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NARUC

National Association of
Regulatory Utility Commissioners

Author Daniel Yergin, FERC Chair Willie Phillips and More Discuss National and Global Energy Challenges at NARUC Policy Summit

New Resolution Adopted on Customer Energy Usage Data

WASHINGTON (July 19, 2024) — The Summer Policy Summit of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners provided a range of perspectives from well-known national experts while offering unique experiences. Nearly 1,100 attendees, representing a cross section of utility regulators, industry, consumer advocates and other stakeholders, were in West Palm Beach, Florida, for the four-day event.

The NARUC Board of Directors also passed one substantive resolution on customer energy usage data for multi-tenant properties and three honorary resolutions.

NARUC President Julie Fedorchak, from the North Dakota Commission, presided over the conference, which represented an array of energy and utility sectors. In her opening remarks, she referenced her theme for the year, *Regulators Leading the Way*, as it informed the choice of content and speakers for the general sessions.

Those speakers included Pulitzer Prize-winning author Daniel Yergin, a global authority on energy, geopolitics and political economy and author of *The New Map*. During his fireside chat with Fedorchak, he responded to questions on competing international energy priorities, energy efficiency and sustainability, liquefied natural gas exports and climate objectives. During his comments, he stated that, “three billion people in the world use less electricity than one American refrigerator” and concerning the geopolitical state of affairs, that “We live in a very dangerous world right now.” His overall tone asserted that it will take statesmanship and understanding competing global priorities to better manage these challenges.

Another high-profile speaker was Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Willie Phillips, who delivered a keynote address that touched on the state of national politics as well as specific energy issues at FERC. Regarding the tone of opposing political viewpoints, he acknowledged that “robust conversation makes us better,” and he is committed to help “bring the temperature down.”

With a full slate of commissioners, Phillips outlined priorities focused on extreme weather, reliability, cyber security and addressed how recent orders, such as Order 1920, will help meet the increasing demand on the grid. He dispelled the notion that federal policies were being enacted without the input from or consideration of states, saying that he “absolutely values” such input.

Novel and Interactive Approaches

Specific goals of the meeting were to provide greater audience engagement and use different formats for many sessions. App-based real-time polling and questions, a debate and gamification helped achieve those goals.

Attorneys Mike Nasi and Christy Walsh squared off Lincoln-Douglas style on the question of the best path to sustainability. During Yergin's chat, the audience contributed to the discussion by submitting questions throughout.

A major draw at the summit, along with the speakers, was the NARUC Shark Tank experience, which highlighted five innovations judged on criteria such as public benefit, regulatory compliance, feasibility and more. The judges asked probing questions and provided constructive feedback; however, the ultimate winner, ConnectDER, was selected through online audience polling.

As noted in its summary, ConnectDER Meter Socket Adapters (AKA, Socket to Them) "enable broader access to DERs at no cost to ratepayers. The technology helps homeowners electrify while avoiding service panel upgrades and costly wiring jobs while adhering to the highest standards for safety and reliability. MSAs can help regulators advance electrification efforts at lower cost and serve harder-to-reach communities more effectively."

To see the full list of contestants and the judges, visit [NARUC Shark Tank - NARUC](#) for more information.

Other general sessions included a panel where utility CEOs walked a "tightrope," answering questions on stage from regulators and an AARP consumer volunteer. An update from the National Petroleum Council on the results of two studies looking at reducing greenhouse gas emission was another well-attended session.

The concluding general session took a deep dive into the world of artificial intelligence and the steadily increasing demand on the grid from data centers. Panelists specifically looked at how AI data centers, EV charging deployments and societal electrification are driving resource planning across the country.

Resolutions

Submitted by the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment, the Resolution on Customer Energy Usage Data for Multi-Tenant Properties, first and foremost, encourages state commissions to identify opportunities and processes whereby owners of multi-tenant properties can access whole-building and tenant unit utility data in a standardized format, including aggregated building data that does not reveal customer-specific data to protect customer privacy. To read the resolution in its entirety, visit <https://bit.ly/CustomerEnergyUsageData>.

Three honorary resolutions were passed by the board highlighting the service and achievements of former commissioners Diane X Burman (New York), Kent Chandler (Kentucky) and Anthony (Tony) O'Donnell (Maryland). See the full list of resolutions here: [Current List of Resolutions - NARUC](#).

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About NARUC

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. NARUC represents the interests of state public utility commissions before the three branches of the federal government.