



MGA MID-GRID Quarterly Symposium

Thursday and Friday, April 9-10, 2026
NCAA Hall of Champions, Christina Grant Ballroom B
700 West Washington St., Indianapolis, Indiana

Day 1 - Thursday, April 9

8:45 am Depart for MISO

9:30 am **Option Tour at MISO Headquarters in Carmel, Indiana** *[Preregistration Required]*
A behind-the-scenes look at how electricity is monitored and managed across a vast portion of the central United States and Canada. On this tour, you'll get to see the sprawling operations center where grid operators sit before massive, floor-to-ceiling screens displaying real-time data on power flows, transmission lines, and system conditions across MISO's multi-state footprint. Participants will get to speak with operators on how the control room functions as the nerve center for balancing supply and demand, coordinating with utilities, and responding to grid events to keep the lights on reliably and efficiently for 45 million people.

11:30 am Return to Venue

12:00 pm Lunch Available

1:00 pm Welcome and Introductions

- [Jesse Heier](#), Executive Director, Midwest Governors Association
- [Suzanne Jaworowski](#), Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources, State of Indiana

1:10 pm Welcoming Remarks

- Governor Mike Braun, State of Indiana

1:20 pm Opening Remarks

- [Katie Jereza](#), Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity (OE), U.S. Department of Energy

2:00 pm Panel Discussion: Large Load

Large load discussions are happening within Midwestern states, across the region, and between state and federal policymakers. The need to support critical industries and technology developments is spurring dialogues and creative solutions. Panelists will discuss how they see partnership and communication evolving to meet the challenges Midwestern grids face.

- [Yasser Bahbaz](#), Senior Director, Markets Development, Southwest Power Pool
- [Jessica Lin](#), Technical Executive for Data Centers, EPRI
- [DL Oates](#), Executive Director of Markets and Research, MISO
- [Brian Thiry](#), Director of Strategic Engagement, Reliability First
- **Moderator:** [Chairman Andy Zay](#), Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

3:30 pm Break

3:45 pm

Panel Discussion: Incentivize New Power Generation in Indiana

In Indiana, [House Bill 1007](#) passed in 2025 and this law will expedite approval processes for large-load customers like data centers and create cost recovery mechanisms for projects utilities take on to serve those big customers. It will also require a big prospective grid addition to make “significant and meaningful financial assurances” for such projects — reimbursing at least 80% of costs and protecting other existing and future customers from the expenses. The panel will discuss how the bill became law and how large-load customers, like Amazon are able to build new facilities in Indiana.

- [Senator Eric Koch](#), District 44, Indiana Senate
- [Merle Madrid](#), Principal, Amazon Web Services Public Policy
- [Vince Parisi](#), President and CEO, NIPSCO
- **Moderator:** [Jon Ford](#), Director, Indiana Office of Energy Development

5:00 pm

Day 1 Wrap-up/Preview of Day 2

5:15 pm

Reception: [The Cannon Ball Lounge](#), 141 East Washington Street

Day 2 - Friday, April 10

8:15 am

Breakfast Buffet Available

9:00 am

Keynote Address

- [Jennifer Curran](#), Senior Vice President, Planning and Operations, MISO

9:40 am

Panel Discussion: Siting

For states across the MGA footprint, siting of energy infrastructure has long been a challenge. A patchwork of state and county regulations makes it difficult for a singular solution. This panel will discuss challenges and opportunities in the world of siting, especially as new infrastructure and advanced energy solutions are becoming more prevalent.

- [Shelby Butz](#), Associate Program Director, Environment and Land Use, National Association of Counties (NACO)
- [Bryan W. Law](#), Associate Director, Energy, Environment, Energy & Transportation, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
- [Sarah Spence](#), Midwest Regional Director, Conservative Energy Network
- [Troy Weary](#), Director of Community Relations, ITC Midwest
- **Moderator:** [Maria Redmond](#), Director, Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy

11:10 am

Panel Discussion: Performance-Based Regulation

States across the country are increasingly exploring and implementing state laws that shift utility regulation from rewarding costs (traditional model) to incentivizing specific outcomes like efficiency, decarbonization, and grid modernization, using financial rewards/penalties tied to targets, decoupling revenues from sales, and multi-year plans to align utility profits with public policy goals and customer benefits. These laws define goals and metrics for utilities to achieve better service and societal benefits, moving beyond just approving investments. This panel will discuss the opportunities and challenges of PBRs. [State Tracker](#)

- [Aileen Cole](#), Energy Systems Manager, Electric Utility and Regulatory Innovation, Great Plains Institute
- [Camille Kadoch](#), Principal and General Counsel, Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)
- [Representative Edmond Soliday](#), District 4, Indiana House of Representatives
- **Moderator:** [Benjamin Stafford](#), Senior Policy Manager, Energy Systems, Great Plains Institute

12:25 pm

Wrap-up/Adjourn Meeting | Boxed Lunch Available