



Center for
Public Utilities
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CURRENT ISSUES 2022

APRIL 10-13, 2022
ELDORADO HOTEL ♦ SANTA FE, NM

Hear Industry Leaders and Commissioners
Discuss Important Issues Facing the
Electric, Natural Gas, Water and
Telecommunications
Industries

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

HON. JUDITH JAGDMANN,
NARUC President, Chair,
Virginia State Corporation Commission

KIMBERLY GREENE,
Chair, AGA; President & CEO,
Southern Company Gas

CHERYL NORTON,
Executive Vice President &
Chief Operating Officer,
American Water

HON. KAREN CHARLES PETERSON,
NARUC Committee on Telecommunications, Chair,
MA Department of Telecommunications & Cable,

BOB ROWE,
CO-Chair, EEL CEO State Policy Committee; CEO
Northwestern Energy

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ♦ Critical Minerals and the Looming Supply Chain Vulnerability
- ♦ Clean Energy Standards
- ♦ Central Elements of the Federal Infrastructure Bill
- ♦ Broadband Funding Galore
- ♦ NextGen Nuclear Energy and Other Low Carbon Strategies
- ♦ Building Bridges Between the Regulator, the Legislator and Others

COMMISSIONERS' GRILL

Commissioners Answer Your Questions about Utility and Telecommunications Issues

Register now at cpu.nmsu.edu ♦ Registration is limited

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Registration and Opening Reception

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

Hon. David Danner, Vice Chairman, CPU Council; Chair, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
Cindy Blume, Director, Center for Public Utilities, NMSU

8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Industry Leaders Panel

MODERATOR: **Hon. Judith Jagdmann**, NARUC President; Chair, Virginia State Corporation Commission

SPEAKERS: **Kimberly Greene**, Chair, AGA; President & CEO, Southern Company Gas

Bob Rowe, CO-Chair, EEI CEO State Policy Committee; CEO Northwestern Energy

10:15 – 12:00 noon Industry Leaders Panel continued

Cheryl Norton, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, American Water

Hon. Karen Charles Peterson, NARUC Committee on Telecommunications, Chair;
Commissioner, MA Department of Telecommunications & Cable

1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. Pinch Point: Critical Minerals and the Looming Supply Chain Vulnerability in the Quest for Clean Energy

Access to the critical minerals needed for advanced digital components used in renewable energy production, electric vehicle transportation, and defense equipment has become a flashpoint for national and energy security for the United States. This session will identify the critical minerals at issue, how they are used in energy, transportation and other industries, and the quantities needed to meet national and global decarbonization goals. The session will address the implications of this mineral dependency for national security and achievement of clean energy goals, as well as what the Department of Energy and industry can and should do to address supply chain vulnerabilities, including research and development on alternatives to critical minerals, as well as mining, recovery from coal ash and residuals, and development of domestic midstream production and manufacturing facilities.

MODERATOR: **Hon. Ann Rendahl**, Chair, NARUC Committee on Electricity;
Commissioner, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission

SPEAKERS: **Grant Bromhal**, Director, Minerals Sustainability Division, US DOE - Office of Fossil Energy & Carbon Management

Michael Maten, Senior Strategist, EV & Energy Policy, General Motors

Alex Moyes, Director of Innovation, Dominion Energy

Jane Nakano, Senior Fellow, Energy Security & Climate Change Program, Center for Strategic & International Studies

RESPONDERS: **Hon. Chris Nelson**, Chairman, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Hon. Jason Stanek, Commissioner, Maryland Public Service Commission

Hon. Mary Throne, Commissioner, Wyoming Public Service Commission

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Is a Clean Energy Standard the Best Approach for States to Achieve Their Clean Energy Targets?

This panel will discuss a broad array of issues related to implementing a Clean Energy Standard (CES) and related issues including the benefits and challenges for states choosing a CES approach and address other options that may be better suited to reaching those goals in some states. Some key aspects will be considered such as: whether state actions are necessary when utilities are taking proactive actions to meet those targets; whether states are fully equipped to comply with a possible national CES; the reliability impacts of incorporating more renewable resources; the role for RNG, hydrogen and other fuels in the future energy mix and approaches for states to effectively plan and determine who pays for the necessary transmission investment to bring renewable energy to the market. The panel will also discuss land-use challenges and NIMBY issues associated with building new transmission and generation. Lastly, this panel will also explore options for states to address any stranded investment in energy infrastructure that might be incurred as part of the energy transition.

MODERATOR: **Hon. Julie Fedorchak**, NARUC 2nd Vice President; Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission

SPEAKERS: **Rob Gramlich**, President, Grid Strategies LLC; Executive Director, Americans for a Clean Energy Grid

Sheri Givens, Vice President, US Regulatory & Strategy, National Grid

Suede Kelly, Partner, Jenner & Block

Antonio Smyth, Senior Vice President, Grid Solutions, AEP Service Corporation

RESPONDERS: **Hon. C. J. Manthe**, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

Hon. Mary-Anna Holden, Commissioner, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

Hon. Lea Marquez Peterson, Chairwoman, Arizona Corporation Commission

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Central Elements of the Federal Infrastructure Bill

MODERATOR: *Hon. Brandon Presley, Commissioner, Mississippi Public Service Commission*

SPEAKERS: *Laurie Dowling, Executive Director, National Utilities Diversity Counsel*

Brian O'Hara, Senior Director Regulatory Issues, Telecom & Broadband, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Shelby Linton-Keddie, Senior Director, State Energy & Regulatory Policy, Edison Electric Institute

RESPONDERS: *Hon. Julie Fedorchak, 2nd Vice President, NARUC; Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission*

Hon. ToNola Brown-Bland, Commissioner, North Carolina Utilities Commission

Hon. Ellen Nowak, Chair, NARUC Committee on International Relations; Commissioner, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Broadband Funding Galore! - Implications for Universal Service, Legacy Networks and New Technologies

States are in the driver seat as billions of broadband dollars are flowing for distribution by state governments. Whether it's the CARES Act, Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), or the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework in the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA), states have an opportunity as never before to shape the distribution of federal broadband funds. This panel will explore whether there are overarching principles for the wise use of broadband deployment funds; the impact of all of this funding for new broadband investment on legacy networks, new technologies, and carrier of last resort obligations; and how the concepts of universal service support for high cost areas, sustainability and affordability are changing.

MODERATOR: *Hon. Sarah Freeman, Chair, NARUC Education Subcommittee & CPU Liaison; Commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission*

SPEAKERS: *Teresa Ferguson, Sr. Director Broadband & Infrastructure Funding, National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative*

Alex Minard, VP & State Legislative Council, Government Relations, NCTA – The Internet and Television Association

Laura Spining, Deputy Associate Administrator, NTIA

Meredith Williams, AVP, Federal Regulatory, AT&T

RESPONDERS: *Hon. Joshua Byrnes, Board Member, Iowa Utilities Board (invited)*

Hon. Maida Coleman, Commissioner, Missouri Public Service Commission

Hon. Karen Charles Peterson, NARUC Committee on Telecommunications, Chair; Commissioner, MA Department of Telecommunications & Cable

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. NextGen Nuclear Energy and Other Low Carbon Strategies in the Energy Transition

Emerging clean energy technologies such as advanced nuclear offer great potential to reach U.S. decarbonization goals. State regulators play a critical role in shaping policies that can enhance the research, development and commercial deployment of these emerging technologies. This session will explore the obvious benefits as well as the costs and challenges associated with advanced reactors and other emerging technologies, the necessary infrastructure needed to support deployment, and examples of federal or state regulations supporting commercial viability.

MODERATOR: *Hon. Michael Caron, First VP, NARUC; Commissioner, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority*

SPEAKERS: *Andrew Place, State Energy & Climate Policy Director, Clean Air Task Force*

Carol Lane, Government Affairs, X-energy

John Kotek, Senior Vice President of Policy Development & Public Affairs, Nuclear Energy Institute

RESPONDERS: *Hon. Thad LeVar, Chair, Public Service Commission of Utah*

Hon. Gary Hanson, Commissioner, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Hon. Mary Throne, Commissioner, Wyoming Public Service Commission

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Tuesday schedule continued

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Building Bridges Between the Regulator, the Legislator and Others

How can bridges be built while acknowledging the independent and diverse roles that regulators, legislators and industry perform? This panel will provide various perspectives from current and former state utility regulators, a former state legislator, a former federal regulator, and an industry representative on the independent and intersecting roles of each. How are bridges of communication and collaboration being built today and what are the predictions for the future?

MODERATOR: *Hon. Brad Johnson, Vice Chair, Montana Public Service Commission*

SPEAKERS: *Hon. John Betkoski, Vice Chair, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority*

Libby Jacobs, President, Jacobs Group, LLC

Kristine Raper, Vice President, External Affairs, WECC

Karen Harbert, President & CEO, American Gas Association

RESPONDERS: *Chris Ayers, President, National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates*

Hon. Dana Murphy, Chairman, Oklahoma Corporation Commission

Hon. Kimberly O'Guinn, Commissioner, Arkansas Public Service Commission

Hon. Eric Skrmetta, Commissioner, Louisiana Public Service Commission (invited)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Commissioners' Grill

MODERATORS: *Hon. Tricia Pridemore, Chairman, Georgia Public Service Commission*

Nick Wagner, VP CO Regulatory Affairs & Policy, Black Hills Corporation

INVITED COMMISSIONERS

Hon. Theresa Becenti-Aguilar, NM

Hon. John Betkoski, CT

Hon. ToNola Brown-Bland, NC

Hon. Jefferson Byrd, NM

Hon. Joshua Byrnes, IA

Hon. Michael Caron, CT

Hon. Kent Chandler, KY

Hon. Maida Coleman, MO

Hon. David Danner, WA

Hon. Julie Fedorchak, ND

Hon. Stephen Fischmann, NM

Hon. Sarah Freeman, IN

Hon. Cynthia Hall, NM

Hon. Gary Hanson, SD

Hon. Mary-Anna Holden, NJ

Hon. Brad Johnson, MT

Hon. Dwight Keen, KS

Hon. Thad LeVar, UT

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Hon. CJ Manthe, NV

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Hon. Ellen Nowak, WI

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Hon. Kimberly O'Guinn, AR

Hon. Karen Charles Peterson, MA

Hon. Lea Marquez Peterson, AZ

Hon. Tremaine Phillips, MI

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Hon. Ann Rendahl, WA

Hon. Matt Schuerger, MN

Hon. Eric Skrmetta, LA

Hon. Jason Stanek, MD

Hon. Mary Throne, WY

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VICE CHAIR, HON. DAVID DANNER, Chair, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission.

SECOND VICE CHAIR, PAMELA SHERWOOD, Assistant General Counsel, Lumen Technologies.

CPU REPRESENTATIVE, JEANETTE WALTER, Associate Director, CPU.

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HON. JOHN BETKOSKI, Vice Chair, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

HON. MARIA BOCANEGRA, Chair, NARUC on Water Committee; Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission

HON. TONOLA BROWN-BLAND, Co-Chair, NARUC Washington Action Program; Commissioner, North Carolina Utilities Commission

HON. JEFFERSON BYRD, Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

HON. JOSHUA BYRNES, Board Member, Iowa Utilities Board

HON. MICHAEL CARON, NARUC Second Vice President; Commissioner, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

HON. KENT CHANDLER, Chairman, Kentucky Public Service Commission

HON. MAIDA COLEMAN, Commissioner, Missouri Public Service Commission

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HON. JULIE FEDORCHAK, Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission

HON. STEPHEN FISCHMANN, Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

HON. SARAH FREEMAN, Chair, NARUC Education subcommittee and CPU liaison; Commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

HON. JAMES GLOTFELTY, Commissioner, Public Utility Commission of Texas

HON. CYNTHIA HALL, Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

HON. GARY HANSON, Commissioner, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

HON. MARY-ANNA HOLDEN, Commissioner, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

HON. BRAD JOHNSON, Vice Chair, Montana Public Service Commission

HON. DWIGHT KEEN, Commissioner, Kansas Corporation Commission

HON. D. ETHAN KIMBREL, Chair, NARUC Gas Committee; Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission

HON. THAD LEVAR, Chair, Public Service Commission of Utah

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HON. JOSEPH MAESTAS, Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

HON. CJ MANTHE, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

HON. DANA MURPHY, Commissioner, Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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HON. ELLEN NOWAK, Chair, NARUC Committee on International Relations; Commissioner, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

HON. JEREMY ODEN, Commissioner, Alabama Public Service Commission

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HON. LEA MARQUEZ PETERSON, Chairman, Arizona Corporation Commission

HON. TREMAINE PHILLIPS, Commissioner, Michigan Public Service Commission

HON. BRANDON PRESLEY, Commissioner, Mississippi Public Service Commission

HON. TRICIA PRIDEMORE, Chairman, Georgia Public Service Commission

HON. ANN RENDAHL, Chair, NARUC Committee on Electricity; Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

HON. MATT SCHUERGER, Commissioner, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

HON. ERIC SKRMETTA, Commissioner, Louisiana Public Service Company

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HON. MARY THRONE, Commissioner, Wyoming Public Service Commission

HON. DAVID ZIEGNER, Commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

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ROBERT GEE, President, The Gee Strategies Group LLC
JOE GILLAN, CPU Chairman, President, Gillan Associates
KRISTY HARTMAN, Director, Stakeholder Strategy & Engagement, Nuclear Energy Institute
JOHN (BUTCH) HOWARD, President, Howard Connections
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KARL WARDIN, AVP Regulatory (Retail), AT&T Services, Inc.
GREG WHITE, Executive Director, NARUC
DENA WIGGENS, President & CEO, Natural Gas Supply Association

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CHRIS AYERS, President, NASUCA; Exec. Director, North Dakota Utilities Commission
BRYCE FREEMAN, Administrator, Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocate
CHRISTINA BAKER, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Arkansas Attorney General
JERROLD OPPENHEIM, Principal, Democracy and Regulation
DAVID SPRINGE, Executive Director, NASUCA

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION: The conference will be held at the **Eldorado Hotel, 309 W. San Francisco, Santa Fe, New Mexico.**

RESERVATIONS: A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate of **\$196 per night**, single or double. To ensure the special rate, each participant should make his/her own reservations by **March 9, 2022. Group Code: 2204NMSU.**

- Online: <https://be.synxis.com/?adult=1&arrive=2022-04-08&chain=17123&child=0¤cy=USD&depart=2022-04-14&group=2204NMSU&hotel=63150&level=hotel&locale=en-US&rooms=1>
- Phone: Call **1.505.995.4500** and mention the **NMSU Public Utilities conference**

TRAVEL: Travel time to Santa Fe from the Albuquerque Airport ("ABQ") is 60 minutes by car or 75 minutes by shuttle. Groome Transportation provides transportation between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Call **505-474-5696** for schedule or see their website at <https://groometransportation.com/santa-fe/>. Shuttle is approximately \$36 plus tax one way.

REGISTER EARLY - REGISTRATION IS LIMITED

EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT IF REGISTRATION IS MADE BY MARCH 31, 2022

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- **\$1,295** Company Representative
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*Fee does not include travel or hotel accommodations

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REGISTRATION MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE: ONLINE REGISTRATION IS PREFERRED

Choose one of the following:

- Online <https://cpunmsu.irisregistration.com/Form/2022currentissues> • E-mail registration form to jeawalte@nmsu.edu
- Call Jeanette Walter at **575-649-4812**

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations by email will be accepted until COB MT, Friday, April 3, 2022. Cancellations after April 3, 2022, will be subject to a \$200 cancellation fee. No refunds will be made after the start of the conference. Substitutions can be made in writing at any time. Send the appropriate attendee contact information to Jeanette Walter at jeawalte@nmsu.edu.

CLE CREDITS: CLE Credits are awarded for this conference in most states. We do not apply to each state; therefore, you must apply as an individual. Please contact Jeanette Walter at jeawalte@nmsu.edu or **575.649.4812** for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit our website at <http://cpu.nmsu.edu> or contact Jeanette Walter:

Call: **575-649-4812** • E-Mail: jeawalte@nmsu.edu

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A 2.75% fee will be added for credit card payments