



NECPUC 74th Symposium
Ocean Edge Resort, Brewster, Massachusetts *and virtual*
May 22-25, 2022
Program of Events

Sunday May 22, 2022

- 5:45p.m. ***Pre-dinner Reception***
Sponsored by Pierce Atwood LLP, Womble Bond Dickinson LLP, and Day Pitney LLP
Location: Mansion Ocean Terrace
- 7:00p.m. ***Dinner***
Location: Mansion Front Lawn
- 8:15p.m. ***Dessert Reception***
Sponsored by Hewitt & Hewitt, National Association of Water Companies, and Nuclear Energy Institute
Location: Carriage House Addie Nickerson Room & Terrace

Monday May 23, 2022

- 7:30-8:45a.m. ***Breakfast***
Location: Mansion Front Lawn
- 9:00 ***Symposium Opens***
Hon. Matthew Nelson, Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, NECPUC President
- 9:15a.m. ***Welcome, Hon. Charlie Baker, Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts (virtual)***
Introduction by Hon. Matthew Nelson, Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, NECPUC President
Location: Mansion Ballroom



9:30a.m.

Keynote Address: Hon. Willie L. Phillips, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Moderated by Hon. Matthew Nelson, Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, NECPUC President

Location: Mansion Ballroom

10:15a.m.

Break

10:45a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

A. Solving the Transmission Challenge for Decarbonization

Transmission development is increasingly identified as necessary to meet climate and clean energy goals and to ensure that the region can weather the clean energy transition and remain resilient. However, issues such as where to site and how to pay for new transmission continue to create barriers. As the ISO's 2050 Transmission Study is finalized, FERC has issued a NOPR on transmission and DOE launches a new effort on transmission planning. Can these efforts help to break the logjam in our region? Discussion topics will include: How do we build more transmission outside of the traditional "need" and reliability frameworks? Who should pay for transmission? Can public support for new transmission be increased? Are we using our existing resources to their full potential? What can we learn from recently proposed projects?

Moderator: Hon. J. Riley Allen, Commissioner, Vermont Public Utilities Commission

Panelists: Johannes Pfeifenberger, Principal and Leader, Electricity Wholesale Markets & Planning, The Brattle Group

Vickie VanZandt, PE, NAE, LMIEEE, Transmission consultant, ISO New England Board Member

Bill Quinlan, President, Transmission and Offshore Wind Projects, Eversource Energy

Jared des Rosiers, Partner, Pierce Atwood LLP

Location: Mansion Ballroom

B. Achieving Water Equity in a Changing Climate

Access to safe, affordable, and reliable water service are key pillars of water regulation. Ensuring equitable access to all has gained increasing importance, often through the lens of increasing resiliency to a changing climate. Achieving these goals while addressing new challenges such as emerging contaminants and the inequities exposed by the pandemic will require creative approaches. This panel will explore how regulators, utilities, and advocates are working to achieve water equity.

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

Panelists: Scott Berry, Director, Policy and Government Affairs, US Water Alliance

Vandana M. Rao, Ph.D., Dir. of Water Policy, MA Exec. Office of Energy and Env. Affairs; Ex. Dir., Massachusetts Water Resources Commission

George S. Logan, Director of Community Relations, Aquarion Water Company

Location: Carriage House Addie Nickerson Room



12:15-1:15p.m.

Luncheon

Location: Mansion Front Lawn

1:15p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

A. Gas in a Net Zero World

Reaching Net Zero by 2050 requires momentous changes in the way we heat and power our economy. New England is on the cutting edge of developing a road map to achieve net zero on the thermal side, but how do we realistically achieve this ambitious goal as quickly as the climate crisis requires? Who pays, who benefits, and how we do achieve this goal equitably? The industry is developing proposals to meet this goal that include a continued role for existing infrastructure, but what other options exist that need to be explored? This panel will discuss alternative approaches and critique current proposals. Panelists will describe their vision of the future that meets net zero – with or without gas - and explore the challenges before us.

Moderator: Barbara Kates-Garnick, Professor of Practice, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Panelists: Amy Boyd, Director of Policy, Acadia Center

Nikki Bruno, Director, Clean Technologies, Eversource Energy

Charles Crews, President and CEO, Northeast Gas Association

Judith Judson, Head of US Strategy, National Grid

Rebecca Tepper, Bureau Chief, Energy and Environmental Bureau, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office

Jolette Westbrook, Senior Attorney, Equitable Regulatory Solutions, Environmental Defense Fund

Location: Mansion Ballroom

B. Innovations in Delivering Broadband Service

With the growing need for high-speed internet access to support economic, educational, health, and other vital activities, state and local governments are increasingly looking for new partnerships to expand access for their residents and businesses.

Investment in and ownership of broadband infrastructure by municipalities, utilities, electric co-ops, and other government entities is often identified as a potential solution. How are states and communities in the region approaching these options?

When does this make sense, and when might it not work? What are the barriers and opportunities? How can federal funding help to advance these efforts?

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

Panelists: Hon. Ashley Stolba, Undersecretary of Community Development, Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Robert Fish, Deputy Director, Vermont Community Broadband Board

Thomas Flaherty, General Manager, Westfield Gas + Electric and Whip City Fiber

William Harwood, Maine Public Advocate

Location: Carriage House Addie Nickerson Room



2:45p.m.

Break

Sponsored by Sense

3:15p.m.

Plenary Session

Decarbonization: Policies, Plans, and Progress

As we get all hands on deck to modernize our grid, increase resilience, and meet our carbon goals, what are the most promising approaches to achieving decarbonization? How do we ensure that new programs and technologies are available to all? How can we empower consumers and business to be more engaged in energy management and production? What are we learning as we explore options? Hear from leaders around the region working to transform our energy policies and programs.

Moderator: Janet Gail Besser, Managing Director, Smart Electric Power Alliance

Hon. Beth Card, Secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Hon. Marissa Paslick Gillett, Chairman, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Kenneth Kimmell, Vice President, Offshore Wind Development, Avangrid Renewables

Stephen Woerner, President, New England, National Grid

Location: Mansion Ballroom

4:45p.m.

Break

6:00 p.m.

Pre-dinner Reception

Sponsored by Retail Energy Supply Association and Robinson & Cole, LLP

Location: Mansion Ocean Terrace

7:00 p.m.

Dinner

Location: Mansion Front Lawn

8:15 p.m.

Dessert Reception

Sponsored by Northeast Gas Association

Location: Carriage House Addie Nickerson Room & Terrace



Tuesday May 24, 2022

7:30-8:45a.m.

Breakfast

Location: Mansion Front Lawn

7:30-8:45a.m.

Concurrent Telecom Breakfast

Join Commissioners, staff, and telecommunications professionals in discussing telecommunications issues and developments.

Location: TBD

9:15a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

A. Reliability: Past, Present and Future

In New England and globally, regulators, advocates, and industry are grappling with how to reliably and cost effectively address climate change while operating through increasingly frequent extreme weather events. This panel will explore the pressing questions facing our region as we transition to cleaner energy sources, yet struggle with new infrastructure proposals. What can we learn from our past efforts to implement changes in our energy systems? What efforts underway today seem most promising for meeting our goals in an uncertain future? What does the future hold under different paths forward? What role do we each play in achieving success? How do we ensure reliability in a rapidly evolving landscape, to deploy modern, equitable, and more flexible energy systems?

Moderator: Hon. Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairman, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission

Panelists: Hon. Patrick Woodcock, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources

Alicia Barton, CEO, First Light Power

Craig Hallstrom, President, Regional Electric Operations, Connecticut and Massachusetts, Eversource Energy

Doug Hurley, Icetec Energy Services

Gordon van Welie, President and CEO, ISO New England

Location: Mansion Ballroom



B. Closing the Gaps in Broadband Adoption

During the pandemic, the depth of the digital divide was revealed. To address gaps in broadband access and use, many are focused on “digital inclusion” – efforts focused on serving disadvantaged, unconnected community members through several approaches: affordable internet access, affordable devices, digital literacy training, and access to ongoing support. To implement these goals, programs such as the Affordable Connectivity Program have been created to provide access to eligible populations. What are the barriers to adoption, and to achieving “digital inclusion?” How are providers, policymakers and others in the region working to increase adoption? How can the region take advantage of the new federal funding and programs to address these challenges?

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

Panelists: Tim Graham, Vice President, External Affairs at NCTA - The Internet & Television Association

Amy Huffman, Policy Director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance

Teri Ohta, National Director, State Regulatory Affairs, T-Mobile

Trinity Thorpe-Lubneuski, Executive Director, Internet Essentials, Comcast

Location: Carriage House Addie Nickerson Room

10:45a.m.

Break

Sponsored by Edison Electric Institute

11:15a.m.

Plenary Session

Announcement of George Dunn Staff Award

Location: Mansion Ballroom

11:30a.m.

Plenary Session

Fireside Chat with Hon. Jeffrey N. Roy, Massachusetts State Representative, Chairperson, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, Hosted by Cheryl LaFleur, Chair, ISO New England Board of Directors

Location: Mansion Ballroom

12:15p.m.

Luncheon

Location: Mansion Front Lawn



1:15p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

A. Hot Topics in Wholesale/Regional Energy Issues

As the region continues to pursue the joint goals of reliability, cost effectiveness, and decarbonization, many efforts are underway to ensure successful achievement of all three. This panel will discuss a wide array of topics ranging from evolving transmission planning frameworks to market reforms set against the backdrop of the states' vision for a clean, affordable, and reliable 21st century regional electric grid. Regulators will share their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities ahead for their states and the region.

Moderator: Dan Dolan, President, New England Power Generators Association (NEPGA)

Panelists: Hon. Matthew Nelson, Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, NECPUC President

Hon. Philip L. Bartlett II, Chairman, Maine Public Utilities Commission

Hon. Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Hon. June E. Tierney, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Service

Location: Mansion Ballroom

B. The Power of ESG in Regulated Industries

“ESG” is a framework to integrate Environmental, Social and Governance risks and opportunities into businesses in order to achieve sustainability, drive economic vibrancy, and engage all stakeholders. With an increased emphasis on ESG policies and practices from regulators, investors, consumers, and others, how is ESG being applied in the regulatory space? Why is it important to understand ESG commitments of utilities and other industry stakeholders? What is the role of public participation in ESG? How can progress on ESG issues be measured and deepened over time? This panel will explore these questions and others, to help advance knowledge about this emerging field.

Moderator: Jeremy McDiarmid, Vice President, Policy & Government Affairs, Northeast Clean Energy Council

Panelists: Kerry Bowie, Founder, President and Executive Director, Browning the Green Space

Elin Swanson Katz, Director, Office of Public Participation, FERC

Catherine Finneran, Vice President, Sustainability and Environmental Affairs, Eversource Energy

Location: Carriage House Addie Nickerson Room

2:30p.m.

Break



3:00p.m.

Plenary Session

“Shark Tank” – Regulatory Style!

Join entrepreneurs and innovators as they present the latest and greatest in technological and programmatic advancements to meet our policy and regulatory goals. Learn about exciting new ideas and hear real-time feedback from a panel of “sharks” with exceptional regulatory, technology, and business expertise. At the end of the session the audience will have the opportunity to weigh in on the presentations.

Moderator: Hon. Matthew Nelson, Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, NECPUC President

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

Jennifer Daloisio, CEO, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

Margaret Downey, Administrator, Cape Light Compact

Gail Greenwald, Launchpad Venture Group

Thomas Williams, Vice President, Business Development, National Grid Partners

Contestants:

Rachel Wilson, Manager of Strategy and Market Development, Form Energy

Peter Olmsted, Director of Regulatory Affairs, FreeWire Technologies

Alex Houghtaling, Vice President, LineVision

Louis Desgrosseilliers, CEO, Neothermal Energy Storage

Scott Dimetrosky, Rolling Energy Resources

Mike Phillips, CEO, Sense

Stephen Conant, VP Commercial, VEIR

Location: Mansion Ballroom

4:30p.m.

Announcement of 2023 Symposium Location

Hon. Matthew Nelson, Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, NECPUC President

Hon. Anthony Z. Roisman, Chairman, Vermont Public Utilities Commissioner, NECPUC Vice President

Location: Mansion Ballroom