



Thursday, December 3, 2026

11:00-12:30 **Lunch** (White Pine Rotunda)

12:30-12:45 **Convening, Welcome, and Introduction** (Wasatch Ballroom)

Derek Gundersen, Assistant Director of Program Operations,
Northwestern Center on Law, Business and Economics

Lynne Kiesling, Director, Institute for Regulatory Law &
Economics; Senior Research Affiliate, Northwestern Center on
Law, Business, and Economics

Lincoln Davies, Professor of Law, Co-Director, Wallace Stegner
Center for Land, Resources, and the Environment, Executive
Director, Energy, Resource, and Environment Programs, University
of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law

Jerry Fenn, Chair, Utah Public Service Commission

12:45-1:20 **Opening Keynote Address: *Title Forthcoming***

Introduction: **Jerry Fenn**, Chair, Utah Public Service Commission

Keynote Speaker: **Kathleen Staks**, Executive Director, Western
Freedom

1:20-1:30

Break

1:30-3:00

Session One — The Shape of Western Markets: Emerging Market Structures and Managing the Seams

Day-ahead markets are operating or will operate across a significant portion of the western footprint. The West's market geography is taking shape — and it is not, and may never be, a single unified construct. The boundaries between them — and the seams where reliability obligations, market rules, and commercial interests diverge — are where the most consequential near-term questions are being decided. This panel assesses the emerging multi-market architecture and discusses its implications and impacts and how to make it work for participants and ratepayers.

Moderator: **Jehmal Hudson**, Judge, Virginia State Corporation Commission

Panelists: **Keith Collins**, Vice President of Commercial Operations, ERCOT
Stacey Crowley, Vice President, External Affairs, California Independent System Operator (CAISO)
Stephanie Lenhart, Associate Professor and Program Lead, Master of Environmental Management, Energy Policy and Environmental Governance, Boise State University
Carrie L. Simpson, Vice President, Markets, Southwest Power Pool (SPP)

3:00-3:30

Break

3:30-5:00

Session Two — Resources, Transmission, and Resource Adequacy: Building and Maintaining the System the West Needs

With load growing fast; the load-curve is shifting; and the resource mix is changing, the West must make consequential bets on how to ensure adequate resources — through WRAP, through transmission investment, through evolving capacity accreditation methodologies — at precisely the moment when every underlying assumption is in flux. Transmission permitting and cost allocation remains deeply contested. This panel takes stock of where the West's resource adequacy construct stands, how the region's transmission development efforts is going, and whether these evolving frameworks will meet the need.

Moderator: **Letha Tawney**, Commissioner, Oregon Public Utility Commission

Panelists: **Adria Brooks**, Director of Transmission Planning, Grid Strategies LLC

Sarah Edmonds, President and CEO, Western Power Pool

Kelsey Martinez, Director of Regional Markets and Transmission Strategy, Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM)

Bob Rowe, Trail Boss, The Western Transmission Consortium

5:00-6:00 **Break**

6:00-7:00 **Cocktail Reception** (White Pine Rotunda)

7:00-8:30 **Dinner & Keynote Address: *Title Forthcoming***
(Wasatch Ballroom)

Introduction: **Edward Lodge**, Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Keynote Speaker: **Katie Jereza**, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy

Friday, December 4, 2026

7:15-8:30 **Breakfast** (White Pine Rotunda)

8:30-10:00 **Session Three — Loads: The Forcing Function Reshaping the West's Energy Future**

Load growth is not a background condition in western energy right now — it is the central variable driving market design decisions, resource adequacy stress, transmission investment, and ultimately the affordability pressures that regulators and customers face. Data centers, artificial intelligence infrastructure, and electrification are adding load at a pace and scale that no western planning framework was designed to absorb. This panel examines the scale and trajectory of new load, how utilities, grid operators, and registries, are responding operationally and in their planning processes, what new tariff structures and cost allocation frameworks are emerging, and how the political

environment — federal permitting, state siting authority, large load policy — is shaping the West’s ability to integrate what is coming.

Moderator: **Brian Rybarik**, Chair, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Panelists: **Lon Huber**, Senior Vice President ISP, Chief Planning Officer, Xcel Energy

Briana Kobor, SVP, Growth and Partnerships, NRG

Shana Ramirez, Senior Director, Energy and Environmental Economics (E3)

Jordan Weiszhaar, Senior Program Manager, Data Center Energy, Microsoft

10:00-10:15 **Break**

10:15-11:45 **Session Four — Affordability: Customer Bills, Cost Allocation, and How the West Pays for the System It Needs**

Every thread in this dialogue converges here. The market structures being built, the resource adequacy frameworks being stress-tested, and the load growth reshaping every planning assumption all ultimately express themselves in one place: the customer’s bill. Rate cases are increasingly contested. Cost allocation fights — between large and small customers, between states, between market participants — are intensifying. The political environment is making affordability a more prominent and more difficult issue for regulators and utilities alike. This closing panel asks who is paying for the West’s evolving energy system, whether the cost allocation frameworks in place are adequate and equitable, and what tools regulators and utilities have — or need — to manage affordability in an environment of rising investment, surging load, and political pressure.

Moderator: **Tammy Cordova**, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

Panelists: **Bryan Hannegan**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Holy Cross Energy

Anuja Ratnayake, Lead of DCFlex, EPRI

Chris Villarreal, Senior Advisor, PowerLines

Samantha Weaver, Senior Director, State Regulatory Affairs , Coalition for Community Solar Access

11:45

Adjourn

Confirmed Utility Commissioners (as of 10/9/2026):

1. **Pradip Chattopadhyay**, Commissioner, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
2. **Tammy Cordova**, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (*Panel Moderator*)
3. **Jerry Fenn**, Chair, Utah Public Service Commission (*Welcome/Introduction*)
4. **John Harvey**, Commissioner, Utah Public Service Commission
5. **Jehmal Hudson**, Judge, Virginia State Corporation Commission (*Panel Moderator*)
6. **Chuck Hutchison**, Chair, Nebraska Power Review Board
7. **Edward Lodge**, Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission (*Keynote Introduction*)
8. **Nick Myers**, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission
9. **Les Perkins**, Commissioner, Oregon Public Utility Commission
10. **Brian Rybarik**, Chair, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (*Panel Moderator*)
11. **Summer Strand**, Chair, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
12. **Letha Tawney**, Commissioner, Oregon Public Utility Commission (*Panel Moderator*)
13. **Hayley Williamson**, Chair, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

Confirmed Participants (as of 10/9/2026):

14. **Adria Brooks**, Director of Transmission Planning, Grid Strategies LLC
15. **Keith Collins**, Vice President of Commercial Operations, ERCOT
16. **Stacey Crowley**, Vice President, External Affairs, California Independent System Operator (CAISO)
17. **Sarah Edmonds**, President and CEO, Western Power Pool
18. **Lincoln Davies**, Professor of Law, Co-Director, Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources, and the Environment, Executive Director, Energy, Resource, and Environment Programs, University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law
19. **Bryan Hannegan**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Holy Cross Energy
20. **Lon Huber**, Senior Vice President ISP, Chief Planning Officer, Xcel Energy
21. **Lynne Kiesling**, Director, Institute for Regulatory Law & Economics; Senior Research Affiliate, Northwestern Center on Law, Business, and Economics, Institute for Regulatory Law & Economics
22. **Katie Jereza**, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy
23. **Briana Kobor**, SVP, Growth and Partnerships, NRG
24. **Stephanie Lenhart**, Associate Professor and Program Lead, Master of Environmental Management, Energy Policy and Environmental Governance, Boise State University
25. **Kelsey Martinez**, Director of Regional Markets and Transmission Strategy, Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM)
26. **Shana Ramirez**, Senior Director, Energy and Environmental Economics (E3)
27. **Anuja Ratnayake**, Lead of DCFlex, EPRI
28. **Bob Rowe**, Trail Boss, The Western Transmission Consortium
29. **Carrie Simpson**, Vice President, Markets, SPP
30. **Kathleen Staks**, Executive Director, Western Freedom
31. **Chris Villarreal**, Senior Advisor, PowerLines
32. **Samantha Weaver**, Senior Director, State Regulatory Affairs, Coalition for Community

Solar Access

33. **Jordan Weiszhaar**, Senior Program Manager, Data Center Energy, Microsoft

Confirmed Registrants (as of 10/9/2026):

- 34. **Omayya Ahmad**, Manager Public Policy, Arizona Public Service (APS)
- 35. **Casey Baker**, Senior Program Manager, Transmission, GridLab
- 36. **Sara Baldwin-Griffin**, CEO, Utah Clean Energy
- 37. **Rimvydas Baltaduonis**, Lecturer, Department of Economics, Stanford University; IRLE Faculty Member
- 38. **Lauren Barros**, Legal Counsel, Utah Clean Energy
- 39. **Rob Davis**, Head of Communications, Partnerships, and Market Insights, CleanCounts
- 40. **Megan Decker**, Consultant, Staircase Advisory / AESL
- 41. **Alex DeGolia**, Senior Director, Clean Electricity, Environmental Defense Fund
- 42. **Jeff Droubay**, President & CEO, WECC (Western Electricity Coordinating Council)
- 43. **Frank Durnford**, Chief Policy & External Affairs Officer, Powerex Corp
- 44. **Edward Garvey**, Regulatory Strategist, AESL Energy Consultants
- 45. **Rich Germinder**, Senior Policy and Strategic Initiatives Advisor, Missouri Public Service Commission
- 46. **Matthew Harris**, VP, Legal, Xcel Energy
- 47. **Erik Helland**, REG Utility Partners, LLC
- 48. **Casey Kelly**, Sr. Manager, Research & Electricity, ClearPath
- 49. **Amber Lee**, Attorney, Stoel Rives LLP
- 50. **Logan Mitchell**, Climate Scientist & Energy Analyst, Utah Clean Energy
- 51. **Andrew Moratzka**, Attorney, Stoel Rives LLP
- 52. **Kim O'Guinn**, Senior Director Regulatory Policy, Southwest Power Pool (SPP)
- 53. **Vanessa Pierce**, VP, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary, WECC (Western Electricity Coordinating Council)
- 54. **Grace Relf**, Principal, Regulatory Assistance Project
- 55. **Laura Rennick**, Executive Director, Western Interstate Energy Board
- 56. **Glenn Rippie**, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
- 57. **Rodney Ross**, Sr. Director Regulatory Affairs, APS
- 58. **Caitlin Shields**, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
- 59. **Paul Suskie**, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Southwest Power Pool (SPP)
- 60. **Andrew Valainis**, Sr. Associate, US Team, Regulatory Assistance Project
- 61. **Christopher Winland**, Director, Project Development, ITC
- 62. **Kiera Zitelman**, Senior Director, State Regulatory Engagement and Partnerships, Edison Electric Institute