



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Last updated June 6, 2024

Sunday, June 9

2-7 pm	Registration open
5-6:30 pm	Welcome reception at the Renaissance Hotel

Monday, June 10

7:30 am	Registration opens
7:30-8:30 am	Continental breakfast
8:30-9 am	Welcome and opening remarks
9-10 am	<p>Panel – Cooperation and Innovation: A Minnesota Perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Minnesota Chair Katie Sieben • U.S. Senator Tina Smith; President Robert Larsen, Lower Sioux Indian Community; FERC Commissioner Allison Clements and Bethany Owen, President and CEO of ALLETE, Inc. <p>Over the last several years, Minnesota has made headlines for its progress toward decarbonizing the state’s energy system. In this panel, we’ll hear from leaders across sectors on how Minnesota has achieved its big goals so far – and what’s next for our northern state.</p>
10-10:30 am	Networking break
10:30-11:30 am	<p>Breakout session 1 – Innovative Ideas in Commission Permitting and Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: North Dakota Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart • Matt Prine, Indiana America Water; Randy Satterfield, Next Gen Highways; Charles Sutton, Sutton Consulting; and Sadzi Oliva, United Scrap Metal <p>Regulators work closely with communities every day to make hard decisions about essential services. In this panel, we’ll hear from regulators, private companies, and community advocates on innovative ways that they are engaging with their local communities.</p> <p>Breakout session 2 – Innovation in Transportation Electrification</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Michigan Commissioner Katherine Peretick • Indiana Commissioner Wes Bennett; Phil Jones, Alliance for Transportation Electrification; Jason Grenier, Otter Tail Power; Andrea Pratt, Greenlane <p>Electric vehicles are moving past the early adoption stage – 7.6% of vehicles sold in the US in 2023 were electric, and this is projected to continue to increase. Initial utility pilots now have results, charging stations are being built, and there are more and more vehicle options for customers. As the transportation electrification sector transitions from the nascent to the mainstream, regulators, utilities, and charging developers will face new challenges but also new opportunities for innovation. This will include filling rural charging infrastructure gaps, preparing for medium and heavy-duty electric vehicles, and ensuring new load from electrification is integrated in a way that benefits the grid. This panel will ask regulators, utilities, and the charging industry how they’re getting ready to meet these upcoming changes.</p>
11:45-1 pm	Lunch hosted by 2025 MARC host state - Indiana
1-2 pm	<p>Panel – Data Centers and Load Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Minnesota Commissioner Joe Sullivan • Bob Frenzel, Xcel Energy; Scott Wright, MISO; Aaron Tinjum, Data Center Coalition; and Kevin Pranis, LiUNA Minnesota and North Dakota <p>This panel will focus on potential load growth associated with data centers, including the potential impacts and opportunities for states, utilities, the workforce, and regional planning in the Mid-continent region.</p>
2-3 pm	<p>Panel – The State of Inter-Regional Planning in the MARC footprint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Indiana Commissioner Sarah Freeman Jennifer Curran, MISO; Casey Cathey, SPP; Sami Abdulsalam, PJM; and Krista Tanner, ITC Holdings Corporation <p>The interdependency of the RTOs covering the MARC footprint has become increasingly apparent during recent major weather events. The ability to transfer power across our RTO seams has been a critical element in keeping the lights on in our region. This interregional dependency will become even more important during the energy transition. Therefore, the state of inter-regional planning between our RTOs could never be more important at this time. Hear from some of the key leaders at MISO, SPP and PJM on this critical topic.</p>
3-3:15 pm	Announcements
3:15-3:45 pm	Networking break

3:45-4:45 pm	<p>Breakout session 1 – Advanced Meters, Data, and Privacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Iowa Chair Erik Helland • Sarah Moskowitz, Illinois Citizens Utility Board; Dan Jacobson, Landis+Gyr; and Bryce McKenney, NRG <p>In this session, we will delve into the topic of advanced meters and the data issues associated with them. These technologies are transforming the utilities sector, offering numerous benefits such as improved customer engagement, efficient grid management, and enhanced billing practices. However, the deployment of advanced meters also presents challenges, particularly in terms of data privacy and security. In this session, we will explore these challenges and discuss how they can be overcome. Our panelists will share best practices for data management and cybersecurity measures and how collaboration among stakeholders can ensure customer trust and optimize the benefits of advanced metering technology.</p> <p>Breakout session 2 – IRA and IIJA Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Wisconsin Chair Summer Strand • Karin Haas, U.S. Department of Energy; Katerina Stephan, RMI; Owen Henriksen, Great River Energy; Pete Wyckoff, MN Department of Commerce; and Dave Burkholder, Sherco General Foreman <p>The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) created unprecedented levels of federal funding for clean energy and infrastructure investments across the country. As a result, the U.S. Department of Treasury, Department of Energy, and Environmental Protection Agency have issued a host of new programs, guidance, and proposed rules implementing historic tax credits and grant programs. This panel will explore what has been accomplished to date, incentives available to customers and utilities, barriers to participation in IRA and IIJA programs and how they can be overcome, and the legislation’s impact on state regulators, energy agencies, and consumers.</p>
5-5:45 pm	MARC Board Meeting (Commissioners only)
Evening	On your own

Tuesday, June 11

7:30 am	Registration opens
7:30 am – 5 pm	Pick up Twins tickets at registration desk
7:30-8:30 am	Continental breakfast
8:20-8:30 am	Announcements

<p>8:30-9:30 am</p>	<p>Panel – Innovative Energy Technologies: Nuclear, Geothermal, Transmission, Hydrogen, and More</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Illinois Chair Doug Scott • Iowa Commissioner Josh Byrnes; Jørgen Festervoll, Heimdall Power; Muss Akram, CenterPoint Energy; and Carol Lane, X-energy <p>Through innovation and investment, new technology futures are bright. But how will these investments translate into success? This panel will discuss how innovation is driving future clean and reliable energy projects through case studies by highlighting innovative regulatory approaches, new technologies, and the impacts to customers and communities alike.</p>
<p>9:30-10 am</p>	<p>Panel – The Future of Gas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: South Dakota Chair Kristie Fiegen • Michigan Commissioner Alessandra Carreon; Korlon Kilpatrick, Citizens Energy Group; Audrey Partridge, Center for Energy and the Environment; and Heather Dziedzic, American Biogas Council <p>Nationally, including with the MARC states, Commissions require gas utilities to plan for their gas system to reliably serve their customer. Utilities file plans forecasting demand and the cost of gas, and utilities regularly explain to Commissions how they are maintaining infrastructure, in part according to federal guidelines. Though gas utility plans may look different and have different names, within each of these forward-looking endeavors we recognize the potential to explicitly demand equitable outcomes. To this extent, we also acknowledge that the Future of Gas is Changing. States are looking towards innovative technologies and rate designs as we all work to decrease the carbon impact of our daily lives. This panel will discuss planning for equity in three main areas: public participation in decision making; an equitable distribution of benefits and burdens; and affordable customer bills, including approaches to both justifying and managing the costs of building and repairing infrastructure under a decarbonizing system.</p>
<p>10:30-11 am</p>	<p>Networking break</p>
<p>11 am-12 pm</p>	<p>Breakout session 1 – Tales from the Demand Side</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Illinois Commissioner Ann McCabe • Kansas Commissioner Andrew French; Matt Dority, Evergy; Carmen Best, Recurve; Shawn Enterline, RAP <p>The MARC region is making waves in its demand management strategies. From Missouri and Minnesota’s Time of Use rate to Kansas’ strides in meter-based energy efficiency, the region is leading on ways to better manage demand. Learn about how</p>

	<p>different states are approaching this challenge with technological innovations, customer behavior incentives, and more.</p> <p>Breakout session 2 – Virtual Power Plants, Aggregation, Demand Response, and Distributed Energy Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Missouri Chair Kayla Hahn • Illinois Commissioner Conrad Reddick; Yok Potts, Smart Electric Power Alliance; Pier LaFarge, Sparkfund; and Avery McEvoy, RMI. <p>Virtual Power Plants (VPP) have the potential to offer grid reliability, flexibility, and decarbonization benefits through aggregating resources across customers, while reducing peak demand and system costs. State have taken different approaches in how they treat these resources and how they are able to interact with wholesale markets. This panel will explore how these resources are changing the energy landscape, in addition to discussing regulatory frameworks that can either promote or impede large-scale VPP adoption.</p>
12-1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15-2:15 pm	<p>Panel – Building the Utility Workforce: Innovations in Recruitment, Training and Apprenticeship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Illinois Commissioner Michael Carrigan • Richard Kolodziejski, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters; Jason George, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49; Bejeray Morrison, Sunrun; and Kurt Zimmerman, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 160 <p>With tremendous growth in the utility industry, workforce development and job training programs create opportunities for states and communities to advance the energy transition and attract new business opportunities. What roles can regulators, labor unions, businesses, and others play in supporting clean energy workforce development? How are state and community programs training and re-training a diverse, skilled energy workforce?</p>
2:15-3:15 pm	<p>Panel – Equity and Affordability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Missouri Commissioner Maida Coleman • Wisconsin Commissioner Kristy Nieto; Jose Perez, Hispanics in Energy; Shubha Harris, Fresh Energy; and Annie Levenson-Falk, Minnesota Citizens Utility Board <p>Amidst a radical shift in the energy sector marked by accelerated electrification, increasing load growth, the clean energy transition and more, the need to navigate these issues in an equitable way that protects affordability, especially for those more overburdened, is critical. Panelists will discuss challenges, successes, and how regulators play a role in</p>

	ensuring equitable outcomes and protecting affordability for ratepayers.
3:15-3:45 pm	Networking break
3:45-4:45 pm	<p>Breakout session 1 – Resilience and Reliability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Arkansas Commissioner Katie Anderson • Wisconsin Commissioner Marcus Hawkins; Sara Patrick, Midwest Reliability Organization; Bob Ervin, Aqua-Indiana; Robert Gee, Gee Strategies Group <p>The Resilience and Reliability panel will discuss the overlap and distinctions between resiliency and reliability in the context of critical infrastructure ranging from gas-electric inter-dependencies, electric grid systems, and wastewater systems. The panelist will explore a broad range of practices of how regulators and industry practices can consider deliverability, reliability, and resiliency to enhance and maintain critical infrastructure.</p> <p>Breakout session 2 – Energy Storage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Indiana Commissioner David Veleta • Illinois Commissioner Stacey Paradis; Eric Watson, Energy Dome; Beth Soholt, Clean Grid Alliance; and Gabe Murtaugh, Long Duration Energy Storage Council <p>In this session, we’re focusing on the pivotal role of energy storage in the integrated grid to meet the needs of today and tomorrow. The panel will examine the role storage can play in helping maintain reliability, integrate renewables, provide essential services, and ultimately provide resilient, cost-effective electricity for customers. The session will cover storage technology, projects that are being deployed today, and emerging needs on the grid that storage can fill. This session will delve into how collaboration between utilities, regulators, and developers can accelerate the adoption of storage, paving the way for a cleaner and more reliable future.</p>
5-5:30 pm	Extra Twins tickets available at registration desk
6:40 pm	Minnesota Twins vs. Colorado Rockies

Wednesday, June 12

7:30-8:30 am	Continental breakfast
8:20-8:30 am	Announcements

8:30-9:30 am	<p>Panel – The State of Regulation in the MARC Footprint: Commissioners’ Perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Lauren Bethke, Minnesota PUC • All MARC Commissioners <p>Join us for a fun and fast-paced panel to wrap up our time at MARC 2024! All MARC Commissioners in attendance are invited to join. We will share reflections on the conference, discuss some top regulatory issues in the MARC states, and think ahead to the conversations we hope to be having in Indiana at MARC 2025.</p>
9:30-10 am	Closing remarks
Starting at 10 am	<p>Tours, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xcel Energy Sherco Solar Facility • Xcel Energy Marshall Operations Center • Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant • CenterPoint Energy Hydrogen Electrolyzer Pilot • LJ Shosten Union Training Center • District Energy St. Paul • Walking tour of downtown Minneapolis led by MN Commissioner John Tuma • NextEra Gopher Energy Storage Project <p>Transportation will depart from and return to the Renaissance Hotel.</p>