The spring 2024 Northwestern University Electricity Dialogue will bring together regulators, thought leaders, and industry executives in a small-group setting, allowing for a deep dive into the challenges facing state-RTO partnerships, with the hopes of illuminate what is going on, how these challenges can be addressed and the best way to enrich ongoing efforts.

Over the years, and since the creation of the RTO/ISOs, an important relationship has developed between RTO/ISOs and state regulators. This Dialogue goes so far as to call that relationship a “partnership” given their important and increasingly interdependent roles. Beyond exploring the nature and accuracy of this partnership label, this Dialogue will examine the expanding planning and operational horizon from the near-term to the long-term. Panelists will discuss how the states and RTO/ISOs are working together and areas where improvement is needed to ensure the states and RTOs/ISOs can handle the challenges confronting the electricity systems: differing business models, extreme weather volatility, the speed of the resource transition electrification, decarbonization, and ever-changing electricity markets, to name a few. Yet, the goals remain the same: assured reliability, affordability, enhanced resilience and improving regionality.
Monday, April 22, 2024

11:00-12:15  Registration Check-In (Lakeshore Ballroom—3rd Floor)

Informal Arrival Lunch (St. Clair—3rd Floor)

12:15-12:30  Welcome and Opening Remarks (Lakeshore Ballroom—3rd Floor)

- Doug. P Scott, Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

12:30-1:30  Opening Keynote Discussion (Lakeshore Ballroom—3rd Floor)

- Moderator: Julie Fedorchak, Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission; President, National Association of Regulatory Commissioners

- Keynote Speakers:
  - Manu Asthana, President and CEO, PJM Interconnection
  - John Bear, CEO, MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator)

1:30-1:45  Break

1:45-3:15  Session One — States and RTOs Working Together to Assure Reliable Grid Operations: Resource Planning and Operational Preparedness (Lakeshore Ballroom—3rd Floor)

- Moderator: Ann Rendahl, Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

- Jeff Bladen, Global Director of Energy, Meta

- Dana Guernsey, Chief Executive Officer, Voltus, Inc.

- Julie Pierce, Vice President of Strategy and Planning at Minnesota Power

- Sally Talberg, President, Talberg Policy Solutions

3:15-3:30  Break

3:30-5:00  Session Two — States and RTOs Working Together to Assure Reliable Grid Operations: Resource Adequacy and Transmission Planning (Lakeshore Ballroom—3rd Floor)

- Moderator: Kent Chandler, Chairman, Kentucky Public Service Commission

- Seth Blumsack, Professor of Energy Policy and Economics, Pennsylvania State University; Co-Director, Penn State Center for Energy Law and Policy

- Lanny Nickell, EVP and COO, Southwest Power Pool
• Ellen Nowak, Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs, ATC
• Laura Rauch, Executive Director of Transmission Planning, MISO

5:00 Networking Reception (St. Clair—3rd Floor)

6:00 Dinner (St. Clair—3rd Floor)

6:45 Dinner Keynote Address: "A Multi-Jurisdictional Utility Perspective: Working Within and Across State Lines" (St. Clair—3rd Floor)

• Introduction: Darcie Houck, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
• Keynote Speaker: Amanda Rome, Executive Vice President and Group President, Utilities and Chief Customer Officer, Xcel Energy

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

7:30-8:30 Breakfast (St. Clair—3rd Floor)

8:30-10:00 Session Three — State-RTO Issues and Challenges: Inter-RTO Transfers, Transmission Congestion, and Resource Availability (2nd Floor—Grand Ballroom)

• Moderator: John Tuma, Commissioner, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
• Lauren Azar, Azar Law LLC
• Joshua C. Macey, Assistant Professor of Law, The University of Chicago Law School
• Dusky Terry, President, ITC Midwest and ITC Great Plains
• Carrie Zalewski, Vice President, Markets & Transmission, American Clean Power Association (ACP)

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 Session Four — State-RTO Issues and Challenges: Gas-Electric Harmonization and Load Forecasting (Lakeshore Ballroom—3rd Floor)

• Moderator: Marcus Hawkins, Commissioner, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
• Betsy Beck, Global Energy Markets and Policy, Google
• Michael Bryson, Senior Vice President of Operations, PJM Interconnection
• Christopher T M Clack, Vice President, Integrated Systems Planning, Pattern Energy Group
• Tony Clark, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
• Susan F. Tierney, Senior Advisor, Analysis Group

12:00-1:00 Conclusion, Close & Lunch (St. Clair—3rd Floor)

With thanks to our sponsors:

Edison Electric Institute
Midcontinent Independent System Operator
PJM Interconnection
Southwest Power Pool

Confirmed Utility Commissioners (as of 4/9/2024):

1. Phillip L. Bartlett, II, Chairman, Maine Public Utilities Commission
3. Kent Chandler, Chairman, Kentucky Public Service Commission (moderator)
4. Zenon Christodoulou, Commissioner, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
5. Daniel R. Conway, Vice Chair, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
6. Megan Decker, Chair, Oregon Public Utility Commission
7. Julie Fedorchak, Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission; President, National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (keynote moderator)
8. Andrew J. French, Commissioner, Kansas Corporation Commission
9. Kayla Hahn, Commissioner, Missouri Public Service Commission
10. John S. Harvey, Commissioner, Public Service Commission of Utah
11. Marcus Hawkins, Commissioner, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (moderator)
12. Darcie Houck, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission (keynote introduction)
13. Jehmal Hudson, Chair, Virginia State Corporation Commission
14. Edward Lodge, Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
15. Sarah Martz, Board Member, Iowa Utilities Board
17. Pat O’Connell, Commissioner, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
18. Stacey Paradis, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission
19. Conrad Reddick, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission
21. Doug P. Scott, Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission
22. Justin Tate, Commissioner, Arkansas Public Service Commission
23. **Emile C. Thompson**, Chairman, Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia
24. **Kevin Thompson**, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission
25. **John Tuma**, Commissioner, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission *(moderator)*

**Confirmed Participants** *(as of 4/9/2024):*

26. **Manu Asthana**, President and CEO, PJM Interconnection
27. **Lauren Azar**, Azar Law LLC
28. **John Bear**, CEO, MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator)
30. **Jeff Bladen**, Global Director of Energy, Meta
31. **Seth Blumsack**, Professor and Associate Department Head, John and Willie Leone Family Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering, The Pennsylvania State University; Co-Director, Penn State Energy and Economics and Policy Initiative
32. **Michael Bryson**, Senior Vice President of Operations, PJM Interconnection
33. **Christopher T M Clack**, Vice President, Integrated Systems Planning, Pattern Energy Group
34. **Tony Clark**, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
35. **Dana Guernsey**, Chief Executive Officer, Voltus, Inc.
36. **Joshua C. Macey**, Assistant Professor of Law, The University of Chicago Law School
37. **Lanny Nickell**, EVP and COO, Southwest Power Pool
38. **Ellen Nowak**, Chief Executive Officer, Voltus, Inc.
39. **Joshua C. Macey**, Assistant Professor of Law, The University of Chicago Law School
40. **Laura Rauch**, Executive Director of Transmission Planning, MISO
41. **Amanda Rome**, Executive Vice President and Group President, Utilities and Chief Customer Officer, Xcel Energy
42. **Sally Talberg**, President, Talberg Policy Solutions
43. **Dusky Terry**, President, ITC Midwest and ITC Great Plains
44. **Susan F. Tierney**, Senior Advisor, Analysis Group
45. **Carrie Zalewski**, Vice President, Markets & Transmission, American Clean Power Association (ACP)

**Confirmed Registrants** *(as of 4/9/2024):*

46. **Isabelle Abbott**, Advisor to Commissioner Paradis, Illinois Commerce Commission
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50. **Lisa Barrett**, Policy Director, Advanced Energy United
51. **Clarence Bell**, Supervisory Energy Industry Analyst, FERC
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55. **Nathan Carrier**, Advisor to Commissioner Reddick, Illinois Commerce Commission
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65. **Nora Fitton**, Office of General Counsel, Illinois Commerce Commission
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88. **Casey Kelly**, Sr. Advisor, Research & Electricity, ClearPath
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90. **Lynne Kiesling**, Director, Institute for Regulatory Law & Economics; Senior Research Affiliate, Northwestern Center on Law, Business, and Economics, Institute for Regulatory Law & Economics
91. **Christopher J. Kim**, Deputy Chief, Public Utilities Bureau, Office of the Illinois Attorney General
92. **Paige Knutsen**, Executive Director, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance – MEEA
93. **Ryan Kohler**, Director, Office of Regional Markets, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
94. **Glenn Krassen**, General Counsel, NOPEC, NOPEC (Notheast Ohio Public Energy Council)
95. **Zoe Lanier**, Advisor to Chair Scott, Illinois Commerce Commission
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97. **Ryan Long**, President Xcel Energy, Minnesota, North Dakota & South Dakota, Xcel Energy
98. **Nicole Luckey**, SVP Regulatory Affairs, Invenergy LLC
100. **Jim McMahon**, Vice President, Charles River Associates
102. **Philip D. Moeller**, Executive Vice President, Business Operations Group and Regulatory Affairs, Edison Electric Institute
103. **Sarah Moskowitz**, Executive Director, CUB Illinois
104. **Drew Norris**, Sr Manager of Commercial Operations, J-Power USA Development Co
106. **Erin O'Connell-Diaz**, President, Bull Valley Association
107. **Matt Olsen**, Manager, Regulatory Strategy, Otter Tail Power Company
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113. **Beth Soholt**, Executive Director, Clean Grid Alliance
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122. **Ryan Tozer**, Manager, Local Government Affairs, Constellation Energy Generation
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125. **Nicholas Wallace**, Associate Attorney, Environmental Law & Policy Center
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127. **Sophie Watterson**, Policy Principal, Advanced Energy United
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