

Suggested Topics for the Eastern and Western Conferences

37th ANNUAL EASTERN CONFERENCE

Turf Valley Hotel
Ellicot City, Maryland, U.S.
June 6 - 8, 2018

Abstracts Due: *January 3, 2018*

31st ANNUAL WESTERN CONFERENCE

Hyatt Regency Monterey
Monterey, California, U.S.
June 27-29, 2018

Abstracts Due: *November 30, 2017*

Open networks:

- Distributed energy resources
- Smart Grid and Microgrids - developments in New York and California
- Intellectual property
- Definition of a utility
- Interconnection
- Definition of a customer and a competitor
- Obligations and rights of a carrier of last resort
- Emergency response coordination
- Jurisdictional issues –Supreme Court cases on demand response and innovative pricing
- Pricing nonregulated services (smart metering)

Telecommunications/Internet/Wireless

- Net neutrality
- Poll attachments
- Open Internet
- Business data services
- Privacy

Energy

- The future of regulation in the electricity industry with the rise of distributed energy resources
- Electric vehicles
- Energy Imbalance Market
- Wholesale Energy Markets ○ **Regulatory Effects on Market Performance**
 - Dodd-Frank regulations and energy markets risk ,anagement
 - Derivatives regulations and their impact on end users in energy markets
 - The impact of Post-Dodd-Frank regulations on financial intermediation costs for energy market end users
 - Financial regulation and energy regulation: frictions and synergies

- Energy consumer impacts from financial regulations
- The impact of financial regulation on energy industry structure
 - **Fuel Diversity in Electricity Markets**
- Abundance of low cost gas and rapid penetration of renewables
- **Grid modernization regulatory policies**
 - This decomposes into rate regulatory policies needed for the
 - Transition to “clean” energy
 - Service to customers who require increasingly customized (nonstandard) services
 - Plan, finance, build, and operate integrated grids.
 - Lessons learned by network industries (Telecom, for example)
 - Universal service policy (cuts across telecom, postal, and to some extent electricity (Low Income Energy Program (LIHEAP))

Water

- Aging Infrastructure, Water – an area of vital concern – e.g. environmental, conservation, innovative approaches to decaying infrastructure
- The Water-Energy Nexus, Water Scarcity and Reuse,
- Sustainability & Reliability, Intelligent Water Systems, Industry
- Fragmentation, Public-Private Partnerships, Declining Usage, Asset
- Hardening, Extreme Weather Events and, Cyber Security and
- Decoupling/Alternative Ratemaking,

Postal

- PRC 10 Year Review of PAEA 2006 □ Can a declining market fund retirement?
- The Internet and Package Delivery – business and regulatory implications
- Cross Industry Collaboration – e.g. USPS and Rural Telcos fulfilling the USO,
- Reaching out to bricks and mortar companies

Regulatory Issues across industries

- Environmental and Energy Nexus the electric industry, compliance will fall on state environmental agencies. Federal Clean Power Plan, post-2020 successor to AB32 – including cap and trade
- Exploring how Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering regulations can create inadvertent incentives for financial institutions and non-financial end users (e.g., firms in regulated industries) doing business with financial institutions.

Regulation in the face of declining demand

- What constitutes success for a regulator?

- Economic benchmarking – what have we learned from the application of benchmarking?
- Do traditional theories based on deadweight loss work?
- Cost of Capital Issues
- Economic foundation for attempts to streamline regulatory processes?