4A

10:30 – 11 am **Break with Sponsors**
Industry Innovations Expo
Hall 4A

11 am – Noon **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

1. **Building Pride in Public Service**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training
.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Personal Development
Room: 611

Instilling a culture that builds pride, meaning, and purpose can lead to higher levels of motivation and commitment. Learn what opportunities public power leaders have to improve organizational effectiveness through driving a culture of inspired public service, including how to continuously connect the dots between daily tasks and greater community impact.

Steve Wright, CEO, *Inspired Public Service* (retired CEO of Chelan Public Utility District, Washington)

2. **How Not to Lose Institutional Knowledge**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training
.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Personnel/Human Resources
Room: 606

Knowledge transfer happens from individual to individual – knowledge retention captures key information in a way that benefits the organization. Learn how your organization can improve knowledge retention, including strategies for successfully engaging employees, best practices for storing and organizing key information, and tips for setting up smooth and seamless processes to capture intel.

Julie Ryan, Managing Partner, Aether Advisors, LLC

3. **Preserving and Sharing Utility History**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training
.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge
Room: 607

Telling your utility's story is important to preserving its legacy among your workforce and within your community. While many public power utilities have

built up a long tradition of serving their communities, the connection of the community to the utility's past often wanes along with the years. Hear how one utility uncovered some wonderful history and a public power legacy that the whole community could embrace. Learn what they are doing to share that history, so the next generation understands the true value of public power.

Justin Alberty, *Corporate Communications Director, Grand River Dam Authority, Oklahoma*

4. **Keeping the Lights On**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 608

As the threat landscape continues to evolve, the electricity industry must be ready to address an increasingly complex set of cyber and physical security threats, vulnerabilities, and incidents. Join a discussion about today's current threat environment, and learn how the E-ISAC is working with industry and government partners to increase awareness, share critical information to reduce risk and improve industry's collective defense.

Manny Cancel, *CEO, Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC)*

5. **Renewed Approaches for Renewable Energy**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 609

Transitioning the energy system to more clean energy sources requires researching how viable new technologies and approaches can be at scale, including how they can best integrate with other carbon-free generating resources. Learn how two utilities – one using utility-scale solar on landfills and another converting coal plants to run on fuel pellets made from clean industrial paper and plastic waste – embraced partnerships and what conditions allow for these technologies to be replicated. Also review how to position hydropower assets as a critical component to keeping the electric system reliable and affordable within clean energy mandates.

Troy Adams, *General Manager, Manitowoc Public Utilities, Wisconsin*; and **Kurt Miller**, *Executive Director, Northwest River Partners, Portland, Oregon*

6. **Preparing for Utility Fleet Electrification**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 602-603

If you've considered electrifying your fleet – or your city is discussing the possibility – learn the ins and outs of what it takes to properly procure and manage an electrified fleet of vehicles. Review what you need to know before you make the plunge into operating an EV fleet, including how to make sure your facilities are prepared.

Peter King, Business Development Manager – Utilities, and **Dr. Bashir Siddiqui**, Utility Business Development Manager, Western U.S., ABB E-mobility Inc.

7. **Federal Legislative Update: From Congress to Your Community**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 613-614

Hear what's happening in Congress this year on issues that impact public power and your utility, including implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and legislative activity on permitting reform, supply chain challenges, and grid security. Discover how you can add your voice and show Congress the power and needs of your community.

John Godfrey, Senior Government Relations Director, **Amy Thomas**, Vice President, Government Relations, and **Desmarie Waterhouse**, Senior Vice President, Advocacy & Counsel, American Public Power Association

8. **Financing Municipal Broadband Networks**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 612

Learn practical steps to getting the financing necessary to move your municipal broadband project forward, from how to navigate various funding sources to defining rate structures and completing a competitive market analysis. Connect with utility leaders who have deployed municipal broadband networks to discuss the successes and challenges of raising capital for your own build, and how to make sure your planning reflects the actual costs you will incur.

Angela Bennink, General Manager, PUD No 1 of Kitsap County, Washington; **Tom Coverick**, Managing Director, Digital Infrastructure/Municipal Broadband,

KeyBank; **Heather Burnett Gold**, Vice President, External Affairs, Mears Group; **Kimberly McKinley**, Chief Marketing Officer, UTOPIA Fiber; and **Scott Menhart**, Chief Technology & Information Officer, Traverse City Light & Power, Michigan

9. **Path to the Future: A Roadmap for Future Financial Success**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 604

Changing economic conditions can make it difficult for utilities to navigate the financial road ahead. Utility growth and customer satisfaction are reliant on the governing body's approved policies and strategies, which may require adoption or updating to ensure future financial stability. Get a checklist of policies and strategies to ensure your utility is on the road to financial success, including, identifying how much cash should be maintained, distinguishing appropriate investment in infrastructure, providing cost-effective rebates, and adopting rate structures to help both customers and the utility lower electric costs.

Mark Beauchamp, President, **Dawn Lund**, Vice President, and **Chris Lund**, Financial, Business & Technology Consultant, Utility Financial Solutions

Noon – 1:30 pm

Lunch (on your own)

1:30 – 2:30 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1. **Strengthening Collaboration and Group Dynamics**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Personnel/Human Resources

Room: 612

New work norms and habits picked up the past few years have changed – and often undermined – efforts to engage with others and promote collaboration within our workplace culture. Get ideas on how to break the routine and build community within your organization, not in restoring past activities but through focusing on the distinctiveness of the people involved and what motivates and inspires them to engage. Explore what makes our interactions important and how you can create more meaningful dialogue to create impactful exchanges.

Dr. Trish Holliday, Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Services, Nashville Electric Service, Tennessee

2. **Fostering Energy Literacy in Young People**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 609

Get an inside look at the results of the National Energy Literacy Survey, which measured high school seniors and juniors' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors regarding energy. Then discuss opportunities for providing K-12 energy education, including available resources to boost energy literacy, as well as fostering optimism regarding the energy literacy of young people entering adulthood.

Gary Swan, Senior Vice President & Chief Marketing Officer, National Energy Foundation

3. **Collaborating with Tribes on Hydropower Relicensing and Licensing**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 611

In addition to being a critical backbone for electricity production in the U.S., North American rivers have economic, cultural, and spiritual significance to many tribes and first nations. As hydropower operators seek new and manage existing licenses on these facilities, collaborating with affected tribes and first nations is not only a best practice for involving your community, it is increasingly a regulatory requirement. Explore a tribal perspective in natural resource decision-making, including the important protocols for early and continuous collaboration with tribes and the layers of influence and authority that tribes can exert in regulatory processes. Share examples of how such collaboration has occurred in your community and bring your questions on how to build better, proactive relationships.

Michael Kern, Principal, Michael Kern Consulting, LLC; **Matt Love**, Partner, Cascadia Law Group; and **Tim Reynon**, Tribal Relations Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations, City of Seattle, Washington

4. **Disaster Response: Working with State and Federal Partners**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 608

Meet the federal and state government leaders involved in grid resilience and how different agencies can help your utility following a disaster. Bring your

questions on securing grant funding, planning, preparedness, and response to hear directly from the panelists on how utilities can expect to work with each partner.

Sammy Brunson, Director, Office of Business, Industry, and Infrastructure Integration, Federal Emergency Management Administration; **Dan Lauf**, Energy Program Director, National Governor's Association; **Brandi Martin**, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Program Manager, Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER), U.S. Department of Energy; and **William (Brad) Richy**, Director, Idaho Office of Emergency Management

5. **Bringing Energy Storage to Scale**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 613-614

As more public power utilities weigh the technical feasibility of implementing energy storage technologies, some common lessons in deploying and operationalizing these technologies have emerged. Hear from a panel of public power utilities about how storage projects have enhanced their organizational capacities, what factors they considered in weighing the benefits and costs of energy storage technologies, and how their implementation went. Also provide input on the energy storage maturity framework for public power utilities that is in development.

Kyle Brown, Electric Planning Engineer, Greenville Utilities Commission, North Carolina; and **Emmanuel Taylor**, Senior Energy Consultant, Beach Reach Consulting Group

6. **Developing an Astute Electric Vehicle Strategy**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 602-603

Hear how Nashville Electric Service formulated its comprehensive business strategy for vehicle electrification, including assessing the state of vehicle electrification in its service area, conducting workshops and stakeholder interviews to define a desired future state, performing a gap analysis, and setting attainable short-term and long-term goals. Discuss how considerations such as state and federal targets, automaker electrification goals, availability of grant funding, and community-specific needs can shape a utility's EV roadmap or planning process.

Joni Batson, Vice President, Emerging Technologies for Power Delivery Systems,

and **Joseph Blackwell**, Director, Energy Solutions, Leidos

7. Ready for Environmental Regulations



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 606

As federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency have outlined an ambitious regulatory agenda, utilities need to know how any potential new rules will govern future operations related to permitting, greenhouse gas emissions, water and air quality, and PFAS and other industrial chemicals. Get the latest look at the administration's regulations agenda, review the implications of rulings from the Supreme Court regarding clean water and other environmental issues, and discuss how public power can brace for these changes and embrace potential opportunities that arise.

Carolyn Slaughter, Senior Director, Environmental Policy, American Public Power Association

8. Rating Agency Outlook for Public Power



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 607

Get the inside scoop on how Fitch, Moody's, and Standard & Poor rate your credit and municipal bond issues directly from representatives from all three agencies. Learn how each views the latest global trends and utility threats as working for and against public power – and your utility's - financial strength in a competitive market. Discuss the steps your boards and managers should take to put your utility in the best position to raise capital.

David Bodek, Senior Director, S&P Global Ratings; **Clifford Kim**, Vice President – Senior Credit Officer, Moody's Investors Service; and **Kathy Masterson**, Senior Director, Fitch Ratings

9. Managing Hyperinflation in the Solar Market

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 604

Learn how risk is shifting given hyperinflation. Discover trends in new contractual provisions to mitigate supply chain risks, hear an overview of the current state of supply chains, and learn about cost projections for solar given current conditions and inflation. You'll also hear about new changes to

incentives through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), how to take advantage of direct-pay provisions, and innovative approaches to deploying solar, such as generator replacement interconnection requests.

Sterling Root, Associate Director, Business Development, and ***John Shultzabarger***, Senior Director, Power Marketing, EDF Renewables

2:30 – 3 pm

Break with Sponsors
Industry Innovations Expo
[Hall 4A](#)

3 – 4 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1. **Level Up Your Community Engagement with Social Media**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Communications & Marketing

Room: 612

Social media is ever-changing and requires constant attention to effectively connect with those we want to reach. Learn from a panel of your public power peers how they have successfully cut through the noise to get their messages across with award-winning results. Hear best practices and suggestions for leaders and communicators at utilities and joint action agencies to make the most of their social media presence. Explore how to measure your social media results and report them in a relevant and effective manner.

Chuck Allen, Senior Manager of External Affairs & Communications, Grant County PUD, Washington; ***Lisa Miller***, Manager of Communications & Economic Development, Alabama Municipal Electric Authority; and ***Lacy Stockton***, Energy Efficiency Marketing Strategist, Chelan County PUD, Washington

2. **Creating a Talent Pipeline**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Personnel/Human Resources

Room: 611

With a competitive labor market, fewer individuals pursuing careers in the utility industry, and an increasingly high volume of employees nearing eligibility for retirement, succession and workforce planning is vital to continuity of business operations and the ongoing success of public power utilities. It creates a culture to attract, develop, and retain top-notch talent. Learn strategies for

identifying high-potential employees, developing top talent, and building on internal strengths to create a talent pipeline.

Isaac Bales, Manager, and Allison LeMay, Consulting Manager, Baker Tilly

3. Embracing Environmental Justice and Equity



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 604

As public power utilities transition to cleaner and non-emitting generation technologies, there are opportunities to further engage with communities who have been disproportionately affected by developments in the past. Engaging these communities in the thoughtful design and implementation of new technologies, policies, business models, processes, and programs can deliver more equitable environmental benefits, economic opportunities, and innovation. Learn what utilities are doing to reduce emissions impacts on specific communities and equitably distribute costs and opportunities in their long-term planning.

Wilbourne “Skip” Markham, P.E., Senior Manager, EMS and Regulatory Affairs, Environmental and Energy Policy, Tennessee Valley Authority; and Seema Ghosh, Manager, T&D Innovation & Asset Management, Tacoma Power, Washington

4. Protecting Grid Infrastructure



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 602-603

In the wake of several high-profile attacks, communities are curious to know how secure the electric grid and their power supply is from harm. Get a briefing on the type and shifting nature of incidents targeting utilities and learn what you can do to protect your assets, including substations, transmission, and distribution lines. Also learn what steps to take to coordinate with law enforcement and keep the community informed should your system experience an attack.

Dr. Ryan Donaghy, Associate Director for Planning and Innovation, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), U.S. Department of

*Homeland Security; and **Jeannette McMillian**, Assistant Director, Supply Chain and Cyber Directorate, National Counterintelligence and Security Center*

5. **Getting the Most Value from Customer Data**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 608

One of the key features of advanced metering infrastructure is that it produces data – a lot of data. Among all that information lies valuable insight about how your customers use electricity, which utilities can analyze to better target programs and services, improve efficiency, and more. Learn how one utility is leveraging a data service to mine value from its AMI and customer data, what bumps in the road it encountered in making the data actionable, and plans for the future.

***David Dubowsky**, Enterprise Data & Analytics Technology Manager, Nebraska Public Power District; and **Dr. Elizabeth Massey**, Director, Data Dynamics & Strategic Innovations, The Energy Authority*

6. **Developing Community Solar Programs**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 613-614

Setting up a community solar project requires careful study and review from many angles – the right site, ownership and subscription models, community outreach and education, financing, and more. Review how the Department of Energy's National Community Solar Partnership can assist your utility in the decision-making process, including what tools can help you analyze and form the right strategy for your community, and insights from public power utilities on how to make the most of this assistance.

***Hannah Mulroy**, Energy Portfolio Development Manager, Longmont Power & Communications, Colorado; and **Paul Zummo**, Director, Research & Development, American Public Power Association*

7. **What We've Learned about IIJA Funding So Far**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 609

Get an update on how funding stemming from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has rolled out compared to what was initially expected, including where opportunities for grid resiliency, physical and cybersecurity, and electric

and hydrogen vehicle fueling infrastructure stand. Review any early lessons learned from the first round of funding doled out and get tips on how utilities and local governments can best leverage the funding to accomplish their goals.

***Drs. Brooke Opel and Miranda Wojciechowski**, Grant Advisors, Baker Tilly*

8. **Broadband as an Extension of Your Utility**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 606

Utilities have been deploying fiber deeper into their electric system for several years and might now have the excess capacity or ability to expand that fiber to support broadband services. Learn about the options utilities have in terms of partnerships and business models for rolling out broadband and hear about the pros and cons of different approaches from utilities who have made different models work for their communities. Discuss the steps required to institute the new service no matter which path you take.

***Annette Creekpau**m, General Manager, Mason County PUD, Washington; **Bob Knight**, President & CEO, Harrison Edwards; **Kimberly McKinley**, Chief Marketing Officer, UTOPIA Fiber; and **Scott Menhart**, Chief Technology & Information Officer, Traverse City Light & Power, Michigan*

9. **New Nuclear for Public Power**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 607

Advancements in nuclear power have greatly expanded the potential customer base. As a result, access to new nuclear is within reach for public power at all scales. This panel will bring together experts to discuss new nuclear reactor designs, how advanced nuclear can fit with public power, and resources available to customers interested in deploying these new reactors. The session will be a mix of presentation and Q&A, so come ready for an exciting discussion.

***Mason Baker**, CEO & General Manager, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems; **Thomas Kent**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Nebraska Public Power District; **John Kotek**, Senior Vice President, Policy Development and Public Affairs, Nuclear Energy Institute; and **Bob Schuetz**, CEO, Energy Northwest*

4:30 – 6 pm

Industry Innovations Expo Reception

[Hall 4A](#)

Unwind over drinks as you connect with industry suppliers, vendors, and consultants and discover how they can help your organization succeed. Enjoy some down time with colleagues.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday, June 20


7:15 – 8:15 am	Morning Conversations
8:30 – 10:30 am	Awards & General Session
10:30 am – 3 pm	Industry Innovations Expo
11 am – Noon	Breakout Sessions
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Breakout Sessions
3 – 4:15 pm	General Session
4:30 – 5:30 pm	APPA Business Meeting
7:30 pm	Special Event

7 am – 6 pm **Registration & Information Desk**
6ABC Lobby

7:15 – 8:15 am **Morning Conversations**
Continental breakfast will be served.

- Small Utilities [Room: 620](#)
- Large Utilities [Room: 615-616](#)
- Women in Public Power [Room: 617](#)
- Governing Board/Elected Officials [Room: 618-619](#)

8:30 – 10:30 am **Awards & General Session**

 **Approved for 2 hours Utility Board Training**
.2 CEUs / 2 PDHs / 2.4 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge
6ABC Ballroom

Welcome

Presentation of National Awards

Recognizing excellence in public power leadership

IRA Renewable Incentives

Andy Berke, Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Navigating the Not-Normal Economy

Ron Insana, CNBC Senior Analyst and Commentator; Trailblazing Financial Journalist; Bestselling Author; Financial Professional

Communities across the U.S. and the world are learning how to manage amid economic turmoil – rising from global political instability, rapid inflation, and broken supply chains. Gain insight into the market signals and political

maneuvers that are affecting our economy so that you can navigate through the noise and keep your utility as well-positioned as possible. Insana is host of a nationally syndicated daily radio show and a senior analyst and commentator for CNBC and the author of *Traders' Tales*, *The Message of the Markets*, *TrendWatching* and most recently *How to Make a Fortune from the Biggest Bailout in U.S. History: A Guide to the 7 Greatest Bargains from Main Street to Wall Street*.

10:30 am — 3 pm **Industry Innovations Expo Open**
[Hall 4A](#)

10:30 – 11 am **Break with Sponsors**
Industry Innovations Expo
[Hall 4A](#)

11 am – Noon **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

1. **The Power of Example**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Personal Development

[Room: 607](#)

Of the many reasons local governments and public power utilities might face retention and recruitment challenges, demonstrating inspired leadership might be one of the most straightforward ways to solve the problem. Gain insight from other public power leaders on how you can develop into a person people want to follow, whether that's in how you engage with your board, employees, city leaders or community.

James Albright, City Manager, City of Acworth, Georgia; and Jim Stawicki, General Manager, Sturgeon Bay Utilities, Wisconsin

2. **Centering DEI as a Retention Strategy**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Personnel/Human Resources

[Room: 604](#)

Utilities are facing an aging workforce and increased competition for talent. It is necessary, then, for public power utilities to actively seek to attract and retain a highly skilled, diverse workforce to ensure long-term continuity. Review the business case for embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion and learn what

strategies you can deploy to attract, develop, and retain a skilled workforce that is reflective of the community you serve.

Dr. Vernon Woodley, *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Specialist, Lansing Board of Water & Light, Michigan*

3. Modern Municipalization Efforts



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 611

Get an update on the status of various municipalization efforts across the country and discuss how the various motivations behind these movements affects public perception about your utility. Hear directly from representatives from communities interested in the public power business model, including what benefits they hope to achieve, and how you can utilize this information to demonstrate the value of public power to your community and stakeholders.

Barbara Hale, *Assistant General Manager for Power Policy & Planning, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, California*; and **Peter Rietkerk**, *General Manager, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, California*

4. How to Develop a Supply Chain Cybersecurity Risk Management Program



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Management Services

Room: 602-603

The vendors who provide products and services to public power utilities and their associated municipalities offer valuable services but can pose significant cyber risk to your organization. Gain pragmatic guidance and a program framework to address – and mitigate – risks stemming from your supply chain.

Connell Price, *Vice President, Information Technology, ElectricCities of North Carolina, Inc.*; and **Doug Westlund**, *Senior Vice President, AESI-US, Inc.*

5. Research, Reliability, and Resilience: Building the Modern Utility



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 609

Explore the suite of tools and resources designed to help you transform your utility into the one your community expects and deserves in the 21st century. Learn how programs – from the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) to Smart Energy Provider (SEP) and Demonstration of Energy and Efficiency Developments (DEED) – can provide you with the insight needed to prioritize system improvements, help you benchmark your practices, and transfer key findings about how to apply the latest technology in a public power setting.

Troy Adams, General Manager, Manitowoc Public Utilities, Wisconsin; **Kyle Roadman**, General Manager, Emerald People's Utility District, Oregon; **Grant Roberson**, Energy Services Manager, Wilson Energy, North Carolina; and **Paul Zummo**, Director, Research & Development, American Public Power Association

6. Exploring Utility and Transit Partnerships

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 606

Learn how Seattle City Light is working with its transit local system, King County Metro, on innovative technologies to support transportation electrification and implement its key priority of zero emissions by 2035. Explore why Seattle sees electrification as a major tool in decarbonization of the transportation system, and how the partnership offers opportunities to address environmental, economic, and social inequities in the city.

Lucie Huang, Strategic Technology & Electrification Engineer, Seattle City Light, Washington; and **Wendy Cho-Ripp**, Utilities & Resiliency Strategist, King County Metro, Washington

7. How to Get Federal and State Funding Related to Natural Disasters



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 608

When your community is working to rebuild following a natural disaster or hardening your system to be more resilient after any future disasters, your team should ensure you aren't leaving money on the table that could support these efforts. Hear from Washington State and Mason County PUD 1 public power utility about their experience in reimbursement after a disaster and acquiring grants to support grid resiliency and mitigate the consequences of future disasters.

Katie Arnold, District Treasurer and Director of Business Services, Mason County PUD, Washington; and **Kirsten Zerbe**, Public Assistance Program Closeout Manager, Emergency Management Division, State of Washington

8. **The New Global Paradigm for Natural Gas**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 613-614

Get a global view of how the natural gas market is changing and has changed, and then examine how different regions of the U.S. are affected by these fluctuations. Discuss how natural gas supply, demand, and transport infrastructure in each region affect public power's ability to plan for and deliver reliable, affordable electricity.

Michael Gehring, Director, Portfolio Management & Analytics, The Energy Authority

9. **Find the Right Meter Data Management Solution for You: What To Look For, What To Consider, What To Avoid**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 612

Metering has evolved from being a single component of the revenue cycle for meter-to-cash use cases to being an enterprise function that supports multiple core business processes providing operational benefits. Utilities of all types want to be more actionable with their data through service order automation, remote actions, and more. As a result, some multi-commodity utilities are stuck implementing separate AMI networks/systems for each commodity. However, this approach is not feasible nor is it sustainable. For utilities undergoing digital transformation having the Meter Data Management (MDM) solution to drive mission-critical operations and new customer-focused solutions is crucial. Join Snohomish PUD and Siemens Grid Software as they discuss: mitigating long-term risks of vendor lock; perceived benefits of an MDMS affiliated with a CIS/AMI system; supporting complex rates, billing determinants, and systems versus a vendor agnostic MDMs; and water use cases through Tacoma Water including consumption forecasting, water quality management and reporting, and backflow/reverse flow detection.

Marc Rosson, Enterprise Architect, Snohomish County Public Utility District, Washington; and **Jim Taylor**, Vice President of Energy Solutions, Siemens Grid Software US

Noon – 1:30 pm

Industry Innovations Expo Lunch

Hall 4A

1:30 – 2:30 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1. Strategic Planning That Sticks



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Business Management & Organization

Room: 602-603

Outlining your utility's path to continued success or transformation in a strategic plan is only the first step. Leaders are charged with turning the plan into action – and keeping it from sitting on the proverbial shelf gathering dust. Explore the steps utilities have taken to invigorate the strategic planning process, including communicating the plan, creating action plans, developing accountability for implementation, and providing periodic progress reports.

David Koster, General Manager, Holland Board of Public Works, Michigan; and
Lynne Tejeda, General Manager and CEO, Keys Energy Services, Florida

2. Next Gen Power Plants for a Clean, Reliable Grid

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 609

The energy landscape is rapidly changing. Thanks to cost reductions and technological advancements, renewable energy is taking its place as a mature energy source. Next generation power production is not only clean, but smart, responsive, reliable and designed to meet specific load requirements. This session will explore new solar energy offerings for utilities and load serving entities looking to optimize their renewables portfolio. Join us to learn about power plants designed for collocation with energy intensive loads and innovative contracting structures that allow for export to the grid during periods of high demand. We'll also cover shaped Virtual PPAs including the "7x16" financial block structure.

Luke Hansen, Vice President of Products, Plant Technology, **Jamie Link**, Vice President of Product Management, Market Technologies, and **Carl Stills**, Vice President, Storage Integration, Avantus (formerly 8minute)

3. How Customer Engagement Can Lead to Success



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Communications & Marketing

Room: 604

Public power utilities pride ourselves on openness and transparency. Public meetings and other venues offer the opportunity for valuable feedback and

engagement and to address misinformation or contentious issues head on. Learn strategies to establish your utility's community-oriented posture, create a sense of ownership for customers, and pave the way for getting resource plans and rate increases approved. Review how to write a communication plan, distill complex information into understandable concepts, and deal with misinformation. Share your best practices for participating in community meetings.

Jenny Sparks, Manager of Customer Engagement, Benton PUD, Washington; and **Jeffrey Stewart**, Director, Lafayette Utilities System, Louisiana

4. **Keeping Your Small Utility Secure**



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 607

As cyber and physical security incidents against utilities get increasing attention, many utilities are reassessing efforts to mitigate affects to their systems.

Utilities serving smaller communities might not have as many resources in house to counter new threats as larger systems, but are deploying strategies to address threats and reduce risks. Connect with other smaller utilities to share ideas on addressing and strengthening your cybersecurity.

Jeffrey Fiegenschuh, City Manager, City of Rochelle, Illinois; **Ed Krieger**, Power System Director, Piqua Municipal Power System, Ohio; and **Nick Lawler**, General Manager, Littleton Electric Light & Water Departments, Massachusetts

5. **Urban Microgrids: Community Resiliency at Scale**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 608

In September of 2022, thousands of residents of Lodi, California lost power for roughly an hour during record-breaking heat. Incidents like this are becoming more frequent as the electric grid is met with growing demand and the integration of renewable energy sources. Walk through how the city evaluated solutions to prevent future blackouts and why it ultimately chose to develop an urban microgrid. Discuss how urban microgrids can help overcome challenges posed by the modern grid architecture.

Jim Barbour, Regional Vice President – Utility Sales, Enchanted Rock; and **Jeff**

Berkheimer, Electric Utility Director, Lodi Electric, California

6. **Managing Loads from Building and Transportation Electrification**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 613-614

The anticipated load growth from the electrification of buildings and the transportation sector provides both challenges and opportunities for electric utilities. Hear from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory about how it has modeled how utilities can manage peak demand with energy efficiency and demand flexibility, and get guidance from the Department of Energy on how utilities can leverage available tools to reduce uncertainty in forecasting load and develop next generation charging profiles.

Sean Murphy, Energy Policy Researcher, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

7. **Leveraging Federal Funding Opportunities with State Energy Offices**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 606

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act are infusing billions of dollars into grid resilience and modernization and other energy programs – with a big portion of the funds funneling through state energy offices. Get an update on state energy office activities and plans relevant to public power utilities, timelines for planning new projects, and trends in state priorities for the use of these funds. Most importantly, explore the opportunities public power utilities have in coordinating and collaborating with state governments on program rollout, whether on electric vehicle charging infrastructure, grid planning, residential beneficial electrification, and more.

Michael Furze, Assistant Director, Energy Division, Washington State Department of Commerce; and David Terry, President, National Association of State Energy Officials

8. **Examining Hydropower's Present and Future**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 611

Amid drought and other climate concerns, and considering cumbersome relicensing processes, many questions surround the long-term fate and role of hydroelectric dams. Get an update on how electric power dams have fared, what operational challenges they may face, and the outlook for how public power can rely on this critical resource in the future.

Nicholas Bond, Washington State Climatologist, University of Washington; and
Nancy Hirsh, Executive Director, Northwest Energy Coalition

9. **Community-Focused Broadband: Why Local Utilities Offer the Best Option for Closing the Digital Divide**

.1 CEUs / 1 PDH / 1.2 CPEs, Specialized Knowledge

Room: 612

What distinguishes a big-name broadband provider from a local utility that keeps the lights on? Accountability, government relations, existing infrastructure, and public interest, to name a few. Explore the critical role of utilities in closing the digital divide once and for all. Discuss the benefits—and challenges—that utilities may experience in providing broadband and how to navigate them. Get a better understanding of why local utilities are uniquely positioned to offer broadband to their communities and how you can make the most of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Patrick Reams, Vice President of Technology and Communications, Irby Utilities;
and **John Tait**, Director, North America, Biarri Networks

2:30 – 3 pm

Break with Sponsors

Industry Innovations Expo

Hall 4A

3 – 4:15 pm

General Session



Approved for 1 hour Utility Board Training

.1 CEUs / 1.25 PDH / 1.5 CPEs, Information Technology

6ABC Ballroom

The New Cyberthreat Landscape

Rachel Wilson, Director of Cybersecurity, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management;
Former Head of Counterterrorism Operations, National Security Agency

As energy infrastructure of all kinds has become an increasing target and geopolitical asset, the types of cyberattacks and nature of the attackers utilities are facing has changed. Get an insider's briefing on how the threat landscape has transformed and how utilities and communities should respond accordingly. Wilson will share her unique insights into how we can best defend ourselves in an increasingly hostile cyberenvironment.

4:30 – 5:30 pm

Association Business Meeting

[Room: 615-617](#)

Get reports from the board Treasurer on APPA's performance and financials and cast your vote on policy resolutions that will guide APPA's advocacy efforts for the coming year and for members to represent your region on the APPA Board of Directors. Each utility member must appoint a voting delegate for this meeting.

7 – 9 pm

Light Up Navajo Celebration

[Atrium Lobby \(Level 4\)](#)

Imagine life without electricity. For thousands of families on the Navajo Nation, this is their reality today. The Light Up Navajo initiative works to bring electricity to these families by connecting public power utilities who want to volunteer their services with electric line crews from the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. Join us for food, drinks, and live music as we recognize the utilities and individuals who have participated in this life-changing initiative.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, June 21

8 – 10:30 am. Chair's Breakfast & Closing General Session
10:30 am Adjourn

8 – 10:30 am

Chair's Breakfast & Closing General Session



Approved for 2 hours Utility Board Training
.2 CEUs / 2 PDHs / 2.4 CPEs, Personal Development
6ABC Ballroom

Chair's Breakfast

Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Please be seated by 8:30 a.m. for breakfast service.

Presiding

Anthony Cannon, General Manager/CEO, Greenville Utilities Commission, North Carolina

Installation of the 2023-24 Board Chair

David Osburn, General Manager, Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority

Being in Charge: Lessons from Our Military Leaders

Rick Atkinson, Pulitzer-Prize Winning Author and Military Historian

Get a guided profile of prominent military leaders from bestselling author and historian Rick Atkinson, including what key lessons from their successes and failures can translate to your leadership. A three-time Pulitzer Prize winner and former Washington Post journalist, Atkinson shares the compelling findings from his works, which have ranged from the American Revolution to the liberation of Europe in World War II to the Persian Gulf War, and from his experience spending two months with General David H. Petraeus during the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

10:30 am

Conference Adjourns

Book Signing

6AB Lobby

Rick Atkinson will be available to sign books immediately following the closing general session.