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**Final Agenda**  
**The Energy Council™'s**  
**2026 State and Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conference**

June 11 – 13, 2026  
The Hotel Saskatchewan, Autograph Collection Hotel  
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

5:30 p.m.      **Welcome Reception**  
*(Blue Lounge and Library)*

**Friday, June 12, 2026**

7:30 a.m.      **Welcome Breakfast and Welcome Remarks**  
*(Regency Ballroom)*

The Honorable Chris Turner  
Louisiana House of Representatives and  
Chairman, The Energy Council™

The Honorable Ed Cooper  
Wyoming Senator and  
Chairman, CLEER

8:15 a.m.      **Welcome to Saskatchewan**

The Honourable Chris Beaudry  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Government of Saskatchewan and  
Vice President, State and Provincial Trends Conference

8:45 a.m.      **Keynote Address**

*Moderator:*  
Ms. Jennifer Sutton  
Executive Director  
Council for a Secure America

*Presenter:*  
His Excellency Pete Hoekstra  
U.S. Ambassador to Canada

9:30 a.m.      Break

9:45 a.m.      **Advanced Nuclear and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**

Dr. Esam Hussein  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Regina

**Friday, June 12, 2026** *(Cont'd)*

- 10:15 a.m.     **Emerging and Innovative Technologies**  
*(Regency Ballroom)*  
Dr. Richard Axelbaum  
Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering  
Washington University
- 10:45 a.m.     **Exploring for Natural Hydrogen**  
  
Mr. Ran Narayanasamy, M.Eng, MBA, P.Eng.  
CEO and Vice Chairman  
MAX Power Mining Corporation
- 11:15 a.m.     Break
- 11:30 a.m.     **North American Energy Trade and Security**  
  
Mr. Jack Belcher  
Principal  
Cornerstone Government Affairs
- Noon           **Threats to Energy Infrastructure**  
  
Mr. Ryan J. Walsh  
Partner  
Eimer Stahl, L.L.P.  
  
Mr. Todd J. Zywicki  
Foundation Professor of Law  
Antonin Scalia Law School  
George Mason University
- 12:45 p.m.     **UAB Seminar: Technological Advancements in Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)**  
  
Mr. Matt Nasehi  
Director, Energy Innovation Hub  
PTRC Sustainable Energy
- 1:45 p.m.     **Bus(es) Depart for Tour**
- 2:00 p.m.     **The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Heritage Centre Tour**
- 4:30 p.m.     **Tour Returns to Hotel**
- 6:00 p.m.     **Depart for Reception and Dinner at Government House & Museum**  
*(Buses Transfer Participants to and from Government House as Required)*
- 6:30 p.m.     **Reception and Dinner at Government House**  
**Hosted by**  
The Honourable Bernadette McIntyre  
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan
- 8:30 p.m.     **Tour and Group Photo at Mosaic Stadium**

**Saturday, June 13, 2026**

- 8:00 a.m.        **Continental Breakfast Available**  
*(Regency Ballroom)*
- 8:30 a.m.        **National Petroleum Council Update**  
  
Mr. Jim Slutz  
Managing Director  
National Petroleum Council
- 9:00 a.m.        **International Fueling of the New Digital Age**  
  
Mr. Mike Nasi  
Partner  
Jackson Walker, L.L.P.
- 9:45 a.m.        Break
- 10:00 a.m.       **Critical Minerals & Supply Chains**  
  
Mr. Zach Maurer  
Executive Director  
Prairie Lithium
- 10:30 a.m.       **Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage**  
  
Mr. Sanjay Bishnoi  
Chief Executive Officer  
Entropy, Inc.  
  
Mr. M. Jason Lanclos, P.E.  
Director, Energy Development and Planning  
Louisiana Economic Development
- 11:15 a.m.       **Closing Remarks**  
  
The Honourable Ali Ehsassi  
Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the King's Privy Council for Canada  
and  
Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs and One  
Canadian Economy  
Member of Parliament
- 11:45 a.m.       **CLEER Business & CLEER Program Advisory Board Meetings**
- 12:45 p.m.       Adjourn
- 6:00 p.m.        **Limited capacity tickets for Saskatchewan Roughriders vs. BC Lions  
Football Game at Mosaic Stadium**

**2026 State and Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conference**  
**June 11-13, 2026**  
**Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada**

<b>Participant</b>			<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>City, State</b>	
Hon.	Bert	Anderson	Representative	North Dakota House of Representatives	Crosby	ND
Mrs.	Diane	Anderson				
Mr.	Jeff	Applekamp	Government Affairs	Energy Transfer*	Oklahoma City	OK
Mrs.	Laurie	Applekamp				
Hon.	Nick	Archer	Representative	Oklahoma House of Representatives	Oklahoma City	OK
<b>Dr.</b>	<b>Richard</b>	<b>Axelbaum</b>	<b>Energy, Envir. &amp; Chemical Engineering</b>	<b>Washington University</b>	<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>MO</b>
Hon.	Rick	Beck	Representative	Arkansas House of Representatives	Center Ridge	AR
<b>Hon.</b>	<b>Chris</b>	<b>Beaudry</b>	<b>V.P. State &amp; Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conf.</b>	<b>Minister, Energy and Resources, Government of SK</b>	<b>Regina</b>	<b>SK</b>
<b>Mr.</b>	<b>Jack</b>	<b>Belcher</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Cornerstone Government Affairs</b>	<b>Houston</b>	<b>TX</b>
Hon.	Rick	Billinger	Senator	Kansas Senate	Goodland	KS
<b>Mr.</b>	<b>Sanjay</b>	<b>Bishnoi</b>	<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	<b>Entropy, Inc.</b>	<b>Calgary</b>	<b>AB</b>
Hon.	Bo	Biteman	Senate President	Wyoming Senate	Ranchester	WY
Mr.	Berdis	Blanding	Lobbyist	Alabama Power Company		
Hon.	Mary	Boren	Senator	Oklahoma Senate	Oklahoma City	OK
Hon.	Craig	Brandt	Senator	New Mexico Senate	Rio Rancho	
Hon.	Cale	Case	Senator	Wyoming Senate	Lander	WY
Hon.	Lydia	Chassaniol	Senator	Mississippi Senate	Winona	MS
Hon.	Ed	Cooper	Chairman, CLEER	Wyoming Senate	Ten Sleep	WY
Mr.	Nathan	Cooper	Sr Representative to the U.S.	Government of Alberta	Washington	DC
Hon.	Danny	Crawford	Representative	Alabama House of Representatives	Athens	AL
Mrs.	Mary	Crawford				
Hon.	Chantelle	De Jonge	Member of Legislative Assembly	Legislative Assembly of Alberta	Strathmore	AB
Hon.	Leo	Delperdang	Representative	Kansas House of Representatives	Wichita	KS
Hon.	Mark	Duncan	Legislator	New Mexico House of Representatives	Farmington	NM

<b>Hon.</b>	<b>Ali</b>	<b>Ehsassi</b>	<b>Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the King's Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy</b>	<b>Member of Parliament</b>	<b>Ottawa</b>	<b>ON</b>
Mr.	John	Eick	Sr. Director, State Legislative Affairs	Edison Electric Insitute	Washington	DC
Hon.	Chris	Elliott	Senator	Alabama Senate	Montgomery	AL
Ms.	Christin	Evans	Director, Governmental Affairs	Enterprise Products	Houston	TX
Hon.	Mike	Fagg	Senator	Kansas Senate	El Dorado	KS
Mrs.	Annette	Fehrenbacher				
Hon.	Bob	Fehrenbacher	Delegate	West Virginia House of Delegates	Vienna	WV
Hon.	Joey	Fillingane	Senator	Mississippi Senate	Jackson	MS
Mr.	Joe	Gehrdes	Director, External Affairs	Huntsville Utilities	Huntsville	AL
Ms.	Dora Ann	Gostecnik				
Hon.	Wayne	Harper	Senator	Utah Senate	Taylorsville	UT
Mr.	Logan	Harrell	General Counsel & Dir. of Reg. Affairs	Texas Chemistry Council	Austin	TX
MLA	Daryl	Harrison	MLA	Government of Saskatchewan	Alida	SK
Mr.	Christopher	Heck	Senior Manager	NEI	Washington	DC
Hon.	Scott	Heiner	Representative	Wyoming House of Representatives	Green River	WY
Hon.	Kyle	Hoffman	Assistant Majority Leader	Kansas House of Representatives	Coldwater	KS
<b>H.E.</b>	<b>Pete</b>	<b>Hoekstra</b>	<b>U.S. Ambassador to Canada</b>		<b>Fennville</b>	<b>MI</b>
Mr.	Christopher	Hotchkiss	Chief of Staff & Legal Counse to Chairman Jim Wright	Railroad Commission of Texas	Austin	TX
<b>Dr.</b>	<b>Esam</b>	<b>Hussein</b>	<b>Professor Emeritus</b>	<b>University of Regina</b>	<b>Regina</b>	<b>SK</b>
Ms.	Camille	Ivy-O'Donnell	State Gov't. Affairs Sr. Representative	Chevron	Covington	LA
Hon.	Colin	Jack	Representative	Utah House of Representatives	St. George	UT
Mrs.	Catherine	Johnson				
Hon.	Mark	Johnson	Senator	Arkansas Senate	Little Rock	AR
Hon.	Andrew	Jones	Senator	Alabama Senate	Montgomery	AL
Mrs.	Summer	Jones				
Ms.	Shana	Joyce	Director, State Government Affairs	Koch Government Affairs, LLC	Austin	TX
Ms.	Ashley	Juergens	Director of Government Affair	Vistra Corporation	Irving	TX
Hon.	Greg	Kessel	Senator	North Dakota Senate	Belfield	ND

Hon.	Stan	Kitzman	Representative	Texas House of Representatives	Austin	TX
Dr.	Amit	Kumar	Professor	University of Alberta	Edmonton	AB
Hon.	Jack	Ladyman	Representative	Arkansas House of Representatives	Little Rock	AR
<b>Mr.</b>	<b>M. Jason</b>	<b>Lanclos</b>	<b>Director, Energy Development and Planning</b>	<b>Louisiana Economic Development</b>	<b>Baton Rouge</b>	<b>LA</b>
Mr.	Rob	Landry	State Government Affairs	TC Energy	Lafayette	LA
Hon.	Janie	Lopez	Representative	Texas House of Representatives	San Benito	TX
Hon.	Tara	Lujan	District Legislative Aide	New Mexico House of Representatives	Santa Fe	NM
Mrs.	Brenda	Luttrell				
Hon.	Ken	Luttrell	Representative	Oklahoma House of Representatives	Ponca City	OK
Ms.	Betsy	Madru	Government Affairs	Diamondback Energy		
Ms.	Deb	Mamula	Executive Director	The Energy Council	Dallas	TX
Mrs.	Karlita	Manger				
Hon.	Robert	Manger	Representative	Oklahoma House of Representatives	Oklahoma City	OK
Mr.	Christopher	Martin	Dir., Stakeholder Eng. and Outreach	Canadian Assoc. of Petroleum Producers		
Hon.	Bob	Martinson	Representative	North Dakota House of Representatives	Bismarck	ND
<b>Mr.</b>	<b>Zach</b>	<b>Maurer</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Prairie Lithium</b>		<b>SK</b>
Dr.	Rachel	McCormick	Director General of Int'l. Affairs	Natural Resources Canada	Ottawa	ON
Mrs.	Debbie	McGrew				
Hon.	Richard	McGrew	Representative	Arkansas House of Representatives	Hot Springs	AR
Hon.	Don	McLaughlin	Representative	Texas House of Representatives	Larado	TX
Mrs.	Karen	McLaughlin				
Ms.	Carlee	McLeod	External Affairs Representative	Minnkota Power Cooperatives	Grand Forks	ND
Hon.	Beth	Mizell	Senator	Louisiana Senate	Franklinton	LA
Hon.	Parker	Moore	Representative	Alabama House of Representatives	Hartselle	AL
Mr.	Lawrence	Morris	Foreign Policy Officer	Consulate General of Canada in Dallas	Dallas	TX
<b>Mr.</b>	<b>Ran</b>	<b>Narayanasamy</b>	<b>CEO and Vice Chairman</b>	<b>MAX Power Mining Corporation</b>	<b>Regina</b>	<b>SK</b>
<b>Mr.</b>	<b>Matt</b>	<b>Nasehi</b>	<b>Director, Energy Innovation Hub</b>	<b>PTRC Sustainable Energy</b>	<b>Regina</b>	<b>SK</b>
<b>Mr.</b>	<b>Mike</b>	<b>Nasi</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>Jackson Walker, L.L.P.</b>	<b>Austin</b>	<b>TX</b>
Ms.	Janis	Nett				
Com.	Greg	Nibert	Commissioner	New Mexico Public Regulation Comm.	Santa Fe	NM
Hon.	Rob	Norris	Board of Director	MAX Power Mining Corp.	Regina	

Mrs.	Tulsi	Oberbeck	V.P., Government and Reg. Affairs	Texas Oil & Gas Association	Austin	TX
Mr.	Tom	Palak	Mgr., Gov't. Affairs, Western Canada	Enbridge	Calgary	AB
Mr.	Adam	Parker	Manager, U.S. Public Affairs	Enbridge, Inc.	Washington	DC
Hon.	Dale	Patten	Senator	North Dakota Senate	Watford City	ND
Ms.	Maureen	Pelletier	Project Management Specialist – Energy Efficiency & GHG's	Suncor	Calgary	AB
Hon.	Todd	Porter	Representative	North Dakota House of Representatives	Mandan	ND
Hon.	Chris	Pringle	Speaker Pro Tem	Alabama House of Representatives	Mobile	
Mrs.	Laura	Pringle				
Mr.	Scott	Quillinan	Acting Executive Director	University of Wyoming	Laramie	WY
Ms.	Eva	Richards	Meeting Manager	The Energy Council	Dallas	TX
Hon.	Neil	Riser	State Representative	Louisiana House of Representatives	Columbia	LA
Mr.	Mike	Ross	Sr. Vice President	Southwest Power Pool, Inc.	Little Rock	AR
Hon.	Tim	Salazar	Senator	Wyoming Senate	Riverton	WY
Mrs.	Carmen	Schaible				
Hon.	Donald	Schaible	Senator	North Dakota Senate	Mott	ND
Mr.	Clay	Scofield	President & CEO	Energy Institute of Alabama	Montgomery	AL
Hon.	David	Sessions	Senator	Alabama Senate	Montgomery	AL
Mrs.	Lisa	Sessions				
Mr.	Ashish	Sharma	Director - U.S. South	Government of Alberta Dallas Office	Dallas	TX
<b>Mr.</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>Slutz</b>	<b>Managing Director</b>	<b>National Petroleum Council</b>	<b>Washington</b>	<b>DC</b>
Mr.	Jay	Smith	Associate General Counsel	Koch Capabilities, LLC	Dunwoody	GA
Hon.	Van	Smith	Representative	Alabama House of Representatives	North Prattville	AL
Hon.	Bert	Stedman	Senator	Alaska Senate	Juneau	AK
Hon.	George	Street	Delegate	West Virginia House of Delegates	Charleston	WV
<b>Ms.</b>	<b>Jennifer</b>	<b>Sutton</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Council for a Secure America</b>	<b>New York</b>	<b>NY</b>
Ms.	Krystal	Thraikill Ross				
Hon.	Tammy	Townley	Representative	Oklahoma House of Representatives	Oklahoma City	OK
Hon.	Christopher	Turner	Chairman, The Energy Council	Louisiana House of Representatives	Ruston	LA
Mrs.	Nancy	Turner				
Ms.	Isela	Vera	Chief of Staff	The Energy Council	Dallas	TX
<b>Mr.</b>	<b>Ryan</b>	<b>Walsh</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>Eimer Stahl, L.L.P.</b>	<b>Madison</b>	<b>WI</b>
Mr.	Wei	Wang	Executive Director	Railroad Commission of Texas	Austin	TX

Ms.	Karen	Ward	Director, Gov't. & Public Affairs	Plains*	Houston	TX
Mrs.	Carol	West				
Hon.	Royce	West	Senator	Texas Senate	Dallas	TX
Hon.	William	Wheat	Senator	Louisiana Senate	Ponchatoula	LA
Hon.	Margie	Wilcox	Representative	Alabama House of Representatives	Mobile	AL
Hon.	Ronald "Ron	Winterton	Senator	Utah Senate	Roosevelt	UT
Comm.	Jim	Wright	Chairman	Railroad Commission of Texas	Austin	TX
Ms.	Michelle	Wynn	Deputy Secretary	OK Secretary of Energy & Environment	Oklahoma City	OK
Hon.	Chuck	Younger	Senator	Mississippi Senate	Columbus	MS
Mrs.	Missy	Younger				
<b>Mr.</b>	<b>Todd</b>	<b>Zywicki</b>	<b>Foundation Professor of Law, Antonin Scalia Law School</b>	<b>George Mason University</b>	<b>Falls Church</b>	<b>VA</b>

Speakers in **Bold**

Attending Sponsors noted with an \*

**Speaker Synopsis**  
**The Energy Council**  
**2026 State and Provincial Trends in Energy and the Environment Conference**  
**June 11-13, 2026**  
**The Hotel Saskatchewan, Autograph Collection Hotel**  
**Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada**

**Advanced Nuclear and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**

Dr. Esam Hussein  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Regina

Small modular reactors (SMRs) are gaining attention, due to their smaller size, which promises more predictable construction but also creates fuel-supply challenges, especially for microreactors requiring high-assay low-enriched uranium. Modular deployment aims to reduce capital risk by installing multiple small units, though true factory-built modularity remains limited mostly to non-reactor components. Many proposed SMR designs incorporate Generation III+ or Generation IV technologies with enhanced safety and sustainability features. The presentation explores these issues and assesses the prospects for deploying new reactors in North America.

**Exploring for Natural Hydrogen**

Mr. Ran Narayanasamy, M. Eng., MBA, P.Eng.  
CEO and Vice Chairman  
MAX Power Mining Corporation

A first look at Natural Hydrogen System in the wild – MAX Power’s Lawson Saskatchewan Natural Hydrogen Discovery: MAX Power Mining Corp. has confirmed Canada’s first subsurface natural hydrogen system through drilling at its Lawson discovery in southern Saskatchewan, with natural hydrogen concentrations reaching up to 28.6% and free-flowing gas observed at surface. The project demonstrates a complete geological system—including source, migration pathways, reservoir, trap, and seal—indicating the presence of a potentially large, naturally occurring hydrogen accumulation. Located along the 475-km Genesis Trend near an established industrial corridor, the discovery supports the potential for repeatable and scalable natural hydrogen systems across southern Saskatchewan. The project is now advancing through resource modelling, additional drilling, and seismic delineation to assess size, deliverability, and commercial viability.

**North American Energy Trade and Security**

Mr. Jack Belcher  
Principal  
Cornerstone Government Affairs

A presentation on the energy policy, political, geopolitical and economic trends impacting the North American and global energy industry with a strong emphasis on oil and gas. I will discuss U.S. energy dominance policy and its domestic and global impacts, geopolitical impacts of the Iran war, Venezuela and other global issues, the impacts of the AI data center led demand surge, global trade issues, and trends regarding sustainability.

## **Threats to Energy Infrastructure**

Mr. Ryan J. Walsh  
Partner  
Eimer Stahl, L.L.P.

This presentation examines a coordinated campaign of climate-change litigation that poses a growing threat to domestic energy production — targeting fossil fuel companies in state courts across the United States and Canada with tort and consumer-protection claims modeled on the tobacco litigation playbook and designed to impose massive liability and constrain energy supply. The speakers trace the evolution of these suits from nuisance and trespass theories to consumer deception claims, survey the current landscape of cases and the extraterritoriality and horizontal federalism principles at stake, and address the extraordinary financial exposure they create, including a single Oregon suit seeking over \$50 billion for a one-week heat wave. Mr. Walsh addresses the constitutional dimensions of state-court climate suits, while Professor Zywicki examines why consumer deception law is a poor fit for disputes that are fundamentally about national energy policy. The presentation concludes with the emerging legislative front — Vermont and New York have already enacted backward-looking strict liability statutes imposing billions in fines on fuel companies, with multiple other non-producing states considering similar measures.

Mr. Todd J. Zywicki  
Foundation Professor of Law  
Antonin Scalia Law School  
George Mason University

Progressive political jurisdictions (such as Boulder, Colorado) in the United States have brought dozens of lawsuits against energy producing companies to impose liability for emissions they allege contribute to climate change and in turn impose costs on those jurisdictions. Although nominally designed to force energy companies to pay for claimed harms they allegedly cause, these lawsuits operate as a de facto carbon tax on energy production. Plaintiffs allege a variety of creative theories of liability, including tort law claims under public nuisance theory and various consumer protection claims. In several cases the municipalities are represented by well-funded environmental law advocacy groups and funded by outside interests. Although no cases have found liability, the sheer cost of defending repetitive “bet the company”-style litigation has resulted in millions of dollars of attorneys’ fees. I will discuss this pending litigation from the perspective of both public nuisance theories as well as consumer protection and how the Supreme Court might resolve it.

## **UAB Seminar: Technological Advancements in Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)**

Mr. Matt Nasehi  
Director, Energy Innovation Hub  
PTRC Sustainable Energy

The presentation will focus on what it takes to get more oil out of our existing oil wells. There will be sections on how oil is trapped underground, and the various techniques that we can employ to achieve higher production volumes without drilling new wells and lowering the surface footprint. One of these techniques utilizes CO<sub>2</sub>, and in the process, creates one of the lowest emissions-intensity oils that can be produced. One of the ways to “have your cake and eat it too” is employing this method to both generate higher production volumes, and decarbonize industries such as power production at the same time.

## **National Petroleum Council Update**

Mr. Jim Slutz  
Managing Director  
National Petroleum Council

The National Petroleum Council, a federal advisory committee, advises the Secretary of Energy. Recent reports on permitting reform and gas-electric coordination offer recommendations to improve energy affordability and reliability. NPC analyzed rising natural gas and electricity demand, evaluated the reliability risks these strains pose, and recommended actionable strategies to reduce misalignment and strengthen the resilience of both systems. For permitting, the NPC recommends a set of solutions that would enable infrastructure development to occur sooner to strengthen energy reliability and support U.S. competitiveness around the world. Reports planned for approval later this year address resource assessment, natural gas storage, and produced water management.

## **Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage**

Mr. M. Jason Lanclos, P.E.  
Director, Energy Development and Planning  
Louisiana Economic Development

Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) projects represent a significant economic development opportunity by attracting large-scale capital investment, creating high-quality construction and operations jobs, and supporting the growth of industrial clusters. Regions with strong geologic storage resources, existing energy infrastructure, and concentrated industrial emissions are well positioned to become hubs for low-carbon manufacturing, petrochemicals, hydrogen production, and power generation. CCUS also enhances global competitiveness by helping industries meet increasingly stringent carbon requirements while maintaining reliable energy production. As governments and private investors accelerate deployment, CCUS can drive long-term economic growth, strengthen energy security, and expand investment opportunities across North America. In Louisiana, LED is working closely with the Department of Conservation and Energy to evaluate the economic benefits of CCUS projects and position the state as a leader in this emerging sector.