



# REGIONAL CONFERENCE



## GCPA 12th Annual MISO / SPP Regional Conference **REGISTER NOW**

Monday, February 23rd - Tuesday, February 24th  
The Sheraton New Orleans at 500 Canal Street -  
Rooms Available at \$209 - [BOOK HERE](#)

Cocktail Reception for all Attendees on February 23rd

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## THANKS TO OUR PLANNING TEAM

**Ben Bright**, SPP  
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**Ken Dell Orto**, Entergy  
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**Tom Kleckner**, RTO Insider  
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**Gordon Polozola**, Kean Miller LLP  
**David Sapper**, Clean Grid Alliance  
**Clint Savoy**, SPP  
**Kari Valley**, MISO  
**Jennifer Vosburg**, Jennifer J. Vosburg LLC

## PRICING INFORMATION

- Registration pricing is all inclusive and includes a cocktail reception on Monday, February 23, breakfast and lunch on Tuesday, February 24 plus all-day beverage service and snack breaks on both days.
- Early bird pricing ends on Monday, February 2nd.
- Regular Registration closes on Friday, February 20th at 12 midnight.
- On-Site Registration is available online beginning Saturday, February 21st. Check-In/On-Site Registration desk at Sheraton opens at 12:00 PM on Monday, February 23rd.
- Requests for refunds must be received by 5:00 PM on Friday, February 6th. A 10% processing fee will be deducted from all refunds.

Registrant Type	Early Bird Pricing through 2/2/26	Regular Reg. 2/3/26-2/20/26	Onsite Reg. 2/21/26-2/24/26
<b>GCPA Members</b>	\$900	\$1100	\$1300
<b>Non-Members</b>	\$1150	\$1350	\$1550
<b>Govt. / State Agency</b>	\$415	\$415	\$465

## ROOM BLOCK INFO - [CLICK HERE TO RESERVE](#)

GCPA has a room block with a limited number of rooms at the Sheraton New Orleans available at the special group rate of \$209 per night. This rate is also offered two days pre- and post-conference based on availability. Call the Sheraton at 504-525-2500 if you need assistance. **Room block cutoff date is Monday, February 2nd.**

## LOUISIANA CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

GCPA will be applying to the Louisiana State Bar for approval of MCLE hours for this conference.

## AGENDA - Monday, February 23, 2026

1:15 PM **Welcome / Moeller Sugg Impact Award:** Barbara Clemenhagen, Executive Director, GCPA

1:30 PM **Fireside Chat - Leading Through the Storm: Grid Reliability in an Unprecedented Era**  
 Join the leaders of MISO and SPP for a candid discussion on navigating the perfect storm of challenges facing America's central grids. From plummeting reserve margins and unprecedented demand from data centers to massive interconnection queue backlogs and the need for historic transmission investment, this keynote will provide a high-level executive perspective on the strategies required to maintain reliability in an era of profound transformation.  
 Speakers: **John Bear**, CEO, MISO & **Lanny Nickell**, CEO, SPP

2:00 PM **Vignette - ERAS Fast-Track Update**  
 Get a crucial and timely update on the controversial Expedited Resource Addition Study (ERAS) programs in MISO and SPP. As regulators and stakeholders scrutinize these fast-track interconnection processes, this session will detail their intended purpose, implementation status, and the ongoing debate surrounding their impact on market participants and projects already in the queue.  
 Speakers: **Steve Purdy**, Technical Director - Engineering Policy, SPP  
**Andy Witmeier**, Director Resource Utilization, MISO

2:15 PM **Session I - Resource Adequacy SOS**  
 Resource adequacy headlines exclaim "High Risk" or "Dangerously Low Levels" ramping up the pressure on the industry to take action to support load growth but keep rates low and do it all in a resilient manner... and have it done yesterday while all the rules change. This panel will convene a diverse group of stakeholders—representing industrial consumers, load serving entities, and independent power producers for a discussion of the challenges of resource adequacy planning in the current environment and how industry leaders are looking to old and new solutions to keep the lights on, from new generation to demand response programs and everything in between.  
 Moderator: **Jennifer Vosburg**, Principal, Jennifer J. Vosburg, LLC  
 Panelists:  
**Jeff Andry**, Chief Strategy & Regulatory Officer, DEMCO  
**Jim Dauphinais**, Managing Principal, Brubaker & Associates  
**Nicole Luckey**, Sr. Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Invenergy  
**Mike Wise**, Sr. Vice President, Regulatory & Market Strategy, Golden Spread Electric Cooperative

3:00 PM

## NETWORKING BREAK

## THANKS TO OUR MEDIA PARTNER

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3:30 PM

### Session II - The Great Queue Crisis

The interconnection queue has become one of the greatest barriers to grid reliability and the energy transition, with nearly 350 GW of projects backlogged in MISO and 84 GW in SPP. This session moves beyond the numbers to diagnose the systemic challenges plaguing the queue process. Featuring perspectives from MISO, SPP, ERCOT, and international counterpart AESO, alongside the U.S. Department of Energy, the panel will explore the causes of project delays and compare potential solutions being implemented across North America.

Moderator: **Jennifer Solomon**, Executive Director, Regulatory & Legislative Affairs, NextEra Energy Resources  
Panelists:

**Natasha Henderson**, Sr. Director, Grid Asset Utilization, SPP

**Pravin Koshti**, Director, Customer Access & Project Engineering, AESO

**Andy Witmeier**, Director Resource Utilization, MISO

4:15 PM

### Session III - Data Center Disruption

Global power demand from data centers is projected to increase by 50% by 2027, creating an unprecedented challenge and opportunity for grid operators. This panel brings together hyperscalers, developers, and state regulators to answer a critical question: Why are data centers choosing to locate in MISO and SPP? The discussion will uncover the strategic drivers behind siting decisions and explore how utilities and RTOs can manage this explosive, high-stakes load growth.

Moderator: **Haley Fisackerly**, President & CEO, Entergy Mississippi

Panelists:

**Andrew French**, Chairman, Kansas Corporation Commission

**Neka Goka**, Energy Policy & Markets Lead - Infrastructure and Energy Team, Google

5:00 PM

### COCKTAIL RECEPTION



## AGENDA - Tuesday, February 24, 2026

9:00 AM

### Keynote - Navigating the Utility Regulatory Model in a Transforming Grid

As the energy landscape is reshaped by new technologies, massive load growth, and climate pressures, the traditional utility regulatory model faces its greatest test. Hear directly from a leading utility executive on the front lines of this transformation. This session will address the pressing legislative and regulatory challenges in adapting century-old frameworks to meet the demands of a 21st-century grid..

Speaker:

**Phillip May**, President & CEO, Entergy Louisiana

9:30 AM

**Session IV - State Perspectives on Regional Crises**

State commissioners are ultimately responsible for balancing reliability, consumer costs, and policy goals. This panel brings state regulators from across the MISO and SPP footprints together to share their perspectives on the cascading regional crises. The discussion will focus on how states are addressing resource adequacy shortfalls, planning for massive transmission investments, and ensuring the grid transition is managed affordably and reliably.

Moderator: **Sarah Freeman**, Principal, Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)

Panelists:

**Jean-Paul Coussan**, Commissioner, Louisiana Public Service Commission

**Chuck Hutchison**, Chairman, Nebraska Power Review Board

**John Mitchell**, Commissioner, Missouri Public Service Commission

**Joe Sullivan**, Commissioner, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

10:15 AM

**NETWORKING BREAK**

10:45 AM

**Vignette - Interregional Operations**

As MISO and SPP become more interdependent, the operational coordination at their seam is more critical than ever. This technical vignette provides a focused look at the challenges and successes of interregional operations, including collaborative efforts like the Joint Targeted Interconnection Queue (JTIQ) study and the day-to-day work required to mitigate constraints and ensure reliable power flows between the two RTOs.

Speakers: **Tabitha Hernandez**, Director Operations Management, Balancing & Interchange, MISO  
**Yasser Bahbaz**, Sr. Director Market Development, SPP

11:00 AM

**Session V - Grid Enhancing Technologies**

With billions in new transmission infrastructure needed, can technology help unlock more capacity from the existing grid? This session showcases the Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs) that promise to do just that. From using AI to slash interconnection study times to deploying advanced conductors and dynamic line ratings, this panel will explore real-world implementations and the potential for GETs to accelerate project timelines and improve grid efficiency.

Moderator: **Arash Ghodsian**, Vice President, Transmission & Policy, Invenergy

Panelists:

**Joey Alexander**, Executive Director, Strategic Accounts, LineVision

**Frank Antonysamy**, Chief Growth Officer, Hitachi Digital

**David M. Bromberg, Ph.D.**, Vice President, Power & Renewables and Co-Founder, Pearl Street

**Balazs Honti**, Siemens Energy

11:45 AM

**LUNCHEON**

1:00 PM

**Fireside Chat - The Nuclear Renaissance: SMR Technology & Grid-Scale Deployment**

Amidst widespread thermal generation retirements and the urgent need for firm, carbon-free power, nuclear energy is re-entering the spotlight. This fireside chat will explore the promise of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) as a key solution to the resource adequacy crisis. The discussion will move beyond theory to assess the practical realities of SMR deployment, covering technological readiness, regulatory hurdles, and the role SMRs can play in ensuring future grid reliability.

Moderator: TBA

Speaker: **J. Clay Sell**, CEO, X-energy



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1:30 PM

### Session VI - Market Design Under Stress: Reserve Products & Speed to Power

Skyrocketing capacity prices in MISO and growing uncertainty in SPP reveal market designs struggling under the stress of the energy transition. This panel of experts will analyze whether current reserve products and capacity constructs are fit for purpose. The discussion is expanded to include the critical challenge of "speed to power"—how to adapt market rules and grid planning to rapidly interconnect the resources needed to serve extreme load growth from data centers and electrification.

Moderator: **Marcus Hawkins**, Commissioner, Wisconsin Public Service Commission

Panelists:

**Amanda Bradshaw**, Acting Deputy Director, Grid Modernization, DOE Grid Deployment Office

**Travis Kavulla**, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, NRG

**David Mindham**, Sr. Director, Regulatory & Market Development, EDP Renewables NA

2:15 PM

### NETWORKING BREAK

2:45 PM

### Session VII - Climate vs. Reliability

The energy transition has created a fundamental tension between decarbonization goals and maintaining a reliable, 24/7 power grid. This panel will host a candid and necessary debate between renewable advocates, consumer groups, and reliability experts on how to navigate this challenge. The discussion will tackle the difficult trade-offs and seek a balanced path forward that does not sacrifice reliability in the pursuit of a cleaner grid.

Moderator: **Yvonne Cappel-Vickery**, Clean Energy Grid Manager, Alliance for Affordable Energy

Panelists:

**Michelle Bloodworth**, President & CEO, America's Power

**Ryan Deyoe**, Sr. Analyst, Telos Energy

**Simon Mahan**, Executive Director, Southern Renewable Energy Association

**Aidan Tuophy**, Director, Power Systems, Transmission Operations and Planning, EPRI

3:30 PM

### Closing Session - The Path Forward

After two days of intensive discussion on the unprecedented challenges facing the grid, this closing panel will synthesize the key takeaways and chart a path forward. A panel of seasoned industry leaders and former executives will distill the complex issues into a set of strategic priorities, offering their final thoughts on what MISO, SPP, and the broader energy industry must do to successfully navigate the turbulent years ahead.

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

**Ted Thomas**, Founder, Energize Strategies

4:15 PM

### ADJOURN

## REGISTER NOW!

To visit our website and register for this conference - [CLICK HERE](#)

If you need help setting up your online account or accessing your existing account before registering, please contact Donna Foy at [dfoy@gulfcoastpower.org](mailto:dfoy@gulfcoastpower.org) or 503-574-2130.