



NECPUC 77th Symposium Agenda – PLELIMINARY, SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa, Groton, CT

May 18-20, 2025

Panelists listed in alphabetical order.

Sunday, May 18

3:00-6:00 p.m. ***Registration Desk Open***

5:45 p.m. ***Pre-Dinner Reception***

Sponsored by Pierce Atwood LLP, Womble Bond Dickinson LLP, and Day Pitney LLP

7:00 p.m. ***Dinner***

8:00 p.m. ***Dessert Reception***

Sponsored by Hewitt & Hewitt, National Association of Water Companies, and Nuclear Energy Institute

Monday, May 19

7:00 a.m. ***Breakfast***

7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ***Registration Desk Open***

9:00 a.m.	<p><i>Symposium Opens</i> Welcoming remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Marissa Paslick Gillett, Chairman, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, NECPUC President • Hon. Ann E. Rendahl, Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, NARUC First Vice President
9:15 a.m.	<p><i>Remarks: Hon. Judy Chang, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission</i> Moderator: Hon. Marissa Paslick Gillett, Chairman, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority</p>
10:00 a.m.	<p><i>Break</i> Sponsored by Pullman & Comley, LLC and Connecticut Power & Energy Society</p>
10:30 a.m.	<p><i>Plenary Session</i></p> <p><i>Electric Rates and Affordability: Breaking it Down and Adding it Up</i> Moderator: Hon. Ronald T. Gerwadowski, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamie Dickerson, Senior Director, Clean Energy and Climate Programs, Acadia Center • Dan Dolan, President, New England Power Generators Association • Doug Horton, Vice President, Distribution Rates & Regulatory Requirements, Eversource Energy • Maggie Molina, Executive Director, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships
11:45 a.m.	<p><i>Remarks from Charles Dickerson, President and CEO, Northeast Power Coordinating Council</i></p>
12:00 p.m.	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
12:00 p.m.	<p><i>Concurrent lunch for NECPUC Retail Demand Response and Load Flexibility Working Group</i> (All symposium registrants are welcome to attend.)</p>
1:00-4:00 p.m.	<p><i>Registration Desk Open</i></p>
1:15 p.m.	<p><i>Concurrent Sessions</i></p> <p><i>The RPS in New England After 25 Years: Just Getting Started, or Time for Something Different?</i> Moderator: Hon. Patrick Scully, Commissioner, Maine Public Utilities Commission</p>

The RPS has been in place in New England for 25 years. How well has it worked to achieve its goals and has the cost been reasonable for the goals it has achieved? As we look forward to the next 25 years, given our clean energy goals, is the RPS still the most efficient mechanism to get there?

Panelists:

- **Ben Griffiths**, Vice President, Wholesale Market Policy, LS Power
- **Arne Olson**, Senior Partner, Energy + Environmental Economics (E3)
- **Hon. Ann Rendahl**, Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
- **Kathleen Spees**, Principal, Brattle Group

Natural Gas Future Pathways

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

There are strongly held opinions about the future of the natural gas system in New England. Should it stay? Should it go? If it goes, what then? This panel will discuss various scenarios and consider future pathways for our past, current, and future investments that provide residents and businesses with safe reliable heat and energy in a decarbonizing policy environment.

Panelists:

- **Zeyneb Magavi**, Executive Director, Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET)
- **Matt Nelson**, Principal, Apex Analytics
- **Cynthia Niemeyer-Tieskoetter**, Policy Advisor, Natural Gas Markets, American Petroleum Institute
- **Scott Reed**, Vice President, Regulatory & Business Affairs, Stone Mountain Technologies, Inc.

2:30 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Offshore Wind: Where are We Headed and How Quickly?

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

Panelists:

- **Carrie Hitt**, Senior Director, Grid and Transmission Policy, Vineyard Offshore
- **Hon. Elizabeth Mahony**, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
- **Al McBride**, Vice President of System Planning, ISO-New England
- **Rebecca Ullman**, Head of Stakeholders, Ocean Winds North America

Intervenor Funding: Valuing Participation and Addressing Concerns

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

Panelists:

- **Hon. Philip L. Bartlett II**, Chair, Maine Public Utilities Commission
- **Mireille Bejjani**, Co-Executive Director, Slingshot
- **Seth Berry**, Executive Director, Our Power
- **Jolette Westbrook**, Director and Senior Attorney, Energy Markets & Regulation, Environmental Defense Fund

4:30 p.m.

Ethics CLE session (optional)

Claire Coleman, JD, Connecticut Consumer Counsel

5:45 p.m.

Pre-dinner Reception

Sponsored by Retail Energy Supply Association, Robinson+Cole, LLP, and Americans for a Clean Energy Grid

7:00 p.m.

Dinner

8:00 p.m.

Dessert Reception

Sponsored by Edison Electric Institute

9:00 p.m.

Evening Reception

Sponsored by New England Connectivity and Telecommunications Association

Tuesday, May 20

7:00 a.m.

Breakfast

7:00 a.m.

Concurrent Telecom Breakfast

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

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

9:00 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Innovations and Trends in Electric Vehicle Rate Design

Moderator: Hon. Riley Allen, Commissioner, Vermont Public Utility Commission

Over the next 10 years, transportation electric loads in New England are expected to experience an almost 50-fold increase over 2024 levels. Uncontrolled electric vehicle (EV) loads risk precipitating unnecessary build-out of both the bulk transmission network and the distribution system. On the other hand, controlled EV loads offer a long list of benefits. Over the last decade, distribution utilities and vehicle manufacturers have gained a wealth of experience with rate design and the management of EV loads. These flexible loads should be managed for system and customer benefit. Our panel of experts will help inform the path forward by discussing actionable steps which distribution utilities, vehicle manufacturers, and regulators can take to maximize the benefits of this new load while minimizing its risks and costs.

Panelists:

- **Peter Cappers**, Strategic Advisor: Energy Markets & Policy Department, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- **Josh Castonguay**, Vice President, Chief Innovation Officer, Green Mountain Power
- **Amber Dorner**, EV Policy and Regulatory Affairs, Energy Policy Lead, General Motors
- **Amanda Janaskie**, Senior Manager, Baltimore Gas & Electric

Asset Condition and Right-Sizing Policies

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

This panel will highlight the regulatory gap that exists around certain regional transmission investments, known in New England as asset condition projects. These projects are becoming a larger share of transmission spending in the region but receive little oversight. Panelists will offer insights into the problem as well as efforts to address transparency, planning, and cost oversight for these important investments.

Panelists:

- **Hon. Kerrick Johnson**, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Service
- **Alan Trotta**, Senior Director, Transmission & Regional Energy Policy, Avangrid
- **Claire Wayner**, Senior Associate, Rocky Mountain Institute
- Additional panelists TBA

10:15 a.m.

Break

Sponsored by American Petroleum Institute

10:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Water Utilities and Cybersecurity Issues

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

Panelists:

- **Abad Cabassa**, Cybersecurity Advisor – Connecticut, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- **Rob Powelson**, President & CEO, National Association of Water Companies
- **Hon. Robert R. Scott**, Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
- **Mark Vannoy**, President, Maine Water

Signal Support: Dependable Connections when it Matters

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

Panelists:

- **Andrew Bagdonas**, Communications and IT Manager, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- **Michael Chowaniec**, Vice President, State Government Affairs, Charter Communications
- **Michael Gibeley**, Director, Emergency Management, National Grid
- **William Turner**, Emergency Management Director, Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

12:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:15 p.m.

Plenary Session

Announcement of the George Dunn Award for regulatory staff excellence
Announcement of the 2026 NECPUC Symposium

1:30 p.m.

Remarks: Hon. Ned Lamont, Governor, State of Connecticut (invited)

2:15 p.m.

Break

Sponsored by Advanced Energy United

2:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

You'll Never Know if You Don't Try: Considering Innovative Technologies for Broader Use

Moderator: Hon. David A. Arconti, Jr., Commissioner, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

As the utility sector faces growing demands for sustainability, efficiency, and resilience innovative technologies are reshaping how energy and resources are produced, distributed, and managed. Commissions are often at the front line in evaluating and creating programs that would integrate these much-needed technologies. Attendees will gain insights into innovative projects such as Form Energy's long duration storage battery in Maine and Piclo's DER aggregation

platform in Connecticut, regulatory considerations, and strategies for scaling innovation to meet evolving environmental, affordability, and grid modernization challenges.

Panelists:

- **Brett Feldman**, Energy Efficiency Manager, Rhode Island Energy
- **Sarah Jackson**, Senior Policy Manager, Eastern Region, Form Energy
- **Elisabeth Kalomeris**, Innovation & Growth Manager, Piclo
- **Matthew McDonnell**, Managing Partner, Current Energy

New Ideas on Siting and Permitting Clean Energy

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

Increasing the speed with which clean energy can be reviewed and permitted while ensuring meaningful community input that considers equity and environmental justice is ongoing. We will learn about new regulatory strategies in New York and Massachusetts, two states that have begun implementing siting and permitting reforms. We will also hear the perspectives of utility and merchant applicants who seek state review of energy infrastructure. Panelists will discuss permitting timelines, public engagement, community benefit agreements, and cumulative impacts analysis.

Panelists:

- **Rachel Goldwasser**, General Counsel and Executive Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Key Capture Energy
- **Zeryai Hagos**, Executive Director, New York Department of Public Service Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission
- **Theresa Hopkins-Staton**, President, Eversource Foundation and Vice President, Corporate Citizenship and Equity, Eversource Energy
- **Mike Judge**, Undersecretary of Energy, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

4:00 p.m.

Symposium program concludes

Wednesday, May 21

7:00 a.m.

Breakfast