



**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><b><i>Symposium Opens</i></b>  Welcoming remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hon. Marissa Paslick Gillett, Chairman, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, NECPUC President</li> <li>• Hon. Ann E. Rendahl, Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, NARUC First Vice President</li> </ul>
9:15 a.m.	<p><b><i>Remarks: Hon. Judy Chang, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission</i></b>  Moderator: Hon. Marissa Paslick Gillett, Chairman, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority</p>
10:00 a.m.	<p><b><i>Break</i></b>  Sponsored by Pullman &amp; Comley, LLC and Connecticut Power &amp; Energy Society</p>
10:30 a.m.	<p><b><i>Plenary Session</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Electric Rates and Affordability: Breaking it Down and Adding it Up</i></b>  Moderator: Hon. Ronald T. Gerwadowski, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission</p> <p>The affordability of energy in general, and electricity in particular, is a growing concern for policy-makers and regulators. Is there any one thing in particular to blame? Is there a solution to what appears to be an unending ascent in electric rates in New England, particularly in the winter? One of the challenges in addressing the issue is the complexity of electric bills which have many components of costs – all of which seem to be rising at the same time: electric supply from generation, transmission costs, distribution system costs, renewable procurement initiatives, and system benefit charges that advance energy efficiency along with other policy measures. This panel is going to deconstruct the drivers: What are they? And what can be done, if anything, to temper the ascent of rates that is straining affordability?</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jamie Dickerson</b>, Senior Director, Clean Energy and Climate Programs, Acadia Center</li> <li>• <b>Dan Dolan</b>, President, New England Power Generators Association</li> <li>• <b>Doug Horton</b>, Vice President, Distribution Rates &amp; Regulatory Requirements, Eversource Energy</li> <li>• <b>Maggie Molina</b>, Executive Director, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships</li> </ul>
11:45 a.m.	<p><b><i>Remarks from Charles Dickerson, President and CEO, Northeast Power Coordinating Council</i></b></p>
12:00 p.m.	<p><b><i>Lunch</i></b></p>
12:00 p.m.	<p><b><i>Concurrent lunch for NECPUC Retail Demand Response and Load Flexibility <a href="#"><u>Working Group</u></a></i></b></p>

(All symposium registrants are welcome to attend)

1:00-4:00 p.m.

***Registration Desk Open***

1:15 p.m.

***Concurrent Sessions***

***The RPS in New England After 25 Years: Just Getting Started, or Time for Something Different?***

Moderator: Hon. Patrick Scully, Commissioner, Maine Public Utilities Commission

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***

Sponsored by RTO Insider

3:00 p.m.

### ***Concurrent Sessions***

#### ***Offshore Wind: Where are We Headed and How Quickly?***

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

Offshore wind is expected to play a large role in meeting the need for additional energy supply as the region works toward its decarbonization goals and mandates, while at the same time planning for a doubling of regional load by 2050. While there are currently two large commercial projects under construction and several others under contract, the industry has faced headwinds in recent years due to supply chain constraints and federal policy changes. We will hear from developers, policy makers, and ISO-New England about what will be required to bring this important resource online at the least cost and greatest benefits to the region's electric customers.

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

This panel will explore the multifaceted aspects of intervenor funding in regulatory processes and the various challenges it presents. The discussion will highlight the benefits of having diverse voices in utility proceedings while addressing the potential issues related to funding distribution, transparency, and fairness. The discussion will aim to balance the perspectives of various stakeholders, industry representatives, regulatory bodies, consumer advocates, and environmental justice groups.

Panelists:

- **Hon. Philip L. Bartlett II**, Chair, Maine Public Utilities Commission
- **Mireille Bejjani**, Co-Executive Director, Slingshot
- **Seth Berry**, Executive Director, Our Power
- **Jollette 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

James Talbert-Slagle, JD, Connecticut Office of the 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:

- **Anne George**, Vice President, Chief External Affairs and Communications Officer, ISO-NE
- **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

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

As cybersecurity threats to water systems escalate, utilities and their regulators face growing pressure to strengthen defenses. This panel explores operational, regulatory, and policy approaches to managing cyber risk across the water sector. Are the threats and solutions unique to water systems—or are there lessons here for managers across all public utilities? The discussion will offer practical takeaways for anyone responsible for securing essential infrastructure.

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

Telecommunication services are crucial for protecting public safety and ensuring the well-being of consumers during man-made and natural disasters. States work hard to re-establish reliable connectivity to support emergency communications that provide access vital services and disseminate critical information during these disasters. This panel, made up of experts in their fields, will examine how the telecommunications and utility sectors work to maintain service continuity during disasters, with a focus on consumer impact. Panelists will share best practices and lessons learned. They will also discuss emerging technologies, strategies for resilience, and policy considerations to keep communities connected when disasters strike.

Panelists:

- **Andrew Bagdonas**, Communications and IT Manager, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- **Michael Chowaniec**, Vice President, State Government Affairs, Charter Communications
- **Michael Gibeley**, Director, Emergency Planning and Critical Infrastructure Risk 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.

***Remarks: Hon. Ned Lamont, Governor, State of Connecticut***

1:45 p.m.

***Plenary Session***

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

2:00 p.m.

***Break***

Sponsored by Advanced Energy United

2:30 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-Staten**, 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

3:45 p.m.

***Symposium program concludes***

Wednesday, May 21

7:00 a.m.

***Breakfast***

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