



## **DRAFT AGENDA**

# **Regional Electricity Collaboration across the United States: Powering the Grid for Economic Development**

**Tuesday, August 26 – Wednesday August 27, 2025**

Radisson Salt Lake City Downtown  
215 W. South Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

### **Workshop Objectives:**

To provide a forum for key state decision makers to explore and discuss the range of electricity market structures and how regional electricity collaboration can affect state policies and regional goals, the reliability and affordability of the electrical grid, economic development, and transmission planning.

### **Tuesday, August 26, 2025 – Day One**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

#### **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

#### **Welcome and Workshop Objectives**

9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

#### **State Perspectives on Regional Collaboration in Electricity Planning**

Presentations by State Energy Office leaders on why regional collaboration on electricity planning is important for states, what challenges need to be addressed, and what resources are needed to support engagement and decision making.

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

#### **Laying the Groundwork: The Role of Electricity Markets and Regional Collaboration to Power Up the Grid**

A keynote exploring the role of market structures in enabling or inhibiting state policy objectives, grid reliability, economic development, energy affordability, and transmission planning. Highlight

lessons from across the country and lay out why and how policy makers in every state can engage in the conversation.

Presenter:

Dr. Lynn Kiesling, Director, Institute for Regulatory Law and Economics; Adjunct Professor, Master of Science in Energy and Sustainability, Northwestern University

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Break**

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Making Regional Collaboration Work for Consumers and States: A View from the Southeast and the West on State Roles in Developing Electricity Markets**

An overview of electricity market development discussions and timelines in the West and the Southeast, what have been the drivers of those discussions, and how state policy makers can engage in and influence these discussions and considerations.

Presenters:

Anna McKenna, Vice President, Market Design and Analysis, California Independent System Operator

Carrie Simpson, Vice President, Markets, Southwest Power Pool

Representative, Southern Company/Southeast Energy Exchange Market (invited)

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Networking Lunch**

Informal table-wide conversations with tabletop discussion prompts on pertinent topics at each table.

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Are Existing Markets Fulfilling Their Promises of Cheap, Firm Power: Lessons About Governance from Organized Electricity Markets in the Midwest and East**

Explore the trade-offs and benefits of multistate coordination, formal and informal roles of states to create governance structures that support State Energy Office engagement, state policy preservation, and mechanisms for states to influence market decisions.

Presenters:

Trey Gowdy, Research Lead, Energy Data Analytics Lab, Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment and Sustainability, Duke University

Brad Pope, Director of Legal Regulatory Affairs, Organization of MISO States

Heather Hunt, Executive Director, New England States Committee on Electricity

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Deep Dive: The Need for Reliable Power and the Role of Electricity Market Structures to Power the United States**

Overview of the state of the U.S. grid and its reliability, with case studies from severe weather events across the country in market- and non-market-regions, and approaches to valuation of resilience benefits.

Presenters:

Branden Sudduth, Vice President, Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis, Western Electricity Coordinating Council

Nikhil Kumar, Program Director, GridLab

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Break**

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Deep Dive: How Well-Designed Electricity Market Structures Can Drive Down Rates and Boost Economic Prosperity**

How different market structures can affect states in terms of economic development, attract investment, technological innovation, and energy prices for businesses and consumers.

Presenters:

Tom Hassenboehler, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, CO2EFFICIENT

Michele Beck, Director, Utah Office of Consumer Services

Aaron Tinjum, Vice President of Energy, Data Center Coalition

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Day One Wrap Up and Next Steps**

**Wednesday, August 27, 2025 – Day Two**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**Continental Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

**Welcome and Day Two Overview**

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Deep Dive: The Impact of Electricity Market Structures on Transmission Planning**

Explore how transmission planning differs across market types and how these structures help or hinder states achieve their energy goals. This discussion will include an overview of planning practices, tools, timelines, authorities, and cost-allocation issues.

Presenter:

Robin Arnold, Director of State, Federal, and International Affairs, Western Interstate Energy Board

10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**)

**Turning Insight into Action: States Can Lead the Way**

The concurrent breakout sessions will allow state policy makers to break into regional or topical groups enabling them to drill down on specific priorities and explore challenges and opportunities.

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

**Networking Lunch**

Informal table-wide conversations with tabletop discussion prompts on pertinent topics at each table.

1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

**Report-Out and Cross-Regional Reflections**

Share key findings from each breakout and explore cross-cutting themes.

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**Building Institutional Capacity: What Works and What Do States Need Now?**

Moderated Roundtable Discussion: Explore how states have built technical, analytical, or organizational capacity to better engage in market development discussions; where technical assistance and inter-state coordination are most needed; what NASEO can offer and how this project can provide the necessary information and resources.

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Workshop Wrap Up and Next Steps**