



NASEO's State Transmission Summit
***Powering Progress: State Leadership and the Future of
America's Grid***

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Hyatt Centric Arlington | Senate Ballroom, Second Floor
1325 Wilson Boulevard | Arlington, VA

Preliminary Agenda

Workshop Overview and Objectives:

This two-day summit will bring together state energy leaders and decision-makers, private industry, and federal partners for an in-depth, solutions-oriented dialogue on the nation's electric transmission system—and its central role in enabling economic growth, strengthening grid resilience, ensuring reliability and affordability, and advancing national security. This event will provide a dedicated forum for candid discussion, peer exchange, and coordinated action across jurisdictions and sectors. Participants will:

- Examine pressing transmission challenges facing states and explore practical solutions related to planning, siting and permitting, technical and analytical resources, stakeholder engagement, and interjurisdictional collaboration.
- Explore how state leadership intersects with the responsibilities of transmission developers, regulators, regional transmission organizations, the private sector, and federal partners — and identify strategies for improved coordination that can accelerate timely and effective outcomes.
- Gain action-oriented information to support states' responsibilities in transmission planning.

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – Day One

8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Presenters:

David Terry, President, National Association of State Energy Officials

The Honorable Catherine Jereza, Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, U.S.

Department of Energy

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Workshop Objectives

Presenter:

Catherine Reed, Senior Program Director, Electricity, National Association of State Energy Officials

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Navigating Load Growth and the Transmission Needed to Power It

This panel will explore how states are responding to the challenges of demand growth and how transmission factors into how states are responding.

Moderator:

Julie Staveland, Assistant Division Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Presenters:

Christina Hayes, Executive Director, Americans for a Clean Energy Grid

Mike Hagerty, Principal, The Brattle Group

Dave Rardin, Manager, Regulatory/Legislative Affairs, Governmental Services, PJM Interconnection

Casey Kelly, Senior Manager, Electricity Policy, ClearPath

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Transmission Expansion from the National Security Perspective

This session will focus on the national security perspective for advancing transmission expansion. As the U.S. continues to pursue energy independence and dominance as well as advancements in artificial intelligence, states must look to transmission as a method to achieving our goals.

Moderator:

Curtis Thayer, Executive Director, Alaska Energy Authority

Presenters:

Rebecca Isacowitz, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy Resilience and Optimization, U.S. Department of War

Danielle Russo, Executive Director of the Center for Grid Security, Securing America's Future Energy

Jonathan Monken, Senior Partner, Converge Strategies, LLC

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Networking Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Transmission Landscape and Outlook

This presentation will set the stage for the summit, with an assessment of the reliability and security of the U.S. electrical grid and an overview of the challenges and opportunities in the transmission landscape.

Moderator:

Kelly Speakes-Backman, Director, Maryland Energy Administration

Presenter:

James Robb, President and Chief Executive Officer, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Opportunities for Permitting Reform at the Federal Level

This session will explore the options being considered to align permitting policy with the needs of the nation's current electrical grid. This will include an overview of the SPEED Act and other related developments.

Moderator:

Jeff Dennis, Executive Director, Electricity Customer Alliance

Presenters:

Jacob McCurdy, Energy Policy Director, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Robert MacGregor, Subcommittee Staff Director, House Natural Resources Committee

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

State Roles and Opportunities in Long-Term Transmission Planning

This session will explore how federal rules and state actions shape where transmission dollars are spent and how governance can be improved to favor high-value regional solutions over local ones. Building on this foundation, state leaders will discuss how states can engage effectively in transmission planning, siting and development to advance reliability, resilience, affordability, and state policy goals.

Moderator:

Celina Cunningham, Deputy Commissioner, Maine Department of Energy Resources

Presenters:

James Lester, Senior Advisor, Transmission, Climate, and Energy, Colorado Energy Office

Blan Holman, General Counsel, Southern Renewable Energy Association
Maison Bleam, Regional Director, State Regulatory Affairs, Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.

Engagement in Interregional Transmission Planning

This session will focus on the benefits of interregional transmission planning, the opportunities for improved interregional planning, and the role of states in overcoming the barriers to enhanced transmission planning across regions.

Moderator:

John Jenks, Director of Energy Markets Development, Wyoming Energy Authority

Presenters:

Rachel Levine, Senior Transmission Policy Analyst, Niskanen Center

Sarah Edmonds, President and Chief Executive Officer, Western Power Pool

Dan Lloyd, Community Relations Manager, Grid United

Abe Silverman, Research Scholar, John Hopkins University

4:55 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Day One Wrap Up

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Reception (*Sponsored by CTC Global*)

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 – Day Two

8:00 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:55 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Day Two Overview

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Innovative Siting and Permitting

This session will explore innovative approaches to siting and permitting transmission lines.

Moderator:

Brandi Frazier Bestpitch, Director of Reliability, Virginia Department of Energy

Presenters:

Matt Prorok, Policy Director, Great Plains Institute

Jay Caspary, Principal, TransGrid Advisors, LLC

Allie Kelly, Executive Director, The Ray

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Overview of Federal Financing Opportunities for Transmission

Presenter:

Tom Hucker, Senior Advisor, Office of Energy Dominance Financing, U.S.
Department of Energy

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. (**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**)

Interactive Deep Dives

Two concurrent sessions in discussion roundtable format, exploring specific transmission planning topics.

Breakout 1: The Role of Independent Transmission Monitors

This session will explore longstanding concerns that local transmission asset-condition projects often proceed with limited comparative review, while larger, regional and interregional projects often proceed with heightened scrutiny. Discussants will examine emerging state-led approaches to improve transparency, the role of regional entities, and how Congress is engaging on this issue.

Moderator:

Peter Damrosch, Energy Policy Advisor, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment

Discussant:

Alex Lawton, Director, Advanced Energy United
Ben Sloan, Director, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Organization of PJM States

Breakout 2: The Role of Transmission for Resource Adequacy

This session will explore the implications of electric transmission on resource adequacy, including approaches to valuation in regional and interregional planning and aligning resource and transmission planning.

Discussants:

Jeb Stenhouse, Director, Regulatory Affairs, Invenergy
Paul Wetherbee, Advisor, Regional Energy System Planning, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**)

Interactive Deep Dives

Two concurrent sessions in discussion roundtable format, exploring specific transmission planning topics and tools.

Breakout 1: Transmission Planning Tools

This session will explore several tools that have been developed to assist in transmission planning.

Discussants:

Representative, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Dr. Liang Min, Managing Director, Bits and Watts Initiative, Precourt Institute for Energy, Stanford University

Breakout 2: The Role of State Transmission Authorities

This session will include an exploration of state transmission authorities, an overview of their structure and goals, and progress and lessons learned to date.

Discussants:

Lynn Mostoller, Executive Director, New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority

Claire Vigesaa, Executive Director, North Dakota Transmission Authority

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

NASEO Grid Optimization Task Force Introduction

Presenter:

Catherine Reed, Senior Program Director, Electricity, National Association of State Energy Officials

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Grid Optimization: The Path to Policy

This session will explore the current state of grid optimization transmission technologies including Grid Enhancing Technologies and advanced conductors and how states are developing policies to support these technologies.

Moderator:

Kirsten Verclas, Senior Managing Director, Electricity, National Association of State Energy Officials

Presenters:

Camille Norton, Program Coordinator, Electricity, National Association of State Energy Officials

Alisa Fox, Director of Grid Campaigns, American Council on Renewable Energy

Lisa Salmore, Director, Transmission Strategy, National Grid

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Grid Optimization: The Path to Implementation

This session will provide examples of how policies have led to successful implementation of these technologies, moving from pilots to commercially viable applications. The panelists will discuss policy, data, and regulatory considerations, and the methods to overcome implementation challenges. It will also explore the next steps for the NASEO Grid Optimization Task Force.

Moderator:

Paul Holloway, Senior Energy Security and Resilience Lead, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources

Presenters:

Kelt Wilska, Senior Manager, State Policy for Advanced Transmission Technologies, Grid Strategies LLC

Vishal Kapadia, Chief Executive Officer, LineVision

Kaitlin Savage, Energy Market Development, Google

Peter Brehm, Vice President, Policy and Grid Strategy, CTC Global

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

State Leaders Roundtable

This informal roundtable discussion will provide a glimpse into cross-office coordination on grid optimization technologies at the state-level, featuring speakers from State Energy Offices, State Legislatures, Governors' Offices, Consumer Advocates, and Public Utility Commissions.

Moderator:

Marion Gold, Senior Advisor, National Association of State Energy Officials

Presenter:

Jerry Henderson, Policy Advisor, Office of Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon

Josh Walters, Director, Office of Federal and Regional Energy Policy, Connecticut
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

5:00 p.m.

Adjourn