



**NASEO's State Transmission Summit**  
***Powering Progress: State Leadership and the Future of America's Grid***

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – Wednesday, March 25, 2026**  
**Hyatt Centric Arlington | Arlington, VA**

***Preliminary Agenda***

**Workshop Overview and Objectives:**

This two-day summit will bring together state energy leaders and decision-makers, private industry, and federal partners for an in-depth, solutions-oriented dialogue on the nation's electric transmission system—and its central role in enabling economic growth, strengthening grid resilience, ensuring reliability and affordability, and advancing national security. This event will provide a dedicated forum for candid discussion, peer exchange, and coordinated action across jurisdictions and sectors. Participants will:

- Examine pressing transmission challenges facing states and explore practical solutions related to planning, siting and permitting, technical and analytical resources, stakeholder engagement, and interjurisdictional collaboration.
- Explore how state leadership intersects with the responsibilities of transmission developers, regulators, regional transmission organizations, the private sector, and federal partners — and identify strategies for improved coordination that can accelerate timely and effective outcomes.
- Gain action-oriented information to support states' responsibilities in transmission planning.

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – Day One**

8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

***Presenters:***

David Terry, President, National Association of State Energy Officials  
The Honorable Catherine Jereza, Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, U.S.  
Department of Energy

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

**Workshop Objectives**

***Presenter:***

Catherine Reed, Senior Program Director, Electricity, National Association of State  
Energy Officials

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**Navigating Load Growth and the Transmission Needed to Power It**

This panel will explore how states are responding to the challenges of demand growth and  
how transmission factors into how states are responding.

***Presenters:***

Christina Hayes, Executive Director, Americans for a Clean Energy Grid  
Mike Hagerty, Principal, The Brattle Group  
Dave Rardin, Manager, Regulatory/Legislative Affairs, Governmental Services, PJM  
Interconnection

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Break**

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Transmission Expansion from the National Security Perspective**

This session will focus on the national security perspective for advancing transmission  
expansion. As the U.S. continues to pursue energy independence and dominance as well  
as advancements in artificial intelligence, states must look to transmission as a method to  
achieving our goals.

***Presenters:***

Danielle Russo, Executive Director of the Center for Grid Security, Securing  
America's Future Energy  
Jonathan Monken, Senior Partner, Converge Strategies, LLC

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Networking Lunch**

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Transmission Landscape and Outlook**

This presentation will set the stage for the summit, with an assessment of the reliability and security of the U.S. electrical grid and an overview of the challenges and opportunities in the transmission landscape.

***Moderator:***

Kelly Speakes-Backman, Director, Maryland Energy Administration

***Presenter:***

James Robb, President and Chief Executive Officer, North American Electric Reliability Corporation

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Opportunities for Permitting Reform at the Federal Level**

This session will explore the options being considered to align permitting policy with the needs of the nation's current electrical grid. This will include an overview of the SPEED Act and other related developments.

***Moderator:***

Jeff Dennis, Executive Director, Electricity Customer Alliance

***Presenters:***

Jacob McCurdy, Energy Policy Director, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Robert MacGregor, Subcommittee Staff Director, House Natural Resources Committee

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**State Roles and Opportunities in Long-Term Transmission Planning**

This session will explore how federal rules and state actions shape where transmission dollars are spent and how governance can be improved to favor high-value regional solutions over local ones. Building on this foundation, state leaders will discuss how states can engage effectively in transmission planning, siting and development to advance reliability, resilience, affordability, and state policy goals.

***Presenters:***

Celina Cunningham, Deputy Commissioner, Maine Department of Energy Resources  
James Lester, Senior Advisor, Transmission, Climate, and Energy, Colorado Energy Office  
Blan Holman, Board Chair, Southern Renewable Energy Association

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

**Break**

3:45 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.

## **Engagement in Interregional Transmission Planning**

This session will focus on the benefits of interregional transmission planning, the opportunities for improved interregional planning, and the role of states in overcoming the barriers to enhanced transmission planning across regions.

### ***Presenters:***

Rachel Levine, Senior Transmission Policy Analyst, Niskanen Center  
Sarah Edmonds, President and Chief Executive Officer, Western Power Pool  
Dan Lloyd, Community Relations Manager, Grid United  
Abe Silverman, Research Scholar, John Hopkins University

4:55 p.m. – 5:10 p.m.

### **Day One Wrap Up**

5:10 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

### **Reception**

## **Wednesday, March 25, 2026 – Day Two**

8:00 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

### **Continental Breakfast**

8:55 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

### **Welcome and Day Two Overview**

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

### **Innovative Siting and Permitting**

This session will explore innovative approaches to siting and permitting transmission lines.

### ***Presenters:***

Matt Prorok, Policy Director, Great Plains Institute  
Jay Caspary, Principal, TransGrid Advisors, LLC

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (***Concurrent Breakout Sessions***)

### **Interactive Deep Dives**

Two concurrent sessions in discussion roundtable format, exploring specific transmission planning topics.

### ***Breakout 1: The Role of Independent Transmission Monitors***

This session will explore longstanding concerns that local transmission asset-condition projects often proceed with limited comparative review, while larger, regional and interregional projects often proceed with heightened scrutiny.

Discussants will examine emerging state-led approaches to improve transparency, the role of regional entities, and how Congress is engaging on this issue.

***Moderator:***

Peter Damrosch, Energy Policy Advisor, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment

***Discussant:***

Alex Lawton, Director, Advanced Energy United

***Breakout 2: Transmission Deep Dive: Pending***

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Break**

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (***Concurrent Breakout Sessions***)

**Interactive Deep Dives**

Two concurrent sessions in discussion roundtable format, exploring specific transmission planning topics and tools.

***Breakout 1: Transmission Planning Tools***

This session will explore several tools that have been developed to assist in transmission planning.

***Breakout 2: The Role of State Transmission Authorities***

This session will include an exploration of state transmission authorities, an overview of their structure and goals, and progress and lessons learned to date.

***Discussants:***

Lynn Mostoller, Executive Director, New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority

Claire Vigesaa, Executive Director, North Dakota Transmission Authority

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

**Networking Lunch**

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

**Grid Optimization: The Path to Policy**

This session will explore the current state of grid optimization transmission technologies including Grid Enhancing Technologies and advanced conductors and how states are developing policies to support these technologies.

***Moderator:***

Camille Norton, Program Coordinator, Electricity, National Association of State Energy Officials

**Presenter:**

Kelt Wilska, Senior Manager, State Policy for Advanced Transmission Technologies, Grid Strategies LLC

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Break**

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Grid Optimization: The Path to Implementation**

This session will provide examples of how policies have led to successful implementation of these technologies, moving from pilots to commercially viable applications. The panelists will discuss policy, data, and regulatory considerations, and the methods to overcome implementation challenges. It will also explore the next steps for the NASEO Grid Optimization Task Force.

**Presenters:**

Vishal Kapadia, Chief Executive Officer, LineVision  
Kaitlin Savage, Energy Market Development, Google  
Representative, CTC Global

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**State Leaders Roundtable**

This informal roundtable discussion will provide a glimpse into cross-office coordination on grid optimization technologies at the state-level, featuring speakers from State Energy Offices, State Legislatures, Governors' Offices, Consumer Advocates, and Public Utility Commissions.

4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

**Workshop Wrap Up and Next Steps**