

THE Energy Council News

SUMMER

2024

Diversity in energy sources among the key topics at The Energy Council's 2024 State and Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conference



"Thank you for serving!" As three of the Council's long-time Executive Committee members depart from their respective legislative branches, they were thanked for their many years of support of The Energy Council by Alaska Senator and Chairman of The Energy Council, Bert Stedman (far, left) and Louisiana Representative and CLEER Chairman, Francis Thompson (far, right). Departing Executive Committee members include: Member of Legislative Assembly for the Province of Saskatchewan, Fred Bradshaw; New Mexico Representative Greg Nibert; and New Mexico Senator Steve Neville.

The Energy Council's 2024 State and Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conference was held June 6-8 in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Alaska Senator Bert Stedman, Chairman of The Energy Council, was assisted in his leadership duties by Louisiana Representative Francis Thompson, Chairman of the Center for Legislative Energy and Environmental Research (CLEER).

The conference focused on topics such as diversification of energy sources, nuclear energy incentives, domestic supply chains for critical minerals, and the role of the oil and gas sector in decarbonization.

On Friday morning U.S. Senator, the Honorable John Hoeven welcomed attendees and guests to North Dakota via videoconference.

The Senator stated that the United States runs on affordable and reliable power sources like coal, while our oil and gas industry plays a crucial role in decreasing our dependence on less stable regions of the world. The discussions and efforts being put forth by leaders from the energy-producing states and private energy business leaders in the room today are essential to the U.S. economy and national security.

Senator Hoeven emphasized that North Dakota is working diligently on establishing a favorable legal, tax and regulatory framework that encourages innovation and investment. "In North Dakota, we remain committed to supporting investments in new technologies that will revolutionize carbon capture and utilization (CCUS) in our industry. We are actively working on advancing cutting-edge CCUS projects right here in North Dakota," Senator Hoeven said. "With technology advancements that are being supported in North Dakota, we have transformed into a global energy powerhouse."

Friday morning's general session opened with a discussion about "Diversification of Energy Sources." Ms. Jessica Bell, Vice President of



The Energy Council

The Energy Council News is the official publication of the Energy Council, a legislative organization comprised of 14 states and two international affiliates, drawn from the major energy producing regions of the United States and Canada. The Energy Council provides a forum for discussing government policies regarding energy and the environment.

For information regarding the *Energy Council News* or the Energy Council, please contact:

The Energy Council
13760 Noel Road, Suite 1160
Dallas, Texas 75240
Phone: (972) 243-7788
E-mail: energy@theenergycouncil.org

OFFICERS

Senator Bert Stedman
Alaska
Chairman

Deb Mamula
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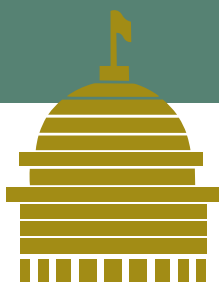
STAFF

Evya Richards, CMP
Manager - Meeting Planning/Publications

Isela Vera
Manager - Administrative

Tell us what you think!

We welcome your suggestions and feedback. Please email erichards@theenergycouncil.org



Meet Us in TULSA

The 2024 Annual Meeting will convene in Tulsa from September 12-14. Industry leaders, policymakers, and visionaries will come together to shape the future of energy. So, mark your calendars as Tulsa becomes the focal point of where innovation, collaboration, and progress will be discussed.

Friday morning will begin with a Welcome Address from the Governor of Oklahoma Kevin Stitt, along with a Keynote Address from the Oklahoma Secretary of Energy & Environment, Mr. Ken McQueen. Leadership responsibilities for the meeting will be shared by Alaska Senator Bert Stedman, Chairman of The Energy Council; and, Oklahoma Representative Ken Luttrell, Vice Chairman of CLEER.

Some additional topics to be discussed at the 2024 Annual Meeting will include:

- **International Demand for LNG**
- **Hydrogen Partnerships and Low Carbon Hydrogen Production**
- **The National Petroleum Council's Report of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Study Grid Reliability Challenges for Electric Coops**
- **Rate Design**
- **UAB Seminar: The Span of OSU Energy Research: Basic Science for the Future and Applied Solutions for the Now**
- **Canadian Energy Showcase Breakfast Panel**
- **Challenges of Scale in Energy Transformation**
- **Technological Advances in Reducing Emissions**
- **Energy End Use**
- **Pumped Storage Hydropower**

2024 Conference in Grand Forks

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Former North Dakota Senator and current Vice President of External Affairs for Rainbow Energy, Ms. Jessica Bell spoke on the topic “Diversification of Energy Sources” at The Energy Council’s 2024 State and Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conference.

External Affairs, Rainbow Energy, said the future of United States’ power distribution system is changing. She noted that as an independent power producer, Rainbow Energy Center is taking a unique approach to power distribution and diversifying assets to meet markets needs. As the new owner of Coal Creek Station with a vision to reduce waste, integrate renewable generation to maximize use of private high voltage direct current line and implement carbon capture technologies, Rainbow Energy Center is leading the way for future power generators, Ms. Bell concluded.

“Reliability and Resiliency” was covered by the Honorable Julie Fedorchak, Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission. According to Commissioner Fedorchak, approximately two-thirds of the nation are at risk today of not having enough electricity to meet demand. Grid operators and leaders responsible for maintaining the reliability of our power supply are expressing serious concerns about

the future of the grid. Reliable and affordable electricity provides the foundation for our economy and way of life.

In order to address this imminent problem, several solutions have been proposed, Commissioner Fedorchak said. These include delaying the retirement of power plants, revisiting the rules set by the Environmental Protection Agency, simplifying the process of obtaining permits, making changes in the electricity market, coordinating planning efforts, and reevaluating the goals and policies set by individual states, she concluded.

Ms. Christine Csizmadia, Senior Director, State Government Affairs & Advocacy at the Nuclear Energy Institute, spoke on the topic of “Nuclear Energy Incentives.” According to Ms. Csizmadia, nuclear energy is the largest form of clean, reliable electricity generation in the world and policy measures at the state and federal levels are increasingly recognizing nuclear for high-paying jobs, the economic impact to

communities, and securing the United States’ role as a global leader for nuclear energy and national security. There are 94 existing reactors in the United States and over 20 planned projects for new reactors. She concluded that states will continue incentivizing, keeping their assets, and bringing new nuclear into their communities as support grows.

Mr. Tyler Hamman, Assistant Vice President, Strategic Partnerships, Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) for the University of North Dakota, stated that the EERC, along with its partners Prairie Horizon Energy Solutions, Xcel Energy, and the Department of Energy are in the process of commencing phase I of the Heartland Hydrogen Hub (HH2H).

He explained that The Heartland Hydrogen Hub advances the potential development of a clean, sustainable hydrogen hub across several states and contributes to meaningful economic and community benefits. “HH2H will demonstrate clean hydrogen production from natural gas, renewable, and nuclear energy,” Mr. Hamman said. Moreover, section 45V hydrogen production tax credit is a critical incentive to ensure economic feasibility of initial clean hydrogen projects.

Dr. Stephen Easton, President of Dickinson State University presented the CLEER University Advisory Board (UAB) Seminar on the topic of “Dual Mission Universities: Possible Help for the Energy Workforce.”

According to Dr. Easton, for the energy industry to succeed, it needs a well-trained workforce, not just for industry jobs but also for jobs in communities in areas of energy

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THE ENERGY COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

ALABAMA

Representative Margie Wilcox

Representative Margie Wilcox has served in the Alabama House of Representatives since 2014. Representative Wilcox serves as Chair of Boards, Agencies and Commissions; Joint Transportation; and Joint Sunset Committees. She serves as a member on the Transportation, Utilities, and Infrastructure and the Mobile County Delegation Committees.

Representative Wilcox makes her home in Mobile.



Margie Wilcox
Alabama Representative



J. Cameron Henry, Jr.
Louisiana Senate President

LOUISIANA

Senate President J. Cameron Henry, Jr.

Until his election as Senate President, Henry served on the committees of Commerce; Consumer Protection and International Affairs; Finance; Judiciary B; Local and Municipal Affairs and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

Senate President Henry, and his wife Jamie, have four children and make their home in Metairie.

MISSISSIPPI

Senator J. Walter Michel

Senator J. Walter Michel has served in the Senate since 2016. He is Chairman of the Insurance committee and Vice-Chair of Rules. He is a member on the Appropriations; Energy; Forestry; Veterans & Military; and Housing committees.

Senator Michel and his wife Beth, live in Ridgeland.



J. Walter Michel
Mississippi Senator



Chantelle de Jonge
Alberta Member of the
Legislative Assembly

ALBERTA

MLA Chantelle de Jonge

MLA de Jonge was elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Chestermere-Strathmore in 2023. She serves as member of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future, and member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (PAC).

MLA de Jonge makes her home in Strathmore.

THE ENERGY COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE



Shane Getson
Alberta Member of the
Legislative Assembly

ALBERTA MLA Shane Getson

MLA Shane Getson was elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland in 2019, and has served on several legislative committees, sub committees, and international organizations representing the Alberta Government. He was named parliamentary Secretary of Economic Corridors in October 2022. MLA Getson previously served as the parliamentary secretary for Economic Corridors and now serves as the Government Whip.

MLA Getson, and his wife Dr. Lara Onischuk, have four children and make their home in Onoway.

2024 Conference in Grand Forks

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The Honorable Julie Fedorchak, Commissioner of North Dakota's Public Service Commission discussed "Reliability and Resiliency," at The Energy Council's 2024 State and Provincial Trends Conference.

exploration and production. He told attendees that a new breed of colleges, "Dual Mission Institutions," can help to fill this important need.

In his presentation, Dr. Easton identified the new Dual-Mission Institution (DMI) model. He explained that DMI combines four-year degree

offerings with associate's degrees, and non-degree workforce training programs aligned to local and regional economic needs. These institutions produce graduates who have earned short-term certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees. In his closing, Dr. Easton emphasized the benefits of the DMI, such as the

continuing provision of traditional liberal arts education; improving livelihoods and social mobility; invigorating local economies; and strengthening of local communities.

At the conclusion of Friday's general session, Energy Council meeting participants had an opportunity to visit the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC). The state-of-the-art facility is located on more than 15 acres on the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks. The complex houses more than 254,000 square feet of laboratories, technology demonstration facilities, and offices.

The EERC is recognized as one of the world's leading developers of cleaner, more efficient energy to power the world and environmental technologies to protect and clean the air, water, and soil.

"Domestic Supply Chains for Critical Minerals" was presented by Mr. Paul Bonifas, Corporate Development of

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CLEER WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

American Chemistry Council

The American Chemistry Council's (ACC's) mission is to advocate for the people, policy, and products of chemistry that make the United States the global leader in innovation and manufacturing. Learn more at: <https://www.americanchemistry.com>.



Wes Robinson
Senior Director State
Affairs

Wes leads ACC's 13 state Southern Region where he manages the advocacy, strategy, and operations. Wes has previously worked in a senior role in Georgia state government, has worked in gubernatorial and congressional offices, and on statewide political campaigns.

ADDRESS: 900 Circle 75
Parkway, Suite 202, Atlanta, GA
30339
M: 404-242-0116
E-Mail: wes_robinson@
americanchemistry.com



Rebecca McPhail
Vice President State
Affairs & Political
Mobilization

Rebecca serves as ACC's Vice President of State Affairs & Political Mobilization where she leads the national advocacy program. She formerly served as President of the West Virginia Manufacturers Association and has prior executive experience in various organizations of higher education, community, and economic development.

ADDRESS: 700 2nd Street,
Washington DC, 20002 30339
M: 304-767-5189
E-Mail: rebecca_mcphail@
americanchemistry.com

Apex Clean Energy

Apex Clean Energy was founded with a singular focus: to accelerate the shift to clean energy. Through origination, construction, and operation of utility-scale wind, solar, and storage facilities, distributed energy resources, and green fuel technologies, Apex is expanding the renewable frontier across North America. Our mission-driven team of more than 400 professionals uses a data-focused approach and an unrivaled portfolio of projects to create solutions for the world's most innovative and forward-thinking customers.

Laura is responsible for directing the company's state government and regulatory policy strategy in Texas.

ADDRESS: 120 Garrett Street,
Charlottesville Virginia 22902
M: 703-939-5011
E-Mail: laura.merten@
apexcleanenergy.com



Laura Merten
Policy Manager

CLEER WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Energy Alabama

Energy Alabama is a non-profit organization advancing Alabama's clean energy future through education and advocacy.



Daniel Tait
Executive Director

Daniel is the Executive Director of Energy Alabama and a Certified Energy Manager. Daniel serves on several committees advocating for clean and equitable energy including the Alabama State Department of Education's Green Schools Committee, and the advisory council for Alabama Interfaith Power & Light. Daniel currently serves on the board of directors for Neighborhood Concepts, which builds and advocates for affordable housing and the advancement of economic opportunities, and he is a Research and Communications Manager for the Energy and Policy Institute, where he covers electric and gas utility issues in the Southeast.

Daniel holds a degree in International Trade and Foreign Language from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

ADDRESS: PO Box 1381, Huntsville, AL 35803
T: 256-812-1431 M: 256-303-7773
E-Mail: dtait@energyalabama.org



Christina Butler
Lobbyist

Christina Butler's extensive experience in management, public relations, and government relations is marked by a notable blend of legal, non-profit, and governmental expertise. Her prior role as Director of External Relations at the Alabama State Bar saw her overseeing significant initiatives, such as the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum. Her knowledge extends into the energy sector, having served as a liaison to the Alabama Joint Legislative Energy Committee and as Chief of Staff for the Senate Deputy Pro Tem. Christina is a graduate of the University of Alabama.

ADDRESS: 700 2nd Street, Washington DC, 20002 30339
M: 770-310-9461
E-Mail: christinabutlerconsulting@gmail.com

John serves as Policy Manager for Energy Alabama. He previously served as a member of the operations team for the House Democratic Caucus under the leadership of Democratic Caucus Chairman, Rep. Hakeem Jefferies and Southwest Field Director for Stacey Abrams, and positions within the administrations of Mayor Randall Woodfin of Birmingham and Mayor Walt Maddox of Tuscaloosa.



John Dodd
Policy Manager

John graduated from the University of Alabama in 2022 with degrees in Political Science and Public Relations and attained his master's in public administration in May 2024.

ADDRESS: PO Box 1381, Huntsville, AL 35803
T: 256-812-1431 M: 205-495-4912
E-Mail: jdodd@energyalabama.org

2024 Conference in Grand Forks

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Long-time CLEER Program Advisory Board member, Mr. Mike Nasi, Partner with Jackson LLP provided a legal perspective on the panel discussion on “Responding to Evolving Markets and Needs: A Case Study of the Impacts of Recent EPA Regulations on the Power Sector.” Mr. Jonathan Fortner (seated, middle) offered a North Dakota perspective.

Rare Element Resources. According to Mr. Bonifas, there are national security risks associated with foreign supply chains of critical minerals, those essential to defense, energy, transportation, and developing technology, especially when those minerals are sourced from adversarial nations, he said. He stated that the Rare Element Resources’ Wyoming-based Bear Lodge Rare Earth Project, when coupled with the Company’s innovative recovery and separation technology, can be the cornerstone of a secure, domestic supply chain – one that can help to provide U.S. independence for key rare earth elements, he concluded.

Next was a panel discussion on “Responding to Evolving Markets and Needs: A Case Study of the Impacts of Recent EPA Regulations on the Power Sector.” The panelists covered power sector market trends with a focus on the impact of air quality regulation of the power sector. Recently-completed

grid studies were discussed, as well as the progress of carbon capture technologies and the harm that mandating that technology could be to its further development.

First to speak was Mr. Mike Nasi, Partner with Jackson Walker LLP. Mr. Nasi provided a legal overview of recent EPA regulations impacting the power sector with focus on greenhouse gas (GHG) regulations on new and existing coal and natural gas power plants, as well as regulations of mercury and hazardous air pollutants. He explained how the grid impacts are vastly more significant than EPA’s analysis suggests, the specific flaws in EPA’s analysis that gave rise to their underestimates, and the legal and practical consequences that are likely to flow from EPA’s decision to press forward with these rules rather than pause and reevaluate a more balanced approach in light of the dynamic nature of the power markets, including steep increases in electric

demand associated with datacenters, artificial intelligence (AI), and transportation electrification.

Next to speak on the topic was Mr. Jonathan Fortner, Vice President of Government Relations & External Affairs for the Lignite Energy Council. Mr. Fortner explained the practical impact of these regulations on the power fleet, including recent studies regarding the impact of these regulations on the electric grid conducted by the North Dakota Transmission Authority (NDTA). Mr. Fortner added a North Dakota perspective on how to develop cutting-edge power sector technology advances through carrots and commercialization, rather than through EPA’s command-and-control stick.

Mr. Nasi concluded the session with a national and global perspective of how North Dakota’s leadership needs to be followed in other regions to drive down the costs of technology, so they can be deployed globally – where the vast majority of increased GHG emissions will occur on a going-forward basis.

Mr. Tony Clark, Senior Advisor for Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer, LLP covered “Net Energy Metering.” Mr. Clark stated that net metering is a public utility policy that is under scrutiny in the states. Net metering, Mr. Clark said, was historically used to give a push to emerging niche generation resources. It is now often seen as a suboptimal regulatory policy that distorts energy price signals, while subsidizing some customers at the expense of others. In his closing, Mr. Clark said, this is an example of the variety of contradictory energy policies that characterize today’s energy markets. As such, it is an increasing concern for the regulators that oversee the reliability and

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economics of the nation's electric grid.

The final presentation for the 2024 State & Provincial Trends conference was covered by Mr. Josh Demorrett, State Government Affairs Director, Rocky Mountains Division at ConocoPhillips. Mr. Demorrett presented "The Role of the Oil and Gas Sector in Decarbonization."

Population is projected to grow by another 2 billion people, and the economy could expand to 2 to 3 times its current size. While there may be consensus on the destination for GHG emissions, there is less agreement on the path and speed to reach that destination. The scale and scope of decarbonization can be daunting, with estimated costs of about \$125 trillion over 30 years, or \$4 trillion per year, according to the

IEA's net zero report. Other estimates suggest even higher costs, up to \$10 trillion per year. Given the magnitude of these costs, it is natural to question the influence they may have on the pace of transition. The transition to a lower carbon future will take time and cannot happen as an immediate switch, but rather as a gradual and planned process over the next 5 to 10 years, focusing on renewable and low carbon energy solutions.

The energy transition will likely be complex, evolving over multiple decades with many possible pathways and uncertainties. We need a well-managed transition. And the oil and gas sector intend to play a valued role in this transition by focusing on contributions that can meet transition pathway demand while providing affordable energy to a growing population and continuing

to reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions, Mr. Demorrett concluded.

Closing out the conference on Saturday afternoon was a National Petroleum Council update given by Alaska Senator and Energy Council Chairman, Bert Stedman and a CLEER Program Advisory Board Planning Session which gathered speaker suggestions for the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Thank You to our Sponsors of the
2024 State and Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conference
held in Grand Forks, North Dakota



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*Global Energy and Environmental Issues Conference
Thursday, December 5 - Saturday, December 7
Salt Lake City, Utah*

Sponsorships for the Global Energy Conference are now available.

The Energy Council's 2024 State and Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conference

June 6-8, 2024

Grand Forks, North Dakota

Welcome Breakfast and Opening Address

The Honorable Bert Stedman
Alaska Senator and
Chairman of The Energy Council

The Honorable Francis Thompson
Louisiana House of Representatives
and Chairman of CLEER

The Honorable John Hoeven
U.S. Senator for North Dakota

The Honorable Kelly Armstrong
U.S. Congressman for North
Dakota

Diversification of Energy Sources

Ms. Jessica Bell
Vice President of External Affairs
Rainbow Energy

Reliability and Resiliency

The Honorable Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner
North Dakota Public Service
Commission

Nuclear Energy Incentives

Ms. Christine Csizmadia
Senior Director, State Government
Affairs & Advocacy
Nuclear Energy Institute

The Market for Hydrogen

Mr. Tyler Hamman
Assistant Vice President, Strategic
Partnerships
Energy and Environmental Research
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UAB Seminar: Dual Mission Universities: Possible Help for the Energy Workforce

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Net Energy Metering

Mr. Tony Clark
Senior Advisor
Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer, LLP

Carbon Dioxide Pipelines

The Honorable Doug Goehring
Agricultural Commissioner
North Dakota Department of
Agriculture

The Role of the Oil and Gas Sector in Decarbonization

Mr. Josh Demorrett
State Government Affairs Director,
Rocky Mountains
ConocoPhillips

NPC Update & CLEER Program Advisory Board Meeting