



NASEO's 2026 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 | Senate Ballroom, Second Floor
1325 Wilson Boulevard | Arlington, VA

Agenda

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Summit Objectives

Presenters:

David Terry, President, National Association of State Energy Officials

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

9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Keynote Opening Remarks

Moderator:

David Terry, President, National Association of State Energy Officials

Presenter:

The Honorable Catherine Jereza, Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Navigating Load Growth and the Transmission Needed to Power It

As electricity demand rises across the country, states are confronting new challenges in planning for the infrastructure needed to meet that growth. This panel will explore how states are responding to increasing load – from data centers and electrification to economic development – and the critical role transmission planning and expansion play in ensuring reliable, affordable power.

Moderator:

Julie Staveland, Assistant Division Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; Secretary, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenters:

Mike Hagerty, Principal, The Brattle Group

Dave Rardin, Manager, Regulatory/Legislative Affairs, Governmental Services, PJM Interconnection

Christina Hayes, Executive Director, Americans for a Clean Energy Grid

Casey Kelly, Senior Manager, Electricity Policy, ClearPath

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 United States 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. This session will explore how expanding transmission can strengthen energy security, support economic and technological leadership, and help states meet the infrastructure needs of a rapidly evolving power system.

Moderator:

Curtis Thayer, Executive Director, Alaska Energy Authority

Presenters:

Rebecca Isacowitz, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy Resilience and Optimization, U.S. Department of War

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.

Keynote Address: Transmission Landscape and Outlook

This keynote will examine the current state of grid reliability and security while exploring the critical challenges and emerging opportunities shaping 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 Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development or SPEED Act and other related developments.

Moderator:

Jeff Dennis, Executive Director, Electricity Customer Alliance

Presenters:

Devin Hartman, Director, Energy and Environmental Policy, R Street Institute

Kyle Davis, Senior Director, Federal Affairs, Clean Energy Buyers Association

Shane Londagin, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Senator John Hickenlooper

Kris Pittard, Professional Staff Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee

Madeline Kelley, Member Services Director, House Natural Resources Committee

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

State Roles and Opportunities in Long-Term Transmission Planning

As transmission needs grow across the country, states play an increasingly important role in shaping the grid of the future. This session will explore transmission planning approaches at both the state and regional levels and examine how these processes intersect. State and regional leaders will discuss how states can engage effectively in transmission planning, siting, and project development to strengthen reliability and resilience, manage costs, and advance state energy policy goals.

Moderator:

Celina Cunningham, Deputy Commissioner, Maine Department of Energy Resources

Presenters:

James Lester, Senior Advisor, Transmission, Climate, and Energy, Colorado Energy Office

Blan Holman, General Counsel, Southern Renewable Energy Association
Maison Bleam, Regional Director, State Regulatory Affairs, Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.

Engagement in Interregional Transmission Planning

Interregional transmission planning is essential for improving grid reliability, managing costs, and enabling a more flexible energy system. This session will explore the benefits of stronger coordination across regions and identify opportunities to improve current interregional planning processes. Speakers will also discuss the critical role states can play in overcoming barriers and advancing more effective transmission planning between regions.

Moderator:

John Jenks, Director of Energy Markets Development, Wyoming Energy Authority

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. – 5:00 p.m.

Day One Wrap Up

This session will recap key issues from the day's discussions and set the stage for day two.

Presenter:

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

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Reception (*Sponsored by CTC Global*)

Reception will be hosted on the 22nd Floor of the NASEO Office Building located at 1812 North Moore Street.

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:55 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Day Two Overview

Presenter:

Kirsten Verclas, Senior Managing Director, Electricity, National Association of State Energy Officials

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Innovative Approaches to Siting and Permitting

As the demand for new transmission infrastructure accelerates, traditional siting and permitting processes are being reimaged. This session will showcase forward-thinking strategies that are helping to streamline development while addressing community, environmental, and other challenges. Speakers will highlight real-world efforts to leverage highway and rail rights-of-way for energy infrastructure and share cutting-edge approaches to modernizing state and federal permitting.

Moderator:

Brandi Frazier Bestpitch, Director of Reliability, Virginia Department of Energy

Presenters:

Matt Prorok, Policy Director, Great Plains Institute

Allie Kelly, Executive Director, The Ray

Jay Casparly, Principal, TransGrid Advisors, LLC

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Overview of Federal Financing Opportunities for Transmission

This session will provide an overview of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Dominance Financing and their initiatives to ensure that federal government energy financing delivers affordable, reliable, and secure energy.

Moderator:

David Terry, President, National Association of State Energy Officials

Presenter:

Tom Hucker, Senior Advisor, Office of Energy Dominance Financing, U.S. Department of Energy

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. (**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**)

Interactive Deep Dives

The following concurrent sessions will explore specific transmission planning topics in discussion roundtable format:

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:

Ben Sloan, Director, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Organization of PJM States

Breakout 2: The Role of Transmission for Resource Adequacy

This session will explore the implications of electric transmission for resource adequacy, including approaches to valuation of transmission lines in regional and interregional planning and aligning resource and transmission planning.

Moderator:

Edward O'Brien, Senior Economist, Office of Energy, Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy

Discussants:

Rebecca Tapio, Energy Systems Analyst, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Jeb Stenhouse, Director, Regulatory Affairs, Invenergy

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (***Concurrent Breakout Sessions***)

Interactive Deep Dives

The following concurrent sessions will explore specific transmission planning topics in discussion roundtable format:

Breakout 1: Transmission Planning Tools

This session will explore several tools that have been developed to assist in planning for transmission. Experts will be providing an overview of two distinct analytical tools: the U.S. Transmission System Utilization Study and the Reconductoring Economic and Financial Analysis Tool.

Moderator:

Kirsten Verclas, Senior Managing Director, Electricity, National Association of State Energy Officials

Discussants:

Dr. Liang Min, Managing Director, Bits and Watts Initiative, Precourt Institute for Energy, Stanford University

Youba Nait Belaid, Research Engineer, Grid Integration Group, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Breakout 2: The Role of State Transmission Authorities

State transmission authorities are emerging as key players in advancing critical grid infrastructure. This session will explore how these entities are structured, the goals they are designed to achieve, and the unique role they play in accelerating transmission development. Speakers will share insights on progress to date, highlight lessons learned, and discuss how state-led approaches are shaping the future of energy planning and deployment.

Moderator:

James Lester, Senior Advisor, Transmission, Climate, and Energy, Colorado Energy Office

Discussants:

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

Claire Vigesaa, Executive Director, North Dakota Transmission Authority

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

NASEO Grid Optimization Task Force Introduction

NASEO staff will announce the formation of the NASEO Grid Optimization Task Force, comprised of selected states, affiliate partners, and subject matter experts, who will focus on advancing policy, regulatory, and implementation pathways for advanced conductors and grid enhancing technologies.

Presenter:

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

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Grid Optimization: The Path to Policy

Grid optimization technologies are transforming how we expand and maximize existing transmission capacity. This session will examine the latest advancements in grid-

enhancing technologies and advanced conductors, highlighting their potential to deliver faster, more cost-effective solutions to grid constraints. Speakers will explore how states are translating these innovations into actionable policy—sharing emerging frameworks, successes, and challenges in supporting widespread adoption.

Moderator:

Kirsten Verclas, Senior Managing Director, Electricity, National Association of State Energy Officials

Presenters:

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

Alisa Fox, Director of Grid Campaigns, American Council on Renewable Energy

John Bernecker, Director, Transmission Center of Excellence, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Lisa Salmore, Director, Transmission Strategy, National Grid

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Grid Optimization: The Path to Implementation

As grid optimization technologies move beyond pilot projects, the focus is shifting to real-world deployment at scale. This session will highlight how policy has enabled successful implementation of grid-enhancing technologies and advanced conductors, turning promising innovations into commercially viable solutions. Panelists will share practical insights on navigating regulatory frameworks, leveraging data, and overcoming key implementation challenges- making grid optimization a reality.

Moderator:

Paul Holloway, Senior Energy Security and Resilience Lead, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources

Presenters:

Nathan Shreve, Senior Research and Policy Associate, Grid Strategies LLC

Vishal Kapadia, Chief Executive Officer, LineVision

Kaitlin Savage, Energy Market Development, Google

Peter Brehm, Vice President, Policy and Grid Strategy, CTC Global

4:00 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.

State Leaders Roundtable

This roundtable discussion will provide insights 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.

Moderator:

Marion Gold, Senior Advisor, National Association of State Energy Officials

Presenter:

Jerry Henderson, Policy Advisor, Office of Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon
Josh Walters, Director, Office of Federal and Regional Energy Policy, Connecticut
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Brian Lipman, Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

4:55 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Presenter:

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