

MARC25

CIRCLE CITY CIRCUIT

MID-AMERICA REGULATORY CONFERENCE CONFERENCE AGENDA

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JUNE 22-25, 2025 | THE WESTIN INDIANAPOLIS



CONFERENCE AGENDA

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025



TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
Noon - 4:00 p.m.	<p>Pre-Conference Workshop & Lunch <i>Presented by the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)</i> Commissioners and commission staff only</p> <p><i>From Flat to Fast: Regulatory Tools for Unexpected Infrastructure Investment:</i> After decades of flat customer demand, we are now in an era of booming load growth. As a result, regulators are currently evaluating the need for large investments in new infrastructure, often from multiple utilities at the same time. Large new data center and manufacturing loads present a novel challenge as they require fast approval for investments that will impact the electric system for decades to come.</p> <p>To meet the needs of this new era, regulators need to expand and sharpen their tool kit for managing this growth. This session will focus on gathering much needed input from fellow MARC regulators and will document the tools and strategies that they can use as they review utility requests.</p>	Capitol 2
2:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Registration Opens	Grand Ballroom Foyer
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.	<p>Welcome Reception</p> <p>Kick off MARC 2025: Circle City Circuit with an evening filled with food, drinks, and conversation! MARC is excited to welcome you to Indianapolis for three jam-packed days of engaging educational sessions, unconventional tours, and collaborative problem solving across all utility sectors!</p>	Grand Ballroom



CONFERENCE AGENDA

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025



TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
7:30 a.m.	Registration opens	Grand Ballroom Foyer
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Full Breakfast	Grand Ballroom
8:30 - 8:45 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Grand Ballroom
8:45 - 9:45 a.m.	Between Two Commissioners: A Fireside Chat with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Commissioner Lindsay See and MARC President Sarah Freeman Join Commissioners See and Freeman as they gab about all of today's hottest federal and state energy topics in this can't-miss fireside chat.	Grand Ballroom
9:45 - 10:15 a.m.	Networking Break	Grand Ballroom Foyer
10:15 - 11:30 a.m.	Threat Level Midnight: Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Critical infrastructure sectors—from electricity and natural gas to water systems and telecommunications—face remarkably similar security challenges despite their operational differences. This panel brings together Information Sharing and Analysis Center representatives from these essential sectors to explore common challenges. By examining these cross-cutting challenges, we will uncover how different sectors have developed unique solutions to similar problems, identify transferable best practices, and discuss opportunities for collaborative approaches that strengthen security postures across all critical infrastructure sectors. The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners will also debut cyber baselines developed in collaboration with the United States Department of Energy.	Grand Ballroom
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch <i>Hosted by 2026 MARC host state (Public Service Commission of Wisconsin) – get excited for MARC 2026 in Madison, Wisconsin!</i>	Grand Ballroom
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	TOUR: Through2Eyes Walk & Talk Starting as a blog, Through2Eyes is an evolving platform where local resident Sampson Levingston invites guests to Walk & Talk about the hidden and unique history that Indiana has to offer. This Walk & Talk will take place throughout downtown Indianapolis and include highlights of the City's utility history.	Indianapolis



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TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
1:00 - 4:45 p.m.	<p>Climate READi© Intensive <i>Facilitated by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)</i></p> <p>As utilities, regulators, and ratepayers grapple with the increasingly devastating impacts of extreme weather caused by manmade climate change, the need for a consistent and comprehensive planning framework for the future power system is greater than ever. Join experts from EPRI, national laboratories, state commissions, utilities, university think tanks, and cutting edge technology developers for a deep dive into Climate READi© and its rigorous and methodical foundation to analyze risk, prioritize investments, and enhance system resilience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Session 1 – 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.» Session 2 – 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. <i>Networking Break</i>» Session 3 – 3:45 - 4:45 p.m.	Grand Ballroom
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	<p>BREAKOUT 1A <i>Water and Its Critical Role in Public Health and Safety and Economic Development</i></p> <p>Potable water is critical to the health of individuals and modern water treatment has eliminated the transmission of diseases such as typhoid and cholera. However, the availability of potable water is threatened by harmful chemicals such as PFAS/PFOS and lead-service lines. Extreme weather events, such as flooding and extreme cold, can damage water distribution systems and leave customers without potable water, which is detrimental to health. Moreover, additives to water, such as fluoride, are being questioned as to their effectiveness. This panel will analyze how utilities are eliminating harmful chemicals in the water, replacing lead service lines, preparing for extreme weather events, and evaluating current research on water additives. <i>*For those interested, attendees will have time to attend both this session and the Citizens Energy Group Pump Station and Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour at 2:00 p.m.</i></p>	Capitol 1
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	<p>BREAKOUT 1B <i>Natural Gas: Innovations in Planning and Technology</i></p> <p>The natural gas sector is building new projects to power the Midwest's clean energy future. From biogas to renewable natural gas to e-fuels, discover the pivotal role natural gas will play in ensuring reliability and affordability.</p>	Capitol 2



CONFERENCE AGENDA

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025



TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	TOUR: Indiana Statehouse Tour & Legislative Meet & Greet This comprehensive, guided tour allows guests to explore Indiana's Statehouse, a building of outstanding architectural beauty, that has served as a center of civic life in Indiana since 1888. Discussions will include all three branches of government, as well as the history and architecture of the building and its inhabitants over the years. The tour will be followed by a conversation with Indiana legislators.	Indiana Statehouse
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	BREAKOUT 2A <i>Public Engagement and Regulatory Culture</i> From fully litigated docketed proceedings to public field hearings to technical conferences and workshops, there are diverse opportunities for members of the public to engage with the utilities that serve them and the public servants who regulate those utilities. But are these opportunities meeting the needs of their intended audiences? How can public service commissions make their processes more transparent and understandable and become more effective partners with the communities and individuals they serve? Regulators, consumer advocates, and stakeholders will share real-life challenges and strategies for success.	Capitol 1
	BREAKOUT 2B <i>MARC Safety Message: Don't Look Down! Pipelines and Underground Plant Protection</i> As part of the current infrastructure boom, the underground utilities sector is facing more complex projects and challenges. Learn how commissions can play a pivotal role in fostering collaboration across stakeholders to promote safety, drive improvement projects, and ensure the longevity of existing infrastructure. Join us for this discussion focusing on the ways that 811 and state pipeline safety programs have collaborated to work together to increase safety and decrease damage rates year after year.	Capitol 2



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MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025



TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
2:00 - 4:30 p.m.	TOUR: Citizens Energy Group Pump Station and Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour Citizens Energy Group owns and operates the wastewater treatment plant for the Indianapolis area. Citizens' wastewater system is under a federal consent decree to address the sewer overflows associated with our Combined Sewer Overflow system, and is set to complete a \$2.5 Billion, 28-mile Deep Rock Tunnel designed to capture up to 99% of overflows by the end of 2025. The outing will include a tour of their pump station, which is located 280 feet below ground and is the confluence of the tunnel system and the treatment plant.	Indianapolis
3:00 - 3:15 p.m.	Announcements	Grand Ballroom
3:15 - 3:45 p.m.	Networking Break	Grand Ballroom Foyer
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.	BREAKOUT 3A <i>What Are They Talking About? Utility Regulation and the Media</i> P.T. Barnum's adage "There's no such thing as bad publicity" doesn't ring quite as true when it lands at the open door of a public service commission. Journalists from independent, specialty, and daily print media talk about their training, their trade, their path to the utility beat, and their process in identifying and reporting on the hottest, above-the-fold stories to inform and educate their readership.	Capitol 1
	BREAKOUT 3B <i>BEAD Funding and the Impact on Energy Utilities</i> In 2021, Congress created the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program to expand high-speed broadband access across the country and funded it with \$42 billion from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. BEAD is cooperatively administered by the National Telecommunications Information Administration and state broadband offices. While accomplishing its noble purpose, BEAD may unintentionally place additional pressure on energy utilities as the demand for both electricity and digital infrastructure grows and system upgrades are needed to proactively ensure reliability. Learn how communications and energy providers are addressing regulatory and economic development challenges for shared success.	Capitol 2
5:00 - 5:45 p.m.	MARC Board Meeting Commissioners only	House



CONFERENCE AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025



TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
7:30 a.m.	Registration opens	Grand Ballroom Foyer
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Full Breakfast	Grand Ballroom
8:20 - 8:30 a.m.	Announcements	Grand Ballroom
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Nuclear: Go Small or Go Home New Nuclear on the Horizon: The need for clean baseload dispatchable generation beckons advanced nuclear to be a part of the future energy fix. What is needed today so that this vision can become a reality in the future? What steps can, and are, federal and state policy makers, regulators, utilities, manufacturers, and large load customers pursue to support the vision?	Grand Ballroom
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	TOUR: United in Energy: Tour of United Scrap Metal's Shelbyville, IN Facility The outing will include a tour of the United Scrap Metal (USM) recycling facility in Shelbyville, IN. You will learn about its history as a Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) founded in 1978 with \$200 and a rental truck. Visitors will hear about award-winning and sustainable recycling solutions that minimize environmental impacts while creating a circular economy. USM has created a value proposition for the energy industry built on a foundation of risk management. Team members will share how USM prioritizes a culture of business diversity both within their organization and in the communities they serve through philanthropic partnerships and volunteer work.	Shelbyville
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Affordability - By Any Means Necessary? With significant portions of the MARC region facing high utility rates, all available options must be explored to ensure affordability for residential customers. This panel will explore drivers of high costs and discuss high- and low-tech solutions to ensure affordability, reliability, and efficiency.	Grand Ballroom
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Networking Break	Grand Ballroom Foyer



CONFERENCE AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025



TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	To Serve Man: Regulating in the Public Interest in a Post-DEI World Public service commissions, by definition, exist to serve the public interest. The public served by these commissions is not monolithic across demographic characteristics. What do utility service and regulation look like when the mission and customers remain the same but the lexicon and culture have changed?	Grand Ballroom
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.	Lunch	Grand Ballroom
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	TOUR: Through2Eyes Walk & Talk Starting as a blog, Through2Eyes is an evolving platform where local resident Sampson Levingston invites guests to Walk & Talk about the hidden and unique history that Indiana has to offer. This Walk & Talk will take place throughout downtown Indianapolis and include highlights of the City's utility history.	Indianapolis
1:15 - 4:45 p.m.	Load Growth Intensive <i>Facilitated by Advanced Energy United</i> Spend the afternoon learning alongside diverse experts as they identify opportunities for load forecasting and synchronization, investigate tools for load flexibility and cost containment, and explore right-sizing the grid through innovating planning processes. » PANEL 1: Information is Power: Opportunities for forecasting and synchronization <i>1:15 - 2:15 p.m.</i> The MARC region is expecting at least 9 GW of load growth over the next two decades, according to a recent Grid Strategies report . MISO's long-term transmission build-out plan concurs, estimating that the system will need to reliably serve 145 GW of net peak demand by 2042. Commissions, utilities, and industry alike are seeking to address how "real" these numbers are and what they mean. At the same time, recent analysis from Duke University found that in the ISO regions (MISO, SPP, PJM, and ERCOT) covered within MARC, load factors range from 53 to 61 percent—meaning that on average, we're only using just over half the grid, and only a small portion of hours a year are driving the need for infrastructure investments. How can industry, utilities, regulators, and grid operators collectively inform and improve forecasting practices? What is the potential of incorporating load flexibility into forecasting?	Grand Ballroom



TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
	<p>» PANEL 2: Investigating All the Tools in the Toolbox: Opportunities for Flexibility, Cost Containment, and Speed <i>2:15 - 3:15 p.m.</i></p> <p>In the past year, one third of American households reported foregoing other necessary expenditures to pay their energy bills. Across the MARC region, approximately one in every seven households faces an average energy burden of 14 percent, according to EIA data. How can utilities and state regulators protect affordability while meeting growing electricity demand? This panel will explore innovative solutions to support cost containment and avoid inefficient system expansion. How can we leverage the lowest-cost resources on the system in a load growth context? What role can emerging technologies and grid flexibility solutions (demand-side resources, virtual power plants, advanced transmission technologies, flexible interconnection and surplus interconnection) play? How can states deploy and scale flexible or modular technologies to meet rising demand quickly and cost-effectively?</p> <p>» Networking Break <i>3:15 - 3:45 p.m.</i></p> <p>» PANEL 3: Right-Sizing the Grid: Innovative Planning to Make the Most of What We Have <i>3:45 - 4:45 p.m.</i></p> <p>Given evolutions in forecasting, the potential for reducing projected system peaks, and the continued growth of renewable energy generation, planning is a critical tool to ensure the grid can rise to the occasion—while mitigating stranded asset risk and avoiding unnecessary expenditures. How can we reform planning processes like Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs) to improve system utilization, increase resilience, and leverage flexibility for resource adequacy and a shifting resource mix? How can we incorporate peak demand reduction strategies and innovative technologies into planning? How can we plan to make the most of the grid we have and enable least-regrets investments?</p>	Grand Ballroom



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TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025



TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
1:15 - 2:15 p.m.	BREAKOUT 4A <i>Education, Training, and Workforce Development</i> Times of change, such as the recent "Great Resignation" and the rapid advancement of new technologies like artificial intelligence and large language models, exemplify how these three areas of career development are interconnected and how resources dedicated to strengthening any of these pathways benefit the entire workforce. Join the discussion as we attempt to close the circuit between education (K-12 through higher ed), apprenticeship opportunities, on-the-job training, and more, and identify ways to attract talent in the utility space for 2025 and beyond.	Capitol 1
	BREAKOUT 4B <i>Full Circuit: Connecting Regulators, Utilities, and Emerging Players for Success</i> Teamwork makes the dream work. While the risk tolerance of regulators, utilities, and emerging tech players varies widely, it's important for all of us to get comfortable working together for the benefit of customers and end users. Panelists will highlight today's (and tomorrow's) hottest tech trends and propose creative solutions that encourage early adoption while appropriately spreading risk across all stakeholders.	Capitol 2
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	TOUR: Indiana Statehouse Tour & Legislative Meet & Greet This comprehensive, guided tour allows guests to explore Indiana's Statehouse, a building of outstanding architectural beauty, that has served as a center of civic life in Indiana since 1888. Discussions will include all three branches of government, as well as the history and architecture of the building and its inhabitants over the years. The tour will be followed by a conversation with Indiana legislators.	Indiana Statehouse
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	TOUR: Lineman Training & Demonstration Join AES Indiana and Duke Energy Indiana Lineworker Training Professionals at AES Indiana's Lineworker Training Facility at the Arlington Avenue Training Center to explore what a lineworker training program entails. From teaching safety standards to climbing school to classroom training, this session will cover how lineworkers are trained to be safe and confident in the field doing what they do best – turning the lights on and keeping the lights on for customers. For a brief intro, please visit: Lineworker safety AES Indiana	Indianapolis



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TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025



TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
2:15 - 3:15 p.m.	BREAKOUT 5A <i>Utilities Driving Economic Development</i> As economic development projects continue to arise and tantalize local communities and their coffers, the need for “all the above” utility options have become front and center for many reasons. Additionally, the need for balance and transparent cooperation among developers, industries, municipalities, and regulators is essential for assessing the costs and benefits of job creation, the affordability and long-term sustainability of the projects, and the future of technology needs and applications. Join panelists from local economic development teams and industry professionals as they discuss the ongoing opportunities and challenges in the current era of growth and technology expansion.	Capitol 1
	BREAKOUT 5B <i>Building Trust Across Competing Interests</i> This important discussion will look at the competing and complementary interests across the industry – i.e. businesses, utilities, and regulators not only trying to build trust with one another to get projects approved, built, and operational, but also working on ways to ensure each sector strives to earn and retain the trust of the public they serve. Hear from industry representatives and members of the public on ways they have worked cooperatively and achieved a level of success in overcoming mistrust to ultimately deliver economic development triumphs as well as the critical services on which their customers depend at just and reasonable rates.	Capitol 2
3:15 - 3:45 p.m.	Networking Break	Grand Ballroom Foyer
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.	BREAKOUT 6A <i>Rate Design, but Entertaining</i> Peanut butter and chocolate. ‘Great taste’ and ‘less filling’. Rate design and entertaining. Two concepts that don't seem like they would fit together. But not here at the Circle City Circuit, where panelists will explore all the twists, turns, and considerations inherent in utility rate design. Whether fixed, variable, or time of use, there's never a dull moment. From revenue requirements to cost-of-service studies and allocation methodologies, utility rate design can be complex and convoluted, but it doesn't have to be boring.	Capitol 1



CONFERENCE AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025



TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.	BREAKOUT 6B <i>Yes, We're Still Talking About Gas-Electric Coordination</i> The interactions between, and interdependencies of, gas pipeline and electric grid systems are the talk of the town as states and their utilities face mounting pressures related to affordability, extreme weather, load growth, building efficiency and decarbonization, and ever-changing local, state, and federal policy landscapes. One potential solution is to evolve our state-level energy system planning frameworks to better capture those dynamics across systems. Several states and industry experts are in the early and middle stages of developing this new paradigm – come learn about their experiences and challenges as they chart this new path forward.	Capitol 2
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	An Evening at the Eiteljorg Museum with The Indigos Spend your last night in Indianapolis exploring the Eiteljorg Museum and dancing to the music of The Indigos. With traditional Hoosier fare in hand, tour the galleries celebrating Indigenous and Western culture and art, or bask in the glow of an Indiana summer evening on the stunning Canal patio in the heart of Indianapolis. See you there!	Eiteljorg



CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025



TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Full Breakfast	Grand Ballroom
8:20 - 8:30 a.m.	Announcements	Grand Ballroom
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	CEO Roundtable The current business and policy environment ensures two things: change and uncertainty. Amid unprecedented political transitions, stakeholders are tasked with delivering reliable and affordable services, while mitigating threats to physical and digital infrastructure, and modernizing systems across-the-board. Join CEOs from the nation's leading critical infrastructure and utility service providers as they discuss how their companies plan to meet an expanding array of challenges while working in partnership with state regulators and ensuring reliability while keeping costs affordable for consumers.	Grand Ballroom
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Commissioner AMA Inspired by yesterday's hottest social media trend, this panel of MARC commissioners will answer questions from the audience submitted through the YappApp. <i>*Due to pending dockets and other ethical considerations, commissioners reserve the right not to answer anything.</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Closing Remarks	Grand Ballroom
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Post-Conference Workshop & Lunch <i>Presented by the Financial Research Institute (FRI) at the University of Missouri</i> <i>Best Practices in Water Affordability:</i> Affordability of utility service has always been a pressing concern for utilities and regulators. However, recent economic and regulatory trends have made affordability an even more prominent concern; periods of rapid inflation, current economic policies that have created historic uncertainty for financial capital and investment incentives, and aging water utility infrastructure that require significant capital investment—all can lead to higher utility bills. And while consolidation of water and wastewater systems may lead to increased access to capital and more efficient operations, these investments often put upward pressure on rates and consumers' water bills. This workshop will bring together industry leaders to share best practices to mitigate the effects of these changes on consumers' bills and to keep water affordable for consumers. The program includes a mix of panel discussion and interactive, hands-on learning opportunities to evaluate different approaches for ensuring reliable, safe, and affordable water and wastewater services.	Capitol 2



QUESTIONS?

Contact Carla Pope, MARC Executive Coordinator
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ABOUT MARC

The Mid-America Regulatory Conference (MARC) represents an association of regional organizations of utility and energy regulatory agencies from 14 states that include: Arkansas, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin. Since 1958, MARC has sponsored an annual meeting and conference of Commissioners and staff from member state agencies, as well as representatives of regulated industries and the public at large, to share ideas and discuss regulatory and policy issues affecting our states, region, and the nation.

