



**NECPUC 78th Symposium Agenda – PLELIMINARY, SUBJECT TO CHANGE**  
Samoset Resort, Rockport, ME  
May 18-20, 2026

Panelists listed in alphabetical order.

Monday, 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

Tuesday, May 19

7:15 a.m.

***Breakfast***

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

7:45 a.m.

Ethics CLE session (optional)

9:00 a.m.

***Symposium Opens***

Welcoming remarks:

- **Hon. Philip L. Bartlett II**, Chair, Maine Public Utilities Commission, NECPUC President

9:05 a.m.

***Fireside Chat: Hon. David Rosner and Hon. Lindsay See, Commissioners, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission***

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

10:05 a.m.

***Fireside Chat: Dr. Vamsi Chadalavada, President & CEO, ISO-New England***

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

11:00 a.m.

***Break***

Sponsored by Pullman & Comley, LLC, Connecticut Power & Energy Society, and Northeast Energy and Commerce Association

11:15 a.m.

***Concurrent Sessions***

***Affordability and the Role of the Regulator***

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

Abstract forthcoming

Panelists:

- **Cara Goldenberg**, Principal, RMI
- **Johannes Pfeifenberger**, Principal, Brattle Group
- **Ryan Wiser**, Senior Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

***Dial “A” for affordability – harnessing markets to lower telecommunications costs for consumers***

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

Over the past 30 years, the telecommunications industry has evolved rapidly from highly regulated to largely driven by market forces. Consumers have benefited from this shift as prices have gone down and competition has gone up. This panel will explore how that model evolved, and what lessons it can offer during the current moment when affordability issues are front and center for policymakers.

Panelists TBA

12:30 p.m.

***Lunch***

- 12:30 p.m. ***Concurrent lunch for state and federal agency staff***
- 1:00-4:00 p.m. ***Registration Desk Open***
- 1:45 p.m. ***Concurrent Sessions***
- Prospects for Nuclear Energy Development in the New England Context***  
Moderator: **Hon. Mark Dell’Orfano**, Interim Chairman, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
Abstract and panelists forthcoming
- Regional Approaches to Affordability***  
Moderator: **Hon. Kerrick Johnson**, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Service  
Abstract forthcoming
- Panelists:
- **Hon. Philip L. Bartlett II**, Chair, Maine Public Utilities Commission
  - **Hon. Katie Dykes**, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
  - **Hon. Ronald T. Gerwatowski**, Chairman, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
  - **Weezie Nuara**, Deputy Secretary for Federal and Regional Energy Affairs, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
  - **Daniel T. Phalen**, Regional Policy Director, New Hampshire Department of Energy
- 3:00 p.m. ***Break***  
Sponsored by RTO Insider
- 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

Wednesday, May 20

7:15 a.m. ***Breakfast***

8:00 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***

***Clean Water Affordably? Hot and Cold Trends in the Water Sector***

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

Aging infrastructure, water quality impairment, and petitions for company acquisitions have impacts on costs. Panelists will discuss the latest issues impacting water rates throughout New England and strategies to further affordable water bills.

Panelists:

- **Joe Dorfler**, Shareholder, Rich May P.C.
- Additional panelists TBA

***Is the Finish Line in Sight? BEAD's Role in Getting Closer to the Goal of Universal Broadband, and What Comes Next***

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

The Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) is a \$42 billion federal grant program aiming to connect every American to high-speed broadband service. Since the first allocations to states and territories were announced in 2023, substantial progress has been made. This panel will discuss lessons learned from BEAD implementation, and what work still remains, including the final disposition of remaining BEAD funds.

Panelists TBA

10:15 a.m. ***Break***

Sponsored by American Petroleum Institute

10:45 a.m. ***Plenary Session***

***Demand Response and Load Flexibility as Resources (placeholder title)***

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

Panelists:

- **Ian Burnes**, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Efficiency Maine Trust
- **Rebecca Foster**, Chief Executive Officer, VEIC
- **Akhilesh Ramakrishnan**, Managing Energy Associate, Brattle Group
- **Andrew Schneller**, Vice President – Network Strategy & Regulation, National Grid

12:00 p.m.

***Plenary Session***

Remarks: **Charles Dickerson**, President & CEO, Northeast Power Coordinating Council  
Announcement of the George Dunn Award for regulatory staff excellence  
Announcement of the 2027 NECPUC Symposium

12:30 p.m.

***Lunch***

1:45 p.m.

***Break***

Sponsored by Advanced Energy United

2:00 p.m.

***Concurrent Sessions***

***Is it Time to Rethink Default Service?***

Moderator: **Hon. Jeremy McDiarmid**, Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities

With affordability concerns rising and evolving energy markets, should New England states consider making radical changes to how Basic Service/Default Service supply needs are met? In restructured states, utilities are often the supplier of last resort and face different (and often more restrictive) rules than competitive suppliers and municipal aggregators). Should policymakers reconsider risk allocation and increase the flexibility for basic supply procurement?

Panelists:

- **Hon. Pradip Chattopadhyay**, Commissioner, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
- **Claire Coleman**, Consumer Counsel, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel
- **Kimberly Harriman**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Avangrid

***Large Loads and Data Centers***

Moderator: **Hon. Riley Allen**, Commissioner, Vermont Public Utilities Commission  
Abstract forthcoming

Panelists:

- **Natalie Mims Frick**, Energy Policy Researcher, Berkeley Lawrence National Laboratories
- **Hon. Jehmal Hudson**, Commissioner, Virginia State Corporation Commission
- **Josh Ryor**, Assistant Secretary of Energy, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- **Rachel Wilson**, Energy Market Development, Google

3:15 p.m.

*Symposium program concludes*

Thursday, May 21

7:15 a.m.

*Breakfast*

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