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**NARUC Center for Partnerships & Innovation
Energy Transition Workshop**
Mid-America Regulatory Conference Annual Meeting
June 22, 2022 | Chicago, Illinois



On June 22, 2022, NARUC hosted an Energy Transition Workshop in Chicago, Illinois following the conclusion of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference. The workshop was moderated by Wisconsin Commissioner Ellen Nowak, Chair of the NARUC Subcommittee on Clean Coal and Carbon Management, and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy-NARUC Coal Modernization and Carbon Management Partnership. The objective of the workshop was to convene stakeholders from across the state energy policy and regulatory landscape to examine the impacts of coal retirements and assess opportunities to enable an inclusive energy transition. Throughout the two-part workshop, participants engaged in discussion with experts on topics such as the role of carbon capture and emissions control technologies in preventing premature retirements, how host communities can be engaged in transition planning, mechanisms to encourage economic growth and diversification, and tools and case studies for productive collaboration.

Part one of the workshop was focused on developing and deploying innovative technology and featured panelists Jacqueline Fidler, Vice President of Environmental Sustainability at CONSOL Energy; Talina Mathews, Director of State Regulatory Policy at the Southwest Power Pool (SPP); and Doug Scott, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at the Great Plains Institute. During her remarks, Ms. Fidler shared CONSOL Energy's Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals, which include initiatives to manage carbon emissions through the conversion of waste coal to products and a methane destruction



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program. Ms. Mathews, a former commissioner with the Kentucky Public Service Commission, offered her perspectives on the cascading impacts coal plant closures would have on Kentucky's economy and shared information about the Carbon Management Research Group, a joint effort between the University of Kentucky, LG&E and KU, Duke Energy, Kentucky Power, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, and the Electric Power Research Institute. She also shared that SPP's Future Grid Strategy Advisory Group is evaluating carbon capture technologies in its strategic planning efforts. Mr. Scott introduced the Carbon Capture Coalition, a diverse stakeholder initiative to achieve economywide, commercial scale deployment of carbon management technologies. He also provided a high-level overview of carbon management opportunities and discussed relevant provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

During part two of the workshop, presentations and discussions were centered around examining and optimizing community impacts of the energy transition. Jacqueline Fidler and Doug Scott were panelists along with Andy Bochman, Senior Grid Strategist of National & Homeland Security at the Idaho National Laboratory; Jon Grosshans, Senior Advisor in the Office of Policy at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization (IWG); and Chris Markuson, Western States Director with the BlueGreen Alliance. Mr. Markuson in his presentation emphasized the importance of aligning the labor and environmental groups to create a sustainable clean energy economy and recommended that regulators consider utility workforce needs. Mr. Bochman discussed the benefits of coal-to-nuclear conversions, including the case for job retention for former coal plant workers. Both Ms. Fidler, Mr. Grosshans, and Mr. Scott all emphasized the importance of engagement from frontline communities. CONSOL Energy has seen success collaborating at the local level to inform company strategy. The IWG has also been conducting outreach at the local level to identify needs for communities in transition and facilitate technical assistance. Mr. Scott rounded out the presentations with discussion of the impacts of the transition on generating communities, shared examples for the Midwest on how these impacts were being mitigated, highlighted the need to avoid a "one-size-fits-all" approach to finding community solutions.

The workshop underscored the importance of a collaborative and community-centered approach to managing the economic impacts of the energy transition. This is important for utility regulators and other state decision-makers as the trend of coal and fossil energy generation retirements in favor of low-carbon energy resources continues across the country, leaving heavy burdens on the "host communities" that have historically depended on fossil fuel extraction and power generation. In the future, NARUC plans to follow public utility commission proceedings related to energy transition impacts in host communities. In coordination with DOE and members, NARUC will highlight valuable case studies for regulators to share lessons learned across states.