

## **AGENDA - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

7:30 AM

### **REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

8:20 AM

GCPA President's Welcome

**Beth Garza**, Sr. Fellow, R Street Institute

Recognition of Chairs

**Barbara Clemenhagen**, Executive Director, GCPA

Conference Introduction

**Carrie Collier-Brown**, Partner, Husch Blackwell

**Marty Hopkins**, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP

8:30 AM

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

***Powering the Next Generation:***

***Rearchitecting Energy Systems to Meet Tomorrow's Demands***

**Hala Ballouz**, Founder, Board Chair & Chief Vision Officer, Electric Power Engineers

9:00 AM

### **Session I - Texas Energy Legislative Outcomes: Impact & Insights from the 89th Session**

Discover the outcomes of the 89th Texas Legislative Session and their effects on the ERCOT electricity market. Key legislation, including SB 6 on large loads will be examined. The session also saw significant activity in Senate and House committees, advancing bills on grid resilience, wildfire mitigation, solar protections, and transmission planning. Our Panel will analyze emerging themes like battery storage, resiliency, renewable siting, and oversight trends in PUC and ERCOT. Join us to explore the long-term impacts of these legislative changes on Texas's energy landscape.

Moderator: **Claire Hao**, Energy & Power Grid Reporter, Houston Chronicle

Panelists:

**Dan Diorio**, Vice President, State Policy, Data Center Coalition

**Casey Kelley**, Vice President, State Government Affairs - South, Constellation

**Brandy Marty Marquez**, Principal, Marquez Public Affairs

**John Pitts Jr.**, Co-Managing Principal, Texas Star Alliance

9:45 AM

### **NETWORKING BREAK**

10:15 AM

### **Vignette - ERCOT Reliability Standards: Adoption & Impact**

Explore how new reliability standards are shaping ERCOT's future, with insights into their requirements and expected industry effects.

Speaker: **Werner Roth**, Sr. Market Economist, PUCT

10:30 AM

### **Session II - Resource Adequacy in a Changing ERCOT: Meeting the Moment**

As ERCOT navigates a rapidly evolving energy landscape, this panel dives into the fierce challenge of ensuring enough power to meet peak demand. From integrating more renewables and retiring old thermal plants to managing extreme weather and incentivizing new investments, we'll explore what it takes to keep the lights on. Join industry experts, ERCOT insiders, and innovators for an engaging discussion on demand forecasting, dispatchable generation, and building a resilient energy future in Texas.

Moderator: **Juliana Sersen**, Partner, Baker Botts

Panelists:

**Monica Batra-Shrader**, Policy Manager, Central Region, Enchanted Rock

**Ned Bonskowski**, Vice President, Texas Regulatory Policy, Vistra

**Clayton Greer**, Vice President, Energy Division, Cholla Inc.

**Kristi Hobbs**, Vice President, System Planning & Weatherization, ERCOT

## **AGENDA - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 (continued)**

11:15 AM

### **Session III - Market Design & Pricing Dynamics: Pricing Puzzles—Decoding Market Signals & Incentives**

This lively panel explores how market design shapes signals, influences incentives, and drives investment in ERCOT. We'll examine recent developments like Dispatchable Reliability Reserve Service (DRRS) RTC +B, changes to ECRS, and retail pricing innovations—all crucial to navigating Texas's dynamic energy markets. Industry insiders and market experts will decode the complex pricing puzzle, revealing what these changes mean for stakeholders and Texas's energy future. Join us for an engaging discussion on the forces shaping ERCOT's evolving landscape.

Moderator: **Keith Collins**, Vice President, Commercial Operations, ERCOT

Panelists:

**Chris Hendrix**, CEO, Demand Control

**Blake King**, Vice President Power, Galaxy

**Stephanie Kroger**, CEO & President, Hunt Energy Network

**Meg McLeod**, Managing Director, EnCap Investments L.P.

12:00 PM

### **emPOWERing YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AWARD PRESENTATION**

12:10 PM

### **LUNCHEON**

1:45 PM

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

#### ***ERCOT: Powering Texas, Today and Tomorrow***

**Bill Flores**, Chair, ERCOT Board of Directors

2:15 PM

### **Session IV - Lessons from Other Power Markets: Beyond Texas**

Venture beyond Texas and gain valuable insights from other leading power markets. This engaging panel explores what Texas can learn from the successes, challenges, and innovations happening nationwide. Industry experts will share real-world lessons and innovative strategies that can shape the future of Texas's energy landscape. Join us for a compelling discussion on how looking outside Texas can help us build a stronger, more adaptable power system here at home.

Moderator: **Julia Frayer**, Partner and Managing Director, London Economics International LLC

Panelists:

**Wyatt Elbin**, Manager Regulatory Strategy & Analysis, Calpine Energy Solutions LLC

**Ray Fakhoury**, Manager, Energy Policy, Amazon

**Brian George**, Global Energy Market Development and Policy, US Federal Lead, Google

**Marji Philips**, Sr. Vice President, Wholesale Market Policy, LS Power

3:00 PM

### **NETWORKING BREAK**

3:25 PM

### **Vignette - Co-Location Quick Start: Three Keys to Making it Work**

A concise guide to the top three factors you must consider before embarking on a co-location project in ERCOT.

Speaker: **Scott Williams**, Vice President, Energy & Infrastructure Development, Crusoe

## AGENDA - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 (continued)

3:45 PM

**Session V - Gridlock: Overcoming Transmission Challenges for a Reliable Future**

Get ready to break through the bottlenecks! This energizing panel dives into the gridlock holding back Texas's transmission infrastructure and explores bold solutions to keep the lights on. From expanding capacity to new technologies, industry experts will spark a lively discussion on how to solve the transmission puzzle—ensuring a more reliable, resilient, and efficient grid. Join us for insights, innovation, and a roadmap to untangling Texas's most pressing energy challenges.

Moderator: **Warren Lasher**, President, Lasher Energy Consulting LLC

Panelists:

**Hudson Gilmer**, Board Chair, LineVision

**Paul Hudson**, President, General Infrastructure LLC

**Kenny Mercado**, Executive Vice President, Electric Utilities, Quanta Services, Inc.

**Natalie Smith**, Vice President, Development, NextEra Energy Transmission; President, GridLiance

4:30 PM

**Session VI - ERCOT TAC Confidential: Unfiltered Tales from the Front Lines of Texas Energy Governance**

Step behind the curtain with the legendary past Chairs of ERCOT's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for an unmissable, unscripted discussion. They'll share candid stories, bold insights, and behind-the-scenes moments from the heart of Texas energy decision-making. This candid session promises no scripts, just real talk about the triumphs, twists, and turbulence shaping the grid's future. Don't miss this spirited, behind-the-scenes look at the pulse of Texas energy governance!

Moderator: **Caitlin Smith**, Vice President, Policy & Corporate Communications, Jupiter Power

Panelists:

**Read Comstock**, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Competitive Power Ventures

**Mark Dreyfus**, President, MD Energy Consulting

**Beth Garza**, Sr. Fellow, R Street Institute

**Robert Helton**, Vice President Government & Regulatory Affairs, ENGIE

5:15 - 7:00 PM

**COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

## AGENDA - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

8:00 AM

**REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

8:30 AM

**ANNOUNCEMENTS - Barbara Clemenhagen**, Executive Director, GCPA

8:35 AM

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS*****Powering Progress: Balancing Reliability, Flexibility & Sustainability  
in a World of Rising Demand***

**Chad Burk**, Sr. Vice President, Power System Sales, Siemens Energy

## AGENDA - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1 (continued)

9:00 AM

**Session VII - The Future of ERCOT: Innovation & Investment**

Unlock the secrets to Texas's energy evolution in this forward-looking panel! From groundbreaking technologies to innovative business models, we'll explore the game-changers set to transform ERCOT's market in the years ahead. Industry pioneers, tech innovators, and market visionaries will share bold ideas and strategies to power Texas into a smarter, cleaner, and more resilient future. Join us for an inspiring discussion on what's next for ERCOT—and how you can be part of the revolution.

Moderator: **Doug Lewin**, President, Stoic Energy

Panelists:

**Zach Dell**, Co-Founder & CEO, Base Power Company

**Tom McGinn**, Sr. Vice President, Energy Trading, Energywell Technologies

**Hayden Stanley**, Founder, GoodPeak

**Maura Yates**, Co-Founder & CEO, Mothership Innovations

9:45 AM

**NETWORKING BREAK**

10:10 AM

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS*****Radical Collaboration: Powering a Resilient, Equitable Energy Future***

**Mary Powell**, CEO, SunRun

10:40 AM

**Vignette - The Rise of Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) in ERCOT**

How VPPs are starting to gain traction in ERCOT, aggregating distributed energy resources (DERs) like solar, storage, and demand response to provide grid services.

Speaker: **JP Dowling**, Sr. Product Manager, Demand Response Products, NRG

11:00 AM

**Session VIII - Reflecting on Texas's Energy Journey and the Path Forward**

Celebrate the Gulf Coast Power Association's 40th Fall Conference and the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) 50th anniversary with an enlightening panel featuring former Commissioners. They'll share behind-the-scenes stories from their tenure—how regulatory mandates, policy shifts, and incentives have shaped Texas's energy landscape over the decades. Looking ahead, they'll discuss how new mandates and evolving incentives are creating a regulatory crossroads, guiding Texas through the load boom and technological transformation. Join these industry veterans for a lively conversation on what's worked, what's next, and how Texas can navigate the next 40 years of energy innovation and regulation.

Moderator: **Barbara Clemenhagen**, Executive Director, Gulf Coast Power Association

Panelists:

**Robert W. Gee**, President, Gee Strategies Group LLC

**Becky Klein**, Principal, Klein Energy LLC

**Julie Parsley**, CEO, Pedernales Electric Cooperative

**Barry Smitherman**, Managing Partner, 6S Capitol Group

12:00 PM

**CONFERENCE ADJOURNS**