



# 38th Annual Spring Conference & Exhibition

*April 15th - 16th, 2025*  
*Hilton Americas - Houston*

## **CONFERENCE CHAIRS:**

*Mark Egan, Energy Evolution Advisors*  
*Alexandra Williams, GuidePost Energy*

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## **LARGEST REGIONAL GATHERING OF POWER PROFESSIONALS THIS SPRING!**

**500+ Attendees Expected!**

(Based on 2024 Attendance of 550+)

**Prominent Industry & Government Speakers**

**Timely Session Topics & Discussions**

**PLUS Rooftop Reception at The Grove on April 15th**

## **REGISTER FOR SPRING CONFERENCE NOW**

**Pre-Conference Activity Add-Ons at Hilton Americas on Monday, April 14th**

**Workshop "Real-Time Co-Optimization (RTC)" from 1:00 - 4:45 PM**

**Welcome Reception from 5:00 - 6:30 PM**

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## GCPA 38th Annual Spring Conference

April 15-16, 2025

Hilton Americas - Houston

### HOTEL, ROOM RESERVATION & PARKING INFORMATION

GCPA has a room block with a limited number of rooms for the nights of Mon 4/14 - Tue 4/15 at Hilton Americas Houston. **Single or double occupancy rooms are available at the special rate of \$262 per night. Rate includes complimentary in-room high speed wireless internet service.**

Reservations must be received on or before the room block cutoff date of Tuesday, March 25.

[CLICK HERE TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM ONLINE](#)

**Call 1-800-236-2905 if you need assistance; mention the room block**

**TO VIEW THE HILTON AMERICAS - HOUSTON WEBSITE: [Click Here](#)**

Parking is available at Hilton Americas standard rates which are currently \$40/day for self parking in the attached garage and \$62/day for valet parking.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT INFORMATION

**PEs:** As part of the Continuing Education Program requirements for Professional Engineers in Texas, each licensed engineer is required to earn 15 hours per year of Professional Development Hours (PDH). Attendees will receive 8.25 hours of credit if all conference sessions are attended and 3.25 hours of credit for the workshop.

**CPAs:** GCPA is a Board Registered CPE Sponsor with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy. This registration does not constitute an endorsement by the Board as to the quality of our CPE program. The learning objectives for CPAs attending the conference are: to obtain an in-depth understanding of regulatory insights; ERCOT load growth, impact of growth and emerging large loads; TEF funding; energy infrastructure; natural gas outlook; trader's market overview; transmission and regional transmission plan; investor interest in TX markets. There are no prerequisites. The learning objectives for the workshop are: to obtain an in-depth understanding of RTC. Attendees will receive 11.0 hours of credit if all conference sessions are attended and 3.5 hours of credit for the workshop.

**Attorneys:** GCPA will be applying with the Texas State Bar for CLE approval for portions of the conference and workshop. Please check back for updates as we get closer to the conference.

### THANKS TO OUR MEDIA PARTNER

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April 15-16, 2025

Hilton Americas - Houston

### CONFERENCE OVERVIEW - [REGISTER NOW](#)

*Join us at this spring's leading electric power conference for the ERCOT/Gulf Coast region.*

*500+ attendance expected based on 2024 attendance of 550+ with approximately one-third of these attendees holding upper level management titles ranging from CEO to Vice President.*

#### **Pre-Conference Activity Add-On - Monday, April 14**

- Real-Time Co-Optimization (RTC) Workshop at Hilton Americas from 1:00 PM - 4:45 PM
- Welcome Cocktail Reception for Attendees at Hilton Americas from 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

#### **Spring Conference Day One - Tuesday, April 15**

- Registration and Continental Breakfast opens at 7:30 AM
- Conference opening welcome at 8:20 AM
- Session and keynoter presentations from 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM
- Rooftop Cocktail Reception at The Grove from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

#### **Spring Conference Day Two - Wednesday, April 16**

- Registration and Continental Breakfast opens at 8:00 AM
- Session and keynoter presentations from 8:30 AM - 11:50 AM
- Conference adjourns at close of final session at 11:50 AM

## THANKS TO OUR PLANNING COMMITTEE

### Conference Chairs:

**Mark Egan, Energy Evolution Advisors**

**Alexandra Williams, GuidePost Energy**

**Carrie Collier-Brown, Husch Blackwell**

**Jack Farley, Grid United**

**Doug Gilbert Smith, Trafigura**

**Jazib Hassan, EIG Global Energy Partners**

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

**Tyler Kopp, Energy Capital Partners**

**Brad Richter, Hut 8**

**Brandon Stanislaus, Vistra**

**Mike Tabrizi, Zero Emission Grid**

## **AGENDA - TUESDAY, APRIL 15**

- 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 **Mark Egan**, Founder, Energy Evolution Advisors  
**Alexandra Williams**, Vice President Origination, GuidePost Energy
- 8:30 AM **FIRESIDE CHAT**  
**Vicki Hollub**, President & CEO, Occidental  
**Katie Coleman**, Partner, O'Melveny & Myers
- 9:00 AM **Session I - Regulatory Around the Horn**  
A dynamic panel discussion that brings the latest insights from both Washington and Austin. Our expert speakers will delve into the significant federal impacts, including shifts in the Inflation Reduction Act and other federal programs that could disrupt the status quo for businesses. We'll explore the latest updates from the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) and highlight critical topics that market participants—whether in load, generation, or trading—must consider during this legislative session. Discover the top five legislative issues currently in play that could shape the future of the market, ensuring you are informed and prepared to navigate the evolving regulatory landscape.  
Moderator: **Marty Hopkins**, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP  
Panelists:  
**Michael Blackwell**, Partner, Husch Blackwell  
**Eric Goff**, President, Goff Policy  
**Charlie Hemmeline**, Sr. Director, American Clean Power  
**Bryan Sams**, Vice President, Government & Regulatory, Calpine Corporation
- 9:45 AM **Vignette - ERCOT's Load Growth Journey: Historical & Projected**  
Our expert will highlight key trends and future forecasts, offering insights into the factors influencing Texas' energy demands. This session will equip you with essential knowledge to navigate the evolving landscape and make informed decisions in the dynamic energy market.  
Speaker: **Geoff Bailey**, Vice President – Corporate Strategy & Chief of Staff to the CEO, Oncor
- 10:00 AM **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 10:30 AM **Session II - Impact of Load Growths on ERCOT Markets**  
This panel discussion will explore how different types of load growth are reshaping market operations, pricing dynamics, and volatility. We will examine the role of co-location—where new loads are positioned alongside existing generation assets—delving into the challenges and advantages it presents. This session will highlight the significance of transmission infrastructure, operational implications, and the ability to bypass the interconnection queue, providing a comprehensive overview of how these factors converge to affect market stability. Join us to understand the intricacies of load growth and colocation, and learn how to navigate the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead in the ERCOT market.  
Moderator: **Alexandra Williams**, Vice President Origination, GuidePost Energy  
Panelists:  
**Brooke Petosa**, Vice President, Tradition Energy  
**Brad Richter**, Sr. Vice President, Energy, Hut 8  
**Julie Snitman**, Supervisor, Large Load Integration Team, ERCOT  
**Mike Tabrizi**, President, Zero-Emission Grid

## **AGENDA - TUESDAY, APRIL 15 (continued)**

- 11:15 AM **Session III - ERCOT as a Magnet for Emerging Large Loads**  
This compelling session examines why ERCOT is increasingly attracting significant new loads. The panel will discuss the flexibility provided by legacy load servers (Network of Excellence - NOE) and how this enhances the region's appeal for businesses. As industries migrate from crypto to data-centric operations, ERCOT's robust infrastructure and favorable market conditions create a unique environment for growth. Join us to uncover the key factors that make ERCOT a prime destination for large-scale energy consumers and gain insights into the future of load demand in the Texas energy landscape.  
Moderator: **Keith Emery**, Sr. Vice President - Origination, Tenaska Power Services Co.  
Panelists:  
**John Eichelmann**, Vice President, Member Services & Power Delivery, Golden Spread Electric Coop.  
**Blake King**, Vice President, Power, Galaxy Digital  
**Haynes Strader**, Chief Development Officer, Skybox Datacenters  
**Melissa Trevino**, Asst. Vice President, Power, Occidental
- 12:00 PM **LUNCHEON**
- 1:30 PM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
**Rudy Garza**, President & CEO, CPS Energy
- 2:00 PM **Vignette - The Texas Energy Fund Capital Stack**  
Alex Heiman will discuss the anticipated capital stack, including potential funding sources, investment strategies, and financial mechanisms that will drive energy projects forward. Don't miss this opportunity to understand the funding dynamics fueling Texas's energy future!  
Speaker: **Alex Heiman**, Managing Director, PEI Global Partners
- 2:15 PM **Session IV - Supply: What Is/Is Not Getting Built and Why?**  
This panel will delve into the evolving landscape of energy infrastructure in ERCOT - focusing on thermal generation first, exploring the current state and challenges faced by thermal projects, before transitioning to an examination of renewable resources like solar, wind, and battery storage. Discover why wind energy is gaining renewed interest and how microgrids and small-scale initiatives are attracting significant capital investments. Additionally, the panel will touch on the potential merger between Constellation and Calpine, considering the implications of high power company valuations and the likelihood of similar deals in the future. This session promises to provide valuable insights into the supply side of the Texas energy market and the factors influencing new developments.  
Moderator: **Mark Egan**, Founder, Energy Evolution Advisors  
Panelists:  
**Andy Bowman**, CEO, Jupiter Power  
**Stacey Doré**, Chief Strategy & Sustainability Officer & EVP Public Affairs, Vistra  
**Declan Flanagan**, Founder & CEO, Bluestar Energy Capital  
**Robert Gaudette**, Executive Vice President, NRG; President, NRG Business & Wholesale Operations
- 3:00 PM **POWER STAR AWARD PRESENTATION**
- 3:15 PM **NETWORKING BREAK**

## **AGENDA - TUESDAY, APRIL 15 (continued)**

- 3:45 PM **Vignette - Natural Gas Outlook for the US Gulf Region in 2025 and Beyond**  
This succinct presentation will highlight key trends influencing natural gas production, supply, and demand. Michael Gehring will cover the impact of regulatory changes, market dynamics, and technological advancements, along with the growth potential for LNG exports. Get ready to gain quick insights into the evolving role of natural gas in the clean energy transition and what it means for the Gulf region's future. Don't miss this opportunity to stay ahead in the dynamic natural gas landscape!  
Speaker: **Michael Gehring**, Director, Portfolio Management & Analytics, The Energy Authority
- 4:00 PM **Session V - The Trader's View of the ERCOT Markets: Power Market Overview & Booming Demand**  
This panel discussion will offer valuable insights into what is working well in the market and what challenges traders face. Discover what excites traders about upcoming trends in load and generation, and how the presence or absence of these factors may influence the forward curve. We'll also reflect on past market events and their impacts—both positive and negative—while addressing the critical importance of attracting data centers and large loads to ERCOT. Gain a clearer understanding of how these developments contribute to the Texas economy and market dynamics, ensuring you're equipped to navigate the fast-evolving landscape of the ERCOT market. Don't miss this opportunity to hear firsthand from industry insiders!  
Moderator: **Doug Gilbert-Smith**, Trader, Trafigura  
Panelists:  
**Chase Allen**, Senior Portfolio Manager, BlueCrest Capital Management  
**Hugh Byrd**, Portfolio Manager, DRW Investments LLC  
**Megan Ho**, Manager of Power Trading, NRG  
**Narsimha Misra**, CEO, Engie Energy Marketing NA
- 4:45 - 7:00 PM **COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT THE GROVE**  
Join us at this beautiful rooftop location across the street from the Hilton Americas.

## **AGENDA - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16**

- 8:00 AM **REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
- 8:30 AM **ANNOUNCEMENTS - Barbara Clemenhagen**, Executive Director, GCPA
- 8:35 AM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
**Andrew Novotny**, President & CEO, Calpine
- 9:05 AM **Vignette - State of ERCOT Transmission and the 2024 Regional Transmission Plan**  
This overview will highlight the key developments outlined in ERCOT's upcoming RTP, scheduled for filing with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) in 2025. The vignette will tee up the implications of the projected addition of over 50 GW of load on the transmission system and discuss the critical comparison between 345-kV and 765-kV options that ERCOT will evaluate. Learn about ERCOT's dynamic and congestion analyses, as well as the important findings from the Permian Basin Reliability Plan study.  
Speaker: **Jason Ryan**, Exec. Vice President, Regulatory Services & Government Affairs, CenterPoint Energy

## **AGENDA - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 (continued)**

9:20 AM **Session VI - The Five Biggest Transmission Questions in ERCOT**

This session will tackle critical issues impacting the future of Texas' transmission infrastructure, including the upcoming multi-billion dollar upgrades and their potential benefits, ranging from congestion relief to addressing load growth. We'll explore which factors could most enhance ERCOT's reliability—whether through significant funding initiatives or targeted transmission upgrades. Additionally, we'll examine the Large Load queue and the future of the 4CP mechanism amidst growing political pressures. Participants will also weigh in on the potential benefits of new DC-tie interconnections for ERCOT's reliability and share their perspectives on necessary changes to transmission rules and policies. Don't miss this chance to engage in a thought-provoking dialogue that will shape the future of transmission in ERCOT!

Moderator: **Jack Farley**, Chief Commercial Officer, Grid United

Panelists:

**Holly Adams**, Vice President of Origination, Pattern Energy

**Warren Lasher**, President, Lasher Energy Consulting

**Chris Matos**, Energy Market Development, Google

**Will McAdams**, President & Founder, McAdams Energy Group

10:05 AM **NETWORKING BREAK**

10:35 AM **FIRESIDE CHAT**

**Curt Morgan**, CEO, AlphaGen

**Scott Harlan**, Co-Managing Partner, Rockland Capital

11:05 AM **Session VII - Investor Interest in Texas Energy Markets**

In this thought-provoking session, panelist will discuss whether Texas can maintain its historical dominance in attracting marginal investment amidst the rapid growth of solar and storage capacity. Delve into the implications of the Texas Energy Fund (TEF) on future merchant investments and identify the most attractive areas within ERCOT for current investors. Discover the driving forces behind capital moving to select market segments and assess whether Texas's reputation as an investor-friendly environment is at risk. Join us to gain insights into the factors shaping investment trends and the future of energy financing in Texas!

Moderator: **Jazib Hasan**, Head of North America, Rivage Investment

Panelists:

**Tyler Kopp**, Principal, Energy Capital Partners

**Clark Miller**, Director - Structured Finance, MUFG

**Meg Murphy**, Director, EnCap Energy Transition

**Sophia Sciabica**, Principal, Private Equity, KKR

11:50 AM **CONFERENCE ADJOURNS**



**PRE-CONFERENCE HALF DAY WORKSHOP MON. APRIL 14 - 1:00-4:45 PM*****Real-Time Co-Optimization (RTC) Workshop***

Unlock the future of energy management at our Real-Time Co-Optimization (RTC) Workshop, tailored for ERCOT Market Participants and stakeholders eager to deepen their understanding of RTC and its operational benefits.

**Background:** In 2017, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) directed ERCOT and the Independent Market Monitor (IMM) to assess RTC's potential benefits. The findings from 2018 highlighted significant impacts and operational advantages, paving the way for transformative changes in the ERCOT market.

**What is Real-Time Co-Optimization Plus Batteries (RTC+B)?**

RTC enables ERCOT to dispatch energy and ancillary services interchangeably within the Real-Time Market. By moving away from the current Day-Ahead Market procurement model, RTC allows for more efficient resource allocation to meet real-time customer demand. A key evolution of RTC, RTC+B integrates battery modeling to enhance real-time procurement flexibility. ERCOT's Security-Constrained Economic Dispatch (SCED) will automatically select the most efficient resources.

**Workshop Focus:**

This RTC Workshop is designed to educate and inform a diverse audience, including Consumers, Resource Entities, Power Marketers, Retail Electric Providers, Investor-Owned Utilities, Electric Cooperatives, Municipally Owned Utilities, Developers, Emerging Tech professionals, Attorneys, Accountants, and more. Key topics include:

- **How RTC Works:** Understand the mechanics of RTC and its application within the ERCOT market.
- **Operational Improvements:** Explore how RTC+B will streamline ancillary service procurement, enhance congestion management, and reduce manual actions by operators.
- **Implementation Challenges:** Discuss the hurdles associated with implementing RTC and RTC+B, including policy and design issues.
- **Timeline for RTC:** Get updates on the anticipated RTC+B go-live date of December 5, 2025, and how it aligns with PUCT objectives.

1:00 PM **Opening Remarks - Steve Reedy**, CEO, CIM View Consulting

1:05 PM **Why RTC? The Benefits - Keith Collins**, Vice President of Commercial Operations, ERCOT

1:35 PM **ERCOT RTC: The ABC's**

**Dave Maggio**, Principal, Market Design & Analytics, ERCOT

**Matt Mereness**, Senior Director, Market Operations & Implementation, ERCOT

**Kenneth Ragsdale**, Principal, Market Design and Development, ERCOT

2:30 PM **BREAK**

2:45 PM **Stakeholder Perspectives on RTC**

Moderator: **Steve Reedy**, CEO, CIM View Consulting

Panelists:

**Bill Barnes**, Sr. Director, Regulatory Affairs, NRG

**Michael Kirschner**, Managing Director US, Habitat Energy USA

**Evan Neel**, Manager, Regulatory & Power Services, Lancium

**Resmi Surendran**, Vice President, Regulatory Policy, Shell Energy NA

3:45 PM **RTC Timeline: What's Still Needs to Be Decided, What's Next**

**Dave Maggio**, Principal, Market Design & Analytics, ERCOT

**Matt Mereness**, Senior Director, Market Operations & Implementation, ERCOT

**Kenneth Ragsdale**, Principal, Market Design and Development, ERCOT

4:30 PM **Closing Remarks - Beth Garza**, Sr. Fellow, R Street Institute



## GCPA 38th Annual Spring Conference

April 15-16, 2025

Hilton Americas - Houston

### PRICING INFORMATION

#### CONFERENCE PRICING:

Price includes one and a half day conference on 4/15 - 4/16 and cocktail reception at The Grove on 4/15.

CONFERENCE	Early Bird Registration through 3/24	Regular Registration 3/25 - 4/11	Onsite Reg. 4/15 - 4/16
GCPA Members	\$980	\$1150	\$1250
Non-Members	\$1280	\$1450	\$1550
State Govt. Employees	\$410	\$410	\$460
GCPA Members in Job Search Mode	\$490	\$540	\$630
Non-Members in Job Search Mode*	\$790	\$870	\$960
Full-Time Students	\$190	\$190	\$250

WORKSHOP PRICING - price includes half day workshop on 4/14, beverages and snack.

WORKSHOP	Early Bird Registration through 3/24	Regular Registration 3/25 - 4/11	Onsite Reg. 4/14
Fee w/ conf. registration	\$270	\$330	\$380
Fee W/OUT conf. reg.	\$325	\$375	\$400

#### WELCOME RECEPTION:

Welcome reception on Mon. 4/14 includes one drink ticket and hors d'oeuvres. Additional cocktails can be purchased at the bar. Reception is complimentary to conference and/or workshop attendees only and is not available as a stand-alone purchase for non-conference attendees. PLEASE RSVP WHEN REGISTERING FOR THE CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP.

#### REFUND POLICY:

Cancellations must be received by 5 PM on Friday, March 28 in order to receive a refund. A 10% service fee will be charged against all refunds. Please direct all cancellation requests to Mary Armstrong at [marmstrong@gulfcoastpower.org](mailto:marmstrong@gulfcoastpower.org).