



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ELECTRICITY POLICY

Annual Meeting 2019

Wednesday, September 11 –

Thursday, September 12

Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark

Omni Ballroom AB

Austin, TX

[Register now](#)

Evolving Transmission, Distribution, and Customer System Coordination

At the 2018 Annual Meeting and Workshop in Denver, CO, the National Council on Electricity Policy (NCEP) gathered state decision makers and stakeholders to discuss the state of interfaces between distribution and transmission systems in light of increasing distributed energy resources. In September 2018, NCEP released a [compendium of resources](#), which lists resources, case studies, and remaining questions for research around transmission and distribution system planning, operations, and markets.

In 2019, NCEP will further explore this topic by focusing on transmission, distribution, and customer (TDC) system interfaces, taking a closer look at operational needs and their influence on planning and markets.

Workshop Objectives:

- ✓ Discuss experiences coordinating planning, operations, and markets of TDC electricity systems;
- ✓ Examine ideas around the operational needs of a coordinated system and how states play a role in developing a future-proofed system;
- ✓ Participate in an ongoing conversation among decision makers and experts about the evolving intersections and coordination needs of the grid;
- ✓ Hear insights and lessons learned from experts, state regulators, energy directors, utility managers, technologists, legislators, consumer advocates, and stakeholders.

Registration and Travel

This is a public meeting welcoming all NCEP members and stakeholders. Members include individuals from electricity-oriented state decision making agencies such as public utility commissions, energy offices, legislatures, consumer advocates, governors' advisors, and environmental regulators. Limited travel stipends are available to members.

For questions on travel stipends, please contact rafts@naruc.org. For questions about registration and other logistics, contact: Dominic Liberatore at dliberatore@naruc.org

For questions about the agenda, contact: Kerry Worthington at kworthington@naruc.org

Webinar Participation

Participation over webinar will be possible for the NCEP Annual Meeting. For Q&A sessions and group discussions, we will monitor the phones and webinar chat box.

[Register for the webinar on Wednesday, September 11, 2019](#) (all times central)

[Register for the webinar on Thursday, September 12, 2019](#) (all times central)

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

<p>Omni Ballroom AB</p> <p>Registration open at 12:30 PM</p> <p>1:00 PM – 5:00 PM</p> <p>All times Central</p>	<p><i>Co-located (optional) event</i></p> <p>Interoperability for Bureaucrats (Not Just Technocrats) Training</p> <p>With the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) will be hosting a half-day training on interoperability for state decision makers. The focus of this training is interoperability, which is the ability of smart grid devices to connect along the physical systems, information systems, and data systems of the grid.</p> <p>Learning objectives for these sessions include, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand how interoperability supports reliability, affordability, and safety; - Understand the role of standards and why additional testing may be required for some standards; - Understand how standards can unlock anticipated and unanticipated opportunities, how those opportunities are leveraged, and where a balance can be found between meeting the standard and ensuring grid flexibility (“future proofing”); - Understand the key considerations for regulators and the role of the state; and - Reflect on a sample list of questions for utility commissions to ask regulated utilities about interoperability. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Wollman, NIST - Lynne Kiesling, Carnegie Melon University - Wanda Reder, GridX Partners - Paul Alvarez, WiredGroup - David Forfia, GridWise Architecture Council - Steve Widergren, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory <p>This training will be filmed live for an Online Learning Module series. The speakers will have short presentations (5-20 minute “modules”) on their topics. Q&A will be available between modules. Similar to a theatre performance, there will be opportunities to enter/exit the meeting room between speakers; but please be respectful during the modules by remaining seated and silencing your devices. A 15 minute break is planned for approximately 3 PM Central. There will not be a live webinar option.</p>
<p>4:15 PM</p>	<p>Questions for Utilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion with all attendees <p>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kerry Worthington, NARUC - Chris Villarreal, Plugged in Strategies
<p>5:00 PM</p>	<p>Adjourn</p>

Wednesday, September 11, 2019	
7:00 AM All times Central	Breakfast and Registration Omni Ballroom AB for all sessions.
8:00 AM	Welcome to the NCEP Annual Meeting 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led by the Honorable Paul Kjellander, President of NCEP and President at the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (PUC) • Facilitated by Danielle Sass Byrnett and Kerry Worthington, NARUC • All attendees will be introduced for this workshop.
8:15 AM	Inaugural Jan Brinch Award for Collaboration in Public Service <p>NCEP initiated a new award in memory of Jeannette “Jan” Brinch, who passed away in 2018 and energetically facilitated the National Council on Electricity Policy (NCEP) from 2014 – 2018. Jan’s career was marked by progress on energy and environmental issues from a wide range of public service positions. One of the hallmarks of her success in each of these roles was her desire to collaborate with others with diverse perspectives, positions, and organizations. This award honors other public servants who similarly view their positions as opportunities to bring people together to accomplish public interest goals in the electricity sector.</p> <p><i>More on Jan Brinch:</i> Jeannette “Jan” Brinch was an energy consultant and expert facilitator with over 30 years of experience in the energy and environmental fields. She supported multiple clients with the design and facilitation of research agendas, strategic policies and plans, and education and outreach programs. Her clients included federal organizations and agencies, private sector and trade associations, and academic and research institutions.</p> <p>Prior to her consulting work at NARUC, Jan was a Senior Associate at The Keystone Center, a mediation and facilitation non-profit, where she designed, managed, and supported collaborative engagement projects. Prior to that, Jan was a Senior Director at Energetics Incorporated. Earlier in her career, she served as Deputy Director of the Idaho Office of Energy under Governors Cecil Andrus and John Evans.</p> <p>After leaving state government she built an energy consulting practice that provided energy policy and strategic planning services to Bonneville Power Administration, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, cooperative and municipal utilities in Idaho, and the State of Alaska.</p> <p>Moving to Baltimore in 1982 Jan continued her career and was a loving mother and wife, and a friend and mentor to many.</p>

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 (Continued)	
8:30 AM	Keynote & Welcome to Texas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Featuring Dub Taylor, Texas State Energy Conservation Office Director • Introduced by Hon. Paul Kjellander, President of NCEP and President of the Idaho PUC
9:00 AM	Physical System & Operating Essentials In this session, attendees will learn fundamentals of grid architecture, why they are important to understand, and what parts of the transmission, distribution, and customer systems need most attention and coordination. <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Nick Wagner, Iowa <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul De Martini, Newport Consulting Group - Jeff Taft, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
10:30 AM	Break
11:00 AM	Coordination Principles In this session, attendees will gain an understanding of coordination principles and how to apply them including a framework, approaches, and consideration of roles and responsibilities. <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Ted Thomas, Arkansas <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul De Martini, Newport Consulting Group - Jeff Taft, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
12:00 PM	Break for Lunch <i>Day 1 evaluations will be distributed.</i>
12:45 PM	State Examples: Advancing Transmission, Distribution, and Customer System Coordination In this session, attendees will hear multiple perspectives on case studies from states that have been working to clarify objectives of coordination and work through coordination principles. <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. ToNola Brown-Bland, North Carolina <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mark Oliver, Duke Energy - Constance McDaniel Wyman, Texas PUC

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 (Continued)

2:00 PM	Day 1 Discussion All attendees will be led through an interactive discussion session. Attendees will have an opportunity to share their experiences, other industry / state / RTO examples, available resources, and identify “known unknowns” (research needs). <i>The discussion will provide resources that NCEP will add to the NCEP T&D Resource Repository. Non-attributable research needs will be summarized and posted for national labs, industry, research institutions, and NGOs to better understand the needs of states. The Repository will be updated as resources become available that address needs.</i>
2:45 PM	Break <i>Complete Day 1 evaluations.</i>
3:15 PM	Departure to Pecan Street, Inc. Pecan Street is a 501(c)(3) organization that addresses technology, behavior, and how the two interact with energy, water, and transportation systems. With over 1,100 residential volunteers and state-of-the-art technology, Pecan Street has recently developed capabilities to access one second appliance-level home energy data, and can bring a fleet of residential storage online in 8 seconds. On our site visit, we will speak with engineers on-the-ground about what it means to have an efficient information-driven electricity system. Visit www.PecanStreet.org for more information. Departing at 3:15 PM, the site visit will last approximately 75 minutes, 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM, and will return to the hotel at approximately 6:00 PM. Transportation will be provided. An overflow site visit has been scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2019, immediately following the program. Please indicate your attendance on the Site Visit questionnaire by COB Friday, September 6, 2019. After that, please sign up in person at the registration desk. Each tour has a capacity of 40 individuals. Point of contact: Dominic Liberatore at DLiberatore@NARUC.org .

Thursday, September 12, 2019

7:00 AM All times Central	Breakfast Omni Ballroom AB for all sessions.
8:00 AM	Welcome to Day 2 and Discussion of Day 1 Attendees will have a chance to ask lingering questions and share reflections from the first workshop day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led by The Honorable Paul Kjellander, President of NCEP and President at the Idaho PUC • Facilitated by Danielle Sass Byrnett and Kerry Worthington, NARUC

Thursday, September 12, 2019 (Continued)	
8:30 AM	<p>Communications Across the Grid This session will discuss communications network needs and options to enhance coordination between customer (grid edge) devices, distribution system operators, and independent system operators.</p> <p>Moderator: - Chris Villarreal, Plugged In Strategies (for discussion)</p> <p>Panelists: - Paul Duncan, MPR Associates - Paul Alvarez, WiredGroup - Mark Knight, Burns & McDonnell - Lorenzo Kristov, Independent Consultant</p>
9:45 AM	<p>Break <i>Day 2 evaluations will be distributed.</i></p>
10:15 AM	<p>State Examples of Communication Network Coordination In this session, attendees will hear multiple perspectives on two case studies from states that have been working to tackle communications network coordination challenges.</p> <p>Moderator: - Michael Dowd, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality</p> <p>Panelists: - Ted Ko, Stem - Tricia DeBleeckere, Minnesota PUC - Marcus Hawkins, Organization of MISO States - Jason Allnutt, IEEE</p>
11:30 AM	<p>Day 2 Discussion Attendees will have an opportunity to share their experiences, other industry / state / RTO examples, available resources, and identify “known unknowns” (research needs). <i>The discussion will provide resources that NCEP will add to the NCEP T&D Resource Repository. Non-attributable research needs will be summarized and posted for national labs, industry, research institutions, and NGOs to better understand the needs of states. The Repository will be updated as resources become available that address needs.</i></p>
12:15 AM	<p>Boxed Lunches and Farewell <i>Drop off your Day 2 evaluation at the registration desk.</i></p>
12:30 PM	<p>Departure for Pecan Street Site Visit (overflow) See description on page 5. Each tour has a capacity of 40 individuals. Transportation to Pecan Street, Inc. will be provided and depart from the hotel venue at 12:30 PM. The site visit is scheduled from 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM and will transport attendees to the Austin International Airport after.</p>