

NARUC Winter Policy Summit

Virtual Conference
February 4, 5, and 8-11, 2021

Agenda

Filter by Topic

All meeting times in Eastern Standard Time

All registrants will receive an email on how to download the conference app and access to the live stream links. Link goes live on the app when the sessions start.

Thursday, February 4, 2021

12:00-1:00 p.m.

● Staff Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure

(Closed Meeting)

● Staff Subcommittee on Energy Resources and the Environment

What Do These Utilities Know About V2G Programs That You Don't, But Probably Should

Co-Sponsored by the NARUC Electric Vehicle State Working Group

If you've been paying attention to the electric vehicle and distributed energy resource sectors, you already know that vehicle to

grid (V2G) managed charging has the potential to provide bill savings, emission reductions and grid reliability benefits. What you may not know is what a V2G tariff would look like, what limitations and enabling language should be included in that tariff, potential hurdles that need to be overcome with the utility's interconnection standards, the types, and costs, of required metering and software, and how potential V2G customers should be educated so that they take full advantage of such tariff. This panel will feature utilities with V2G school bus pilot programs who can answer not just these questions, and many more. By the end of this one hour discussion, Commissioners and Staff should have the knowledge to be able to identify a successful V2G tariff, and go from talking about the potential V2G benefits to realizing the benefits.

Moderator: Karen Olesky, Chair, Staff Subcommittee on Energy Resources and the Environment

Panelists:

Britt Reichborn-Kjennerud, Section Manager, Electric Vehicles, Con Edison

Kate Staples, Manager, Electrification, Dominion Energy Virginia

Jaron Weston, Manager, Clean Transportation Policy, San Diego Gas & Electric

● **Staff Subcommittee on Gas**

Natural Gas Decarbonization

Natural Gas Decarbonization

According to the EPA, natural gas combustion produces between 28-33 percent less carbon dioxide per MMBtu than conventional heating oil. An increasing number of jurisdictions have set a goal of further reducing the volume of CO₂ produced from natural gas combustion. Some states have already established natural gas decarbonization programs or are looking to develop relevant policies. The intent of the panel discussion is to first discuss what decarbonization of natural gas is, and what it is intended to achieve. Panelists from organizations that have implemented or engaged with decarbonization programs will share progress and lessons learned.

Moderator: Andreas Thanos, Chair, Staff Subcommittee on Gas

Panelists:

Joanne Mello, Director of Sustainability and Energy Policy, Southern Company Gas

Natalie Karas, Senior Director & Lead Counsel, Energy, Environmental Defense Fund

Allan Schurr, Chief Commercial Officer, Enchanted Rock

Kathryn Williams, Vice President, Public Affairs, Northwest Natural

● **Staff Subcommittee on Water**

Light at the End of the Tunnel – Moving Forward Through COVID-19

The Staff subcommittee on Water invites all who are interested to join the meeting and learn more about our work.

12:00-12:15: Staff Subcommittee on Water Business meeting

12:15-1:00: *Light at the End of the Tunnel – Moving Forward Through COVID-19*

Continuing to Provide Essential Services and Taking Care of Customers

Speaker: Deborah Dewey, President, Missouri American Water

1:00-1:15 p.m.

Break

1:00-2:15 p.m.

● **Committee on International Relations**

Committee on International Relations Meeting

Welcome and Introduction

Hon. Ellen Nowak, Wisconsin

Presentation 1

The United States Energy Association will brief the committee on USEA's international programs, and will share how it can serve as a resource for US energy stakeholders.

Presenter:

Sheila Hollis, Acting Executive Director, United States Energy Association

Presentation 2: Post COVID Electricity Demand

The rapid spread of COVID led to global economic retractions and a sharp decline in power demand. When will global electricity recover to pre-pandemic levels? And when it recovers, will the level and types of power demand look the same? How will this decline in power demand impact utility planned capital expenditures? Our panelist will present their research on when they expect certain regions of the world to recover to pre-pandemic levels and the potential impact to utility investments and earnings.

Moderator:

Hon. David Morton, British Columbia

Panelists:

Hugh Wynne, Co-Head of Utilities, Renewable Energy & Power Equipment Research, Sector & Sovereign Research

Eric Selmon, Co-Head of Utilities, Renewable Energy & Power Equipment Research, Sector & Sovereign Research

Adriaan Davidse, Partner Deloitte Smart Grid Canada

1:15-2:15 p.m.

● **Staff Subcommittee on Executive Management**

● **Staff Subcommittee on Information Services**

(Joint Meeting)

(closed) Contact Seth Mendelsohn smendelsoh@pa.gov (<mailto:smendelsoh@pa.gov>) for participation information.

● **Staff Subcommittee on Rate Design**

● **Staff Subcommittee on Energy Resources and the Environment**

● **Staff Subcommittee on Electricity**

(Joint Meeting)

Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me: The Future of Net Energy Metering Policies in North America, Part 1

Co-sponsored by the Staff Subcommittee on Rate Design, Staff Subcommittee on Electricity, and Staff Subcommittee on Energy Resources and the Environment

In 1979, a pair of buildings in Massachusetts were the first in the world to practice net metering: exporting excess power from behind-the-meter solar photovoltaic systems back to the local electric utility, causing the electricity meter to run backwards as power flowed out from customer to the distribution system. Initially, net metering treated incoming power and outgoing power exactly the same, and owners of distributed energy resources (DERs) received a credit equal to the full retail price of electricity for each kilowatt-hour of energy exported. In the decades to follow, widespread adoption of DERs, clean energy targets, and changing customer demands have pushed state regulators to reevaluate net metering policies to better align with sound regulatory principles and state policy objectives.

During this panel, you will hear an overview of recent state net metering policy developments. This panel will cover in depth actions from a state that recently implemented retail net metering and hear from a utility that recently reached an agreement with rooftop solar installers and other solar advocate groups on net metering reform.

Moderator: Autumn Proudlove, Senior Policy Program Director, North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center

Panelists:

Jamie Barber, Director, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Unit, Georgia Public Service Commission and Chairman, Staff Subcommittee on Rate Design

Lon Huber, Vice President, Rate Design and Strategic Solutions, Duke Energy

Matt McDonnell, Managing Director, US Consulting, Strategen

● **Subcommittee / Staff Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues**

(Closed Meeting)

2:15-2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30-3:30 p.m.

● Committee on Critical Infrastructure

Committee on Critical Infrastructure

2:30-3:30 PM ET

Federal Partners Update - Department of Homeland Security- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Moderators: Chairman Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Vice Chairman Dianne Solomon

Panelist:

Robert Kolasky, Assistant Director, CISA, DHS - Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure (Energy Sector) and Risk Management
Joseph McClelland, Director, Office of Energy Infrastructure Security - FERC

Critical Infrastructure Committee Joint Sponsor Meetings:

Committee on Telecommunications: Friday, February 4, 2021: 4:00 to 5:00 PM ET - **Physical Security at Phone Facilities**

Committee on Electricity: Tuesday, February 9, 2021: 4:00-5:00 PM ET - **Emerging Technologies for a Resilient Grid**

Committee on Gas: Wednesday, February 10, 2021: 1:15-2:15 PM ET - **Exploring Gas Sector Resilience**

● Staff Subcommittee on Electricity

● Staff Subcommittee on Energy Resources and the Environment

● Staff Subcommittee on Rate Design

(Joint Meeting)

Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me: The Future of Net Energy Metering Policies in North America, Part 2

Co-sponsored by the Staff Subcommittee on Electricity, Staff Subcommittee on Rate Design, and Staff Subcommittee on Energy Resources and the Environment

At their inception, net metering rates were intended to incentivize early adoption of customer-sited renewable energy in an energy supply arena dominated by fossil fuels. Often legislatively implemented and established outside the traditional cost of service framework of utility rate offerings, these programs typically credited customers with the full retail rate for excess energy that customers exported to their utility. Rapid evolution in distributed generation markets has sparked reconsideration of ongoing incentive rates for distributed renewable generation, and explorations of how to reframe net energy metering by updating the cost of service framework traditionally associated with one-way power flows. This session focuses on the tools and methodologies utilized by states that are often considered to be frontrunners in net energy metering reform. And we review ongoing pilots and research that are helping to shape and inform net energy metering reforms.

Moderator: Mark LeBel, Associate, Regulatory Assistance Project

Panelists:

John Garvey, Utility Supervisor, Clean Energy & Markets Section, Office of Markets & Innovation, New York Department of Public Service

Tom Tanton, Director of Science and Technology Assessment, E&E Legal

Melissa Whited, Principal Associate, Synapse Energy Economics

● Subcommittee / Staff Subcommittee on Clean Coal

Carbon Sequestration Panel Discussion and Waste Coal Guest Speaker

2:30 pm ET

Welcome and Introductions

Hon. Jeremy Oden, Alabama

Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Coal and Carbon Management

2:35 - 3:15 pm ET Panel Discussion

Digging into the Underground: Exploring Possibilities for Carbon Sequestration

Carbon capture is one of the most promising solutions we can leverage to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the energy and industrial sectors. Once carbon is captured from an energy or industrial process, it can either be utilized – often to recover additional oil from existing reservoirs – or permanently sequestered underground. What does the landscape for carbon sequestration look like today? Where the opportunities, and what are the challenges, for large-scale carbon sequestration? Join experts as they discuss geologic, technical, and regulatory considerations for large-scale sequestration in onshore and offshore basins; regulatory and policy treatment and opportunities to facilitate sequestration in the Southeast, Midwest, and Great Plains; and the benefits and drawbacks of state applications for EPA Class VI Underground Injection Control primary enforcement responsibility.

Moderator: Hon. Brian Kroshus, North Dakota

Panelists:

Kimberly Sams Gray, Managing Director, Southern States Energy Board

Sallie Greenberg, Principal Scientist, University of Illinois - Illinois State Geological Survey

Neeraj Gupta, Senior Research Leader, Battelle

John Harju, Vice President for Strategic Partnerships, University of North Dakota Energy & Environmental Research Center

M. Jason Lanclos, P.E. Director, State Energy Office, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

3:15 - 3:30 pm ET

The Prospect of a Zero Emission Coal Fired Power Plant?

Speakers:

Michelle Bloodworth, President and CEO, America's Power

Jimmy Brock, President and CEO, CONSOL Energy

● Staff Subcommittee on Consumers and the Public Interest

(Closed Meeting) Contact Cindy Muir cmuir@psc.state.fl.us (mailto:cmuir@psc.state.fl.us) for participation information.

2:30-3:45 p.m.

2:30-3:45 p.m.

● **Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity**

Diversity as Levers of Change: During and After COVID

SELECT COMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AND INDUSTRY DIVERSITY MEETING AGENDA

Hosted by: Chair Hon. Sadzi Oliva, Illinois, Vice-Chair Hon. Willie Phillips, District of Columbia,
Staff Chair Patrice Jones Hunter

2:30 PM

Business Meeting

2:40 PM

Diversity as Levers of Change: During and After COVID – Panel Discussion Co-Hosted by the Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity and the Committee on International Relations

Panel discussion to hear timely, useful updates on key studies and surveys outlining the impact of increasing diversity and women in leadership roles in organizations relevant to state commissioners. The panel speakers will share perspectives from both national and global arenas.

Hon. Sadzi Oliva, Illinois and Hon. Willie Phillips, District of Columbia - Summary of Dec. 10, 2020 Webinar on "The Intersection of COVID, Recession, and Race, and Their Impact on Utility Regulation"

Commissioner Emeritus Lorraine Akiba, President/CEO of LHA Ventures – "Global Gender Diversity Perspectives: Corporate ESG and Government Directives as Levers of Change"

Allison Carlson, Managing Director of Foreign Policy Analytics – Presentation on "Women as Levers of Change"

Barbara Tyran, President of Women's Council on Energy & the Environment – Findings from WCEE's Annual Membership Meeting and Survey on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

3:20 PM

Q&A Moderated by Hon. Sadzi Oliva, Illinois

3:30-3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45-4:45 p.m.

3:45-5:00 p.m.

● **Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest**

Ongoing Impacts of COVID-19 on Utilities and Customers

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant effect on the world over the past year, and has dramatically changed life as we knew it. Throughout the country, collaboration between utilities, commissions, governors, and state legislatures have helped customers keep their utility services working through lost employment and home quarantining. As the pandemic wears on, utilities are gradually reinstating disconnection policies and turning their focus to helping customers find ways to meet outstanding

utility payments. What is the long-term outlook for utilities as they deal with increasing bad debt, and their customers as many continue to struggle to make ends meet?

This panel will take a deep-dive into the past, present and future impacts of COVID-19 on customers and the utility industry.

Moderator:

Hon. Obi Linton, Maryland

Panelists:

Hon. Ann Rendahl, Washington

Elliott J. Nethercutt, Principal Researcher, NRRI

William McCurry, Senior Program Officer, NARUC Center for Partnerships & Innovation

Andrew Slater, Public Advocate, Division of the Public Advocate, Delaware

Angie M. Pizutti, Vice President and Chief Customer Officer, DTE

● **Staff Subcommittee on Electric Reliability and Resilience**

Building Resilience into Electricity Planning – Frameworks, Methods and Metrics

What does it mean to do resilience planning and how should Commission's consider resilience in electric utility plans? IEEE's Industry Technical Support Leadership Committee has compiled **Resilience Frameworks, Methods and Metrics for the Electricity Sector** (October 2020) offering case studies from around the country; as well as, a summary for regulators of the various approaches to resilience planning that are emerging. The report and this panel offers insights for Commissions on comprehensive electric planning, grid modernization investment evaluation, how local government or customer resilience plans can be considered, and more. In **Designing a Policy Roadmap to a Clean Resilient Grid** (December 2020), Stem proposes a policy and equity framework that includes metrics, valuation, and timelines by ownership model and customer type

Moderator: Hon. Kate Bailey, New Hampshire

Panelists:

Damir Novosel, President at Quanta Technology and Chair of IEEE Industry Technical Support Leadership Committee

Bill Chiu, Managing Director – Grid Modernization and Resiliency at Southern California Edison and Lead Author on IEEE's Report (*invited*)

Ted Ko, VP Policy & Regulatory Affairs, Stem

Links to the reports:

https://resourcecenter.ieee-pes.org/technical-publications/technical-reports/PES_TP_TR83_ITSLC_102920.html (https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fresourcecenter.ieee-pes.org%2Ftechnical-publications%2Ftechnical-reports%2FPES_TP_TR83_ITSLC_102920.html&data=04%7C01%7Cmichelle.rosier%40state.mn.us%7Cfce68b32e77c4d3b279108d8ac21d630%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637448608624005484%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=jaQKfEijWSpgiuRdYGOFnHljkz9Cuej9b0VW%2BP9Y4N8%3D&reserved=0)

<https://www.stem.com/designing-policy-roadmap-to-clean-resilient-grid/> (<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.stem.com%2Fdesigning-policy-roadmap-to-clean-resilient-grid%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmichelle.rosier%40state.mn.us%7C7940fd8e4a6c4877744308d8bcd-baef6%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637466999013150020%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJW>)

ljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBtIl6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=0FUobzHxppJpGc%2F0NkRuK1m%2BddC5t6YMtbH47In%2FbRY%3D&reserved=0)

● Subcommittee / Staff Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety

(Closed session)

All Commissioners and Staff are welcome. Contact Chris Mele cmele@naruc.org (<mailto:cmele@naruc.org>) for participant information.

Closed session

All Commissioners and Staff are welcome. Contact Chris Mele cmele@naruc.org (<mailto:cmele@naruc.org>) for participant information.

● Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications

Updates in the States

Moderators:

Joe Witmer, Pennsylvania, Staff Chair

Angel Stenmark, Mississippi, Staff Vice Chair

Greg Doyle, Minnesota, Staff Vice Chair

Joe Tiernan, Massachusetts, Staff Issues Co-Liason

Dan Klein, Idaho, Staff Issues Co-Liason

Panelists:

Brad Ramsay, NARUC, National Issues

Sherry Lichtenberg, NRRI, Research Updates

State Members: Emerging Issues in the States

In addition to updates from the Moderators and Panelists and the States, State Members will also consider proposed Resolutions and Future Topics for Summer 2021 NARUC.

4:45-5:00 p.m.

Break

Friday, February 5, 2021

1:00-4:00 p.m.

● Task Force on Broadband Expansion

The 5 sub-groups will provide summary reports of their research and describe potential recommendations about expanding broadband availability and affordability.

Monday, February 8, 2021

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Commissioners Emeritus BYOL: Bring Your Own Lunch!

Download the Invitation (<http://pubs.naruc.org/pub/C1E6E426-155D-0A36-318C-423632D39829>)

12:00-2:00 p.m.

NRRI Author Spotlight

NRRI Author Spotlight with Steve Mitnick

Steve Mitnick, editor-in-chief of *Public Utilities Fortnightly*, will discuss his book, *Lewis Latimer, The First Hidden Figure*. Clint Vince, chair of Dentons U.S. Energy Practice and co-chair of Dentons Global Energy Sector, will share how the book is being used as part of their diversity efforts. NARUC President Paul Kjellander of Idaho—who did the artwork for the book—will also discuss his participation in the project.

Carla Peterman, Senior Vice President Strategy and Regulatory Affairs, Southern California Edison will talk about the book will be used to support her company's diversity efforts.

2:00-2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30-3:45 p.m.

Commissioner One-On-One Meetings

Pre-sign up is required. Appointment space is limited!

3:45-4:00 p.m.

Break

4:00-5:00 p.m.

Regional Meetings

MACRUC: Open to all attendees

MACRUC Draft Agenda:

- Welcome and introduction of new members: President Willie Phillips, DC
- Update on MACRUC Annual Education Conference: President Willie Phillips, DC / Michelle Malloy
- Strengthening Federal-State Electricity Regulatory Relationships: Hon. Jason Stanek, MD
- Breakout Rooms: All Attendees
- State Updates: MACRUC Board Members

MARC: Commissioners Only. Participation information will be sent directly to members.

NECPUC: Commissioners Only. Participation information will be sent directly to members.

WESTERN: Open to stakeholders

Other Regional Meetings: Check back for details.

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

12:00-1:15 p.m.

Opening General Session

From Lab Bench to Benchmarking

The utility sector faces unprecedented pressure created by policy shifts, growing consumer expectations, and rapidly evolving technological advancements that could completely alter the utility ecosystem. Concerns about deep decarbonization, electrification, resilience, grid modernization, the need for more renewable energy resources, cybersecurity, and the surge of distributed energy resource development are among the many drivers that will alter the utility landscape. The looming concern is which emerging technologies and innovation will carry us forward and what impact will those changes have on the current regulatory regime. As utilities confront the impact of changes that could significantly alter the value proposition of the services they provide, what role should regulators play in the integration of these potentially disruptive technologies and innovation. How do we connect the dots that will help all stakeholders benefit from the changing utility landscape?

This is the first Connecting the Dots session of the series examining the various ways that technological advances emerge and how utility regulators handle them as they mature. In a fireside chat with U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory leaders, we will explore: What technology innovations are on the horizon? What impacts might these emerging technologies have on society? What are the elements that either derail or advance these technologies into the marketplace? What problems might emerge as these technologies are integrated into existing systems? And crucially, what is the role of regulation in this process?

Learn how innovation moves from the developmental stage to practical applications.

Facilitator: Hon. Paul Kjellander, Idaho, NARUC President

Steven E. Aumeier, PhD, Senior Advisor, Nuclear Energy Programs and Strategy, Idaho National Laboratory

Kelly Speakes-Backman, Acting Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy

Dr. David Miller, Senior Fellow for Strategic Systems Analysis and Engineering, National Energy Technology Laboratory, NETL

Ravi Prasher, Ph.D., Associate Lab Director, Energy Technologies Area, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

1:15-1:30 p.m.

Break

1:30-2:30 p.m.

● Committee on Electricity

Has Net Energy Metering Had Its Day in the Sun? Bright Ideas for Compensating Distributed Generation (Joint with Energy Resources & Environment)

Has Net Energy Metering Had Its Day in the Sun? Bright Ideas for Compensating Distributed Generation

Co-sponsored by the Committee on Electricity and Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment

As adoption of rooftop solar and other distributed energy resources (DERs) continues to grow, many states are implementing or considering changes to net energy metering (NEM) rates compensating energy exports to the grid. There is increasing agreement that NEM rates do not convey the full value of distributed energy to DER owners. However, stakeholders have not yet reached consensus about whether – and by how much – NEM rates overstate or understate the value of these resources. These discussions have brought a critical question before public utility commissions: how should regulators approach revising NEM rates in a manner that reduces carbon emissions, maintains reliability, encourages beneficial electrification, minimizes costs, and achieves equitable DER adoption? This panel will offer multiple perspectives from participants in recent NEM revision dockets. Panelists will offer lessons learned from their own experiences and recommendations on how commissions can facilitate an inclusive, productive process.

Moderators:

Hon. Andrew French, Kansas

Hon. Jehmal Hudson, Virginia

Panelists:

Hon. Sarah Hofmann, Vermont

Mohit Chhabra, Senior Scientist, Climate and Clean Energy Program, Natural Resources Defense Council

Emily Fisher, General Counsel and Senior Vice President, Clean Energy, Edison Electric Institute

Kevin Lucas, Senior Director of Utility Regulation & Policy, Solar Energy Industries Association

● **Committee on ERE**

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Kevin Lucas, Senior Director of Utility Regulation & Policy, Solar Energy Industries Association

● **Committee on Gas**

LNG: State of the Market and Regulatory Considerations, Part 1 of 3: Building Blocks of LNG

Liquefied Natural Gas: State of the Market and Regulatory Considerations

Part 1 of 3: Building Blocks of LNG

This session will offer an introductory overview of LNG production, transportation, and consumption and the advantages and

drawbacks of LNG compared to other energy resources.

Introductory Remarks by Hon. Diane X. Burman, New York

Moderators:

Hon. D. Ethan Kimbrel, Illinois

Andreas Thanos, Chair, Staff Subcommittee on Gas

Panelists:

Charlie Riedl, Executive Director, Center for LNG

Jacques Rousseau, Managing Director, Oil and Natural Gas, ClearView Energy Partners

Rob Smith, Vice President for Regulatory Affairs, Cheniere Energy

● **Committee on Telecommunications**

Radio Access Network (RAN): What Is It and Why Does It Matter?

Open Radio Access Network (RAN): What Is It and Why Does It Matter?

While cellular technology is not “squarely in the wheelhouse” of state commissioners, the term “Open RAN (Radio Access Network)” is being used with increasing frequency in telecommunication discussions. This panel will focus on educating attendees on what Open RAN is, how different providers are planning to deploy Open RAN, the impact of Open RAN on consumers, and any policy considerations with the new technology.

Moderator:

Hon. Chris Nelson, South Dakota

Panelists:

Diane Rinaldo, Executive Director, Open RAN Policy Coalition

Chris Boyer, Vice President of Global Security and Technology Policy, AT&T

John Hunter, Senior Director of Technology and Engineering Policy, T-Mobile

● **Committee on Water**

Investing in Our Water Infrastructure: Exploring Opportunities in the Next Decade

According to the American Society of Engineers there are an estimated 240,000 water main breaks per year in the United States, wasting over two trillion gallons of treated drinking water. American Water Works Association estimates \$1 trillion will be necessary to maintain and expand service to meet demands over the next 25 years. Infrastructure investment is not only important to ensuring water quality and fire protection, but is becoming increasingly relevant through a water-energy nexus lens.

This session will provide an overview of the current state of water infrastructure in 2021 and expert discussion on:

- State experiences with increasing investment in water infrastructure;
- Opportunities for public-private partnerships;
- Cybersecurity investment for the next decade

Moderators:

Hon. David Ober, Indiana

Hasan Doza, CFA, Water Asset Management

Panelists:

Hon. Martha Guzman Aceves, California

Jim Busch, Utility Regulatory Manager, Water & Sewer, Missouri

Shawn Bradford, Senior Vice President, EPCOR

Hot Topics Interactive Track

Transportation Electrification

What's New? What are your thoughts on Transportation Electrification?

This interactive session will cover recent developments regarding EV's, charging infrastructure, the impact of COVID-19, as well as federal and state guidelines on transportation electrification. Attendees should plan to join the conversation to make comments or ask questions!

Co-hosts

Hon. Jason Stanek, Maryland

Hon. Bob Gordon, New Jersey

Panelists

Dan Bowerson, Director of Environment & Energy, The Alliance for Automotive Innovation

Kristy Fleischmann Groncki, Manager of Strategic Programs, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company

Rohan Patel, Senior Global Director, Public Policy and Business Development, Tesla

2:30-2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45-3:45 p.m.

● Committee on Electricity

FERC 2222: Preparing for Take-Off, The Role of the State Commissions (Joint with Energy Resources & Environment)

FERC 2222: Preparing for Take-Off, The Role of the State Commissions

Co-sponsored by the Committees on Energy Resources and the Environment and Electricity

On September 17, 2020 the FERC issued its final rule Order 2222, outlining the pathway for distributed energy resources to participate in established wholesale markets. This landmark order envisions a future where new and existing distributed energy resources can access market based pricing in the regional organized wholesale capacity, energy and ancillary services markets alongside traditional resources. Each RTO/ISO must file the tariff changes needed to implement the requirements of this final

rule within 270 days of the rules publication in the Federal Register on October 21, 2020 (July 19, 2021). While FERC Order 2222 focuses on the intended roles and requirements of RTO/ISOs within their jurisdiction, in order for FERC's vision to be realized it will require unprecedented coordination between RTO/ISOs, Distribution Utilities and Regulators now and beyond July 19, 2021. This session will focus on the initial steps being taken by RTO/ISOs in their tariff development and compliance filings as well as issues that State Commissions should be considering such as interconnection requirements, coordination, and retail distributed energy resource program terms and conditions in the wake of this landmark Order.

Moderator: Hon. Carrie Zalewski, Illinois

Panelist:

Hon. Ted Thomas, Arkansas

Marcus Hawkins, Executive Director, Organization of MISO States

TBA

● **Committee on ERE**

FERC 2222: Preparing for Take-Off, The Role of the State Commissions (Joint with Committee on Electricity)

Co-sponsored by the Committees on Energy Resources and the Environment and Electricity

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Moderator: Hon. Carrie Zalewski, Illinois

Panelist:

Hon. Megan Decker, Oregon

Hon. Ted Thomas, Arkansas

Marcus Hawkins, Executive Director, Organization of MISO States

Kelli Joseph, Advisor, Power Edison

Paul Suskie, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Southwest Power Pool

● **Committee on Gas**

The International LNG Market, Climate Policies & the Role of the U.S. and Other Institutions in the Global Effort to Address Climate Change

The International LNG Market, Climate Policies & the Role of the U.S. and Other Institutions in the Global Effort to Address

Climate Change

Co-sponsored by the Committee on Gas and the Committee on International Relations

In February 2016, the United States became an LNG exporter again. Today, the U.S. is one of the top three LNG exporters. Climate policies and market prices have led countries to reduce coal and oil consumption, resulting in tremendous growth in the international LNG market. Importing countries are developing new transmission systems or expanding existing ones. This process involves updating or establishing new laws and regulations for LNG imports and distribution of natural gas. The U.S. has a long history of regulation of the natural gas market. Currently, there are several federally-supported projects providing policy and regulatory assistance to these markets. This panel will discuss the how the U.S. is currently supporting our economic allies and how we can continue to provide this policy-based assistance

Moderator: Hon. Diane X. Burman, New York

Panelists:

Dorian Mead, Energy Reform & Reconstruction Advisor, USAID

Agnieszka Ozga, Head of International Projects Department, Gas Market Development Division, GAZ-SYSTEM S.A., Poland

Shelley Ruszkowski, Project Manager, ExxonMobil

● Committee on Telecommunications

Rural Development Opportunity Fund (RuDOF): What's Next?

The auction is over and the FCC is in the process of confirming the details provided in the applications of auction winners. On January 19, 2021 a broad coalition of Republican and Democratic senators and representatives sent a letter to the agency urging it to thoroughly vet those applications. At stake is the \$9 billion in rural broadband funding awarded next year. As the FCC reviews the long-form applications, the legislators urged the commission to “validate that each provider in fact has the technical, financial, managerial, [and] operational skills, capabilities and resources to deliver the services that they have pledged for every American they plan to serve regardless of the technology they use.” In this session, speakers will discuss auction winners, the long form review process, possible FCC remedies for winners that miss milestones or promised technical specifications, and next steps in the roll out.

Moderator:

Hon. Tim Schram, Nebraska

Panelists:

Joe Gillan, Principal, Gillan Associates

Louis Peraertz, Vice President of Policy, WISPA

Dan Gonzalez, Group Vice President of State Regulatory Affairs, Charter Spectrum

David Goldman, Director of Satellite Policy, SpaceX

● Committee on Water

Bringing Clean Water to Africa, the Navajo Nation, and Beyond

Around the world, an estimated 790 million people are living without access to clean drinking water. Furthermore, about 1.8 billion people are living without improved sanitation practices. Women and children spend an estimated 200 million hours daily col-

lecting contaminated and unsafe water, leading to nearly 2,000 child deaths per day due to water-borne illnesses. To address this issue, the World Health Organization has set a target goal to see universal and equitable access to clean water for ALL by the year 2030. WorldServe International, together with the Global Water Institute at Ohio State, are working hard to make that goal a reality.

Founded in 1996, with the mission to provide clean water, sanitation, education and economic opportunities to alleviate suffering in Africa, WorldServe International is now a leading provider of clean water wells in East Africa. While there are over 319 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa living without access to clean water, each year, WorldServe International sees over 100,000 people experience life change through the installation of large-scale, sustainable, solar-powered water projects. WorldServe's vision combines powerful partnerships, sustainable solutions and experience, using a sustainable, solar-powered clean water process with the potential to reach up to 7,500 people per water source. By partnering with groups like Global Water Institute at Ohio State and Foundation SUEZ, WorldServe is able to deliver sustainable water solutions to even more communities in need. This includes the Navajo Nation, which experienced a dire water shortage during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please join our panelists to learn more about this important work.

Moderator: Hon. Brad Johnson, Montana

Panelist:

John Bongiorno, President, World Serve International

Tom Darrah, Executive Director, Global Water Institute of the Ohio State University

David Kangethe, East Africa Director, WorldServe International

Cheri Reynolds, VP, Assist International and Director, Global Health and Program Development

Jon Freedman, Global Government Affairs Leader, SUEZ

Hot Topics Interactive Track

Ride N Drive – Virtually!

The EV Working Group of NARUC has collaborated with new national EV organizations – Plug in America (PIA) and the Alliance for Transportation Electrification (ATE) – to organize a virtual EV ride and drive event!

After a ‘cool and quiet’ drive, experts from PIA, ATE and the auto manufacturers will answer your questions! During this interactive session you can ask about: the technology, charging rates, integration to the grid, how all this works to lower costs to consumers, preserving and transforming the auto and truck industry, and how to manage loads flexibly and integrate renewable energy.

Facilitator: Hon. Sarah Freeman, Indiana

PIA and ATE will work with two or three auto and truck OEMs to do a “virtual drive” on video with a driver, including the new light truck EV from Lordstown Motor.

Phil Jones, ATE

Lincoln Wood, Southern Company

Brett Steudle, DTE Energy

Michael Krauthamer, Senior Advisor, ATE

Katherine Stainken, PIA

Chris Kerzich, Lordstown Motors

Matthew DeWine, Lordstown Motors

3:45-4:00 p.m.

Break

4:00-5:00 p.m.

● **Committee on Electricity**

● **Committee on Critical Infrastructure**

(Joint Meeting)

Emerging Technologies for A Resilient Grid (Joint with Critical Infrastructure)

How can advanced technologies for infrastructure resiliency and vegetation management help us face natural disaster—from wildfires to winter storms?

The resiliency of the power sector continues to be at the forefront of state and national regulatory conversations, and technologies to enhance service resilience are constantly evolving. New technology using satellite imaging is vastly improving the ability of utilities to prevent outages and decrease wildfire risks in the West; drone technology enables faster, more precise imaging of potential powerline failures; sensors and AI advancements offer instant risk notification. Commissioners will hear from researchers and utilities about advances in vegetation management and other grid-hardening technologies that can help us prevent system failures and ensure the lights stay on.

Moderator:

Hon. Willie L. Phillips, District of Columbia

Panelists:

Kevin Walker, chief operations officer, Duquesne Light Company

Andy Abranches, senior director of special projects, PG&E

Drew McGuire, senior program manager of distribution, EPRI

● Committee on ERE

Business Meeting

- Mary Kilmarx Award
- Resolutions
- Center for Partnerships and Innovation Update - Danielle Sass Byrnett, Director
- National Regulatory Research Institute Update - Tom Stanton, Principal Researcher for Energy and Environment
- NARUC/NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning - Danielle Sass Byrnett
- Commissioner Roundtable Discussion, Get to Know Your Peers
 - What keeps you up at night? Can you tell us more about the dockets are you looking forward to in the new year?
 - What do you think of those new State policies?

● Committee on Gas

LNG: State of the Market and Regulatory Considerations, Part 2 of 3: Concerns and Opportunities for Regulators

Liquefied Natural Gas: State of the Market and Regulatory Considerations

Part 2 of 3: Concerns and Opportunities for Regulators

What does LNG mean for natural gas customers in the U.S.? This panel will explore the impacts of LNG growth on domestic gas supply and prices. Panelists will also discuss the growth of U.S. LNG infrastructure and state and federal regulatory oversight.

Moderators:

Hon. Valerie Means, Minnesota

Hon. Kim O'Guinn, Arkansas

Panelists:

Adam Bednarczyk, Supervisory Energy Industry Analyst, Office of Energy Policy and Innovation, Division of Energy Market Assessments, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Dena Wiggins, President and CEO, Natural Gas Supply Association

Pam Witmer, Vice President of Government Affairs, UGI Energy Services and Commissioner Emeritus

● Committee on Telecommunications

Network Reliability: Issues and Challenges

Following the historic SolarWinds cyberattack, there continues to be broad interest in the evolving cybersecurity threats to our nation's telecommunications and energy systems. Recent domestic threats and intentional attacks, including the RV bombing incident at an AT&T facility in Nashville, TN on Christmas Day or the recent tampering and disruption of gas service in Aspen, CO, have also raised awareness of emerging risk to the physical integrity and security of our utility networks and infrastructure. This Joint Panel sponsored by the Telecommunications and Critical Infrastructure Committees will discuss this increasingly relevant and important issue.

Moderator:

Hon. Tremaine Phillips, Michigan

Panelists:

Bob Desiato, Director, AT&T Technology Operations

Brett Kilbourne, General Counsel and Vice President of Policy, Utilities Technology Council

Kathryn Condello, Senior Director of National Security, Lumen Technologies

Matt Tooley, VP Broadband Technology, NCTA

● **Committee on Water**

Business Meeting

All new, current and/or **interested** Commissioners and commission staff are invited to join. Agenda to follow.

5:00-5:15 p.m.

Break

5:15-6:15 p.m.

NARUC Winter Magic Social

Join the world-renowned magician Rich Hurley and NARUC

Rich regularly performs at the world-famous Magic Castle in Hollywood. His illusions twist reality into wondrously magical moments you will remember for a very long time. Funny, Lots of Wows, How'd you do that and Amazing!

You don't want to miss out as we work our magic, transcending the limitations of the Winter Policy Summit's virtual platform with mindblowing interactive magic that breaks the screen barrier. Chance to win prizes! Regulation is our focus with a little Hocus Pocus.

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

12:00-1:00 p.m.

General Session

Congressional Update

Keynote Speaker: Rep. Michael (Mike) K. Simpson (R-ID), House Appropriations Committee, Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and member Interior and Environment Subcommittee will have a live Q & A with President Kjellander.

NARUC, the States, and the Administration: Where Do We Go from Here?

NARUC committee representatives will discuss the most important issues facing the state PUC's today and over the next few years. What would they like to say to the new administration about priority issues? How can the feds best work with the states to achieve their respective goals? What's uppermost on the minds of the state commissioners who also lead NARUC's standing committee?

Facilitator: Hon. Michael Caron, CT, NARUC 2nd Vice President

Participants include:

Hon. Abigail Anthony, Rhode Island

Hon. Maria Bocanegra, Illinois

Hon. Karen Charles-Peterson, Massachusetts

Hon. D. Ethan Kimbrel, Illinois

Hon. Ann Rendahl, Washington

1:00-1:15 p.m.

Break

1:15-2:15 p.m.

● Committee on Electricity

80 is the New 60: Decarbonization and Innovation Pave the Way for Second License Renewal for Existing Nuclear Plants

80 is the New 60: Decarbonization and Innovation Pave the Way for Second License Renewal for Existing Nuclear Plants

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is authorized by the Atomic Energy Act to issue operating licenses to nuclear power plants for 40 years with additional renewals of 20 years per renewal. Most of the existing nuclear plants in the U.S. have already applied for and received one license renewal to operate for 60 years and will need a second license renewal to continue generating electricity into the future. Second license renewal enables the current fleet to continue to operate to the 2045 to 2065 timeframe and provides a carbon free energy source as the grid decentralizes and advanced sources of carbon free energy are developed, demonstrated, and deployed. This panel will examine the motivation as well as innovation for obtaining a second license renewal, the reasons why utilities make the decision for continued operations, and the research and development work that laid the foundation for second license renewals.

Moderator: Hon. Matt Schuerger, Minnesota

Panelists:

Heather Feldman, Director, Innovation in the Nuclear Sector, Electric Power Research Institute

Bruce Hallbert, Director, Nuclear Safety and Regulatory Research Division, Idaho National Laboratory

Doug True, Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, Nuclear Energy Institute

Hon. David Wright, Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

● Committee on ERE**Innovative Technology Demonstration and Deployment: Next Stop, Cost Recovery**

At the Tuesday General Session, National Labs described how the utility environment for innovation is changing and how innovation moves from the developmental stage to practical applications. Due to the changes described in Tuesday's session, regulators are contemplating best practices for incentivizing, reviewing, analyzing, approving, and rewarding utilities for successfully deploying innovative technologies throughout the electricity system. Regardless if the change is through public policy or proposed by the utility, regulators have principles, frameworks, and tools for approving investment and cost recovery. This panel will review how risk is shared between utility shareholders and customers, how jurisdictions have approached innovation investment thus far, and initiate a discussion reflecting how regulators can leverage preexisting guidance to manage their states' energy future.

Moderator: Hon. Tyler Huebner, Wisconsin

Panelists:

Hon. Thad LeVar, Utah

Kristin Munsch, Deputy Director, National Grid

Julien Dumoulin-Smith, Managing Director, Bank of America Securities

● Committee on Gas**Exploring Gas Sector Resilience****Exploring Gas Sector Resilience**

Co-sponsored by the Committee on Gas, Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest, and Committee on Critical Infrastructure

During this Committee on Gas Business meeting, we will have an exciting discussion facilitated by NARUC Committee on Gas Chair Ethan Kimbrel, Illinois and his two Co-Vice Chairs, Commissioners Julie Fedorchak, North Dakota and Tammy Cordova, Nevada. An expert panel will explore the importance of natural gas in achieving energy resilience objectives. Energy is key to everything and a secure, reliable, and resilient energy grid is vital. The discussion will examine the natural gas sector's ability to prevent, withstand, adapt to, and recover from damage or operational disruption caused by events such as extreme weather, cyber and physical attacks, and other threats both routine and infrequent. Key takeaways will focus on resiliency issues pertinent to regulators.

Moderators:

Hon. Tammy Cordova, Nevada

Hon. Julie Fedorchak, North Dakota

Hon. D. Ethan Kimbrel, Illinois

Panelists:

Natalie Karas, Senior Director & Lead Counsel, Energy, Environmental Defense Fund

Rick Murphy, Executive Director, American Gas Foundation

Tom Poteet, Vice President, Corporate Development, Mesa Solutions

Mike McGhee, P.E., Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary - Energy & Sustainability, U.S. Army

● **Committee on Telecommunications**

Financial Issues: Views From Investors & Wall Street

Financial Issues: Views from Investors & Wall Street

The pandemic of 2020 made navigating the business climate challenging for communication companies. Research and Investment experts share their insight on the Telecom industry and how they are weathering the pandemic today.

Moderator:

Hon. Sarah Freeman, Indiana

Panelists:

Frank Louthan, Managing Director - Equity Research, Raymond James

Tim Horan, Managing Director and Senior Analyst, Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.

● **Committee on Water**

Water Security: Safeguarding the Universal Lifeline against Cyber Threats in 2021 (Part I)

As recently as December 2020, the United States fell prey to a massive cyber-attack on our Nation's various agencies, including the Department of Energy and the FERC. This breach highlights the need for utilities to develop frameworks to address things like prevention, risk assessment, gaps, coordination and action plans. Join the Committee on Water for this immersive and interactive tabletop exercise on cybersecurity issues facing the water and waste sectors.

This exercise will take up both Water Committee sessions on Wednesday, and participants are asked to attend both sessions.

Moderator: James Harmening, Director Cybersecurity & Risk Management, Illinois Commerce Commission

Panelists:

John Spatz, DuPage Water Commission

Joseph 'JD' Henry, Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency

Discussion Facilitators:

John Spatz, DuPage County Water

Joseph 'JD' Henry, Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security

Agency

Bob Ervin, Aqua Illinois

Nick Santillo, American Water

2:15-2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30-3:30 p.m.

● Committee on Electricity

Business Meeting

Committee on Electricity Business Meeting

Agenda:

- Introduction and commissioner Q&A with Hon. Mark Christie, FERC
- Center for Partnerships and Innovation Update: Danielle Sass Byrnett, Director
- NARUC/NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning: Danielle Sass Byrnett

● Committee on ERE

The Role of the Utility in Electrification

To help avert climate change, the US is going to have to increase its spending on solutions now. Much of that spending needs to be directed at cleaning up the heating and transportation sectors. A potentially cost-effective solution for reducing emissions from these sectors is to electrify heating systems and vehicles so retail customers can access cleaner electric energy. Switching to new equipment, ensuring new demand can be met, and ensuring that electric energy is cleaner than the alternatives will take planning, investment, education, and good government. Electric and gas utilities have roles to play, but the time available to define that role is shortening. This panel explores what stake ratepayers have in addressing the externalities of heating and transportation; what role their utilities should play in electrification; and what public policy, economics, and regulatory principles can tell us about fair approaches to enabling electrification.

Moderator: Hon. Abigail Anthony, Rhode Island

Panelists:

Hon. John Gavan, Colorado

Hon. Charlotte Mitchell, North Carolina

Rachel Gold, Director, Utilities Program and my organization is American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

Travis Kavulla, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, NRG Energy

● **Committee on Gas**

LNG: State of the Market and Regulatory Considerations, Part 3 of 3: The Global LNG Market

Liquefied Natural Gas: State of the Market and Regulatory Considerations

Part 3 of 3: The Global LNG Market

Co-sponsored by the Committee on Gas and the Committee on International Relations

Expanding LNG use will have significant impacts on global greenhouse gas emissions, particularly for rapidly growing economies in Asia and Africa. This panel will discuss LNG's complex relationship with economic growth, energy security, and environmental impacts around the world.

Moderators:

Hon. Jay Balasbas, Washington

Hon. Ellen Nowak, Wisconsin

Panelists:

Riley Smith, Policy Advisor, Global Gas and LNG, American Petroleum Institute

John Kemp, Senior Market Analyst, Commodities and Energy, Reuters

Additional panelists TBA

● **Committee on Telecommunications**

Committee Business Meeting

Moderator:

Hon. Karen Charles-Peterson, Massachusetts

● **Committee on Water**

Water Security: Safeguarding the Universal Lifeline against Cyber Threats in 2021 (Part II)

As recently as December 2020, the United States fell prey to a massive cyber-attack on our Nation's various agencies, including the Department of Energy and the FERC. This breach highlights the need for utilities to develop frameworks to address things like prevention, risk assessment, gaps, coordination and action plans. Join the Committee on Water for this immersive and interactive tabletop exercise on cybersecurity issues facing the water and waste sectors.

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Discussion Facilitators:

John Spatz, DuPage County Water

Joseph 'JD' Henry, Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency

Bob Ervin, Aqua Illinois

Nick Santillo, American Water

3:30-3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45-5:00 p.m.

Closing General Session

Green Hydrogen: A Moment or a Movement?

Are you ready for some hydrogen? Energy insiders have been buzzing about the potential of green hydrogen – using renewable electricity to separate H₂ from water molecules – to contribute to decarbonization goals in the electric power, industrial, and transportation sectors. In July 2020, the U.S. Department of Energy released a federal hydrogen strategy to achieve a low-carbon

economy. Demonstration plants and utility-scale projects utilizing green hydrogen are in development around the world. How many of these projects will make it past midfield? Will green hydrogen need to team up with natural gas in order to hit the financial end zone? What infrastructure investments do we need to enable hydrogen to move downfield? Ultimately, is green hydrogen going to be the MVP of clean energy, a costly bust, or something in between? Panelists will present a variety of views and engage in discussion to answer these critical questions.

Facilitator: Hon. Paul Kjellander, Idaho, NARUC President

Participants:

Llewellyn King, creator, executive producer and host of "White House Chronicle," a weekly news and public affairs program, airing nationwide on more than 200 PBS and public, educational and government (PEG) access television stations and the commercial AMGTV Network, and worldwide on Voice of America Television. Author of "The Hydrogen Revolution And Natural Gas: In Tandem For A Greener Future" (Forbes.com article). (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/llewellynking/2020/06/29/the-hydrogen-revolution-and-natural-gas-in-tandem-for-a-greener-future/?sh=2dd38b044e87>)

Arshad Mansoor, President and CEO, Electric Power Research Institute

Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Green Hydrogen Coalition

Matt Valle, Vice President of Development, Florida Power & Light

Thursday, February 11, 2021

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

NARUC-NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning Virtual Press Conference

12:00-2:00 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

2:00-5:00 p.m.

NARUC-NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning Workshop (Separate Registration Required)

(Separate Registration Required)

The NARUC-NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning provides collaborative and flexible pathways for states to advance the state of the art of electricity system planning. New approaches can enable planning with increased transparency, valuable stakeholder input, and greater alignment across distribution-resource-transmission planning for a more holistic analysis of system and customer needs and possible solutions.

The NARUC-NASEO Task Force will share all resources developed under the two-year initiative during an interactive, virtual workshop on February 11, 2021. Resources include: five example approaches that describe how aligned planning could work from a PUC/SEO perspective across different regulatory and market structures, a State Blueprint for Action that offers guidance on steps a state could take towards planning alignment, and actions that the 15 Task Force states are taking to advance aligned planning.

Registration (<https://maxxwww.naruc.org/forms/meeting/MeetingFormPublic/view?id=28C5600000002>) is free but must be completed in advance. Zoom links will be sent to all registrants prior to the start of the event.

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