



MGA Nuclear Energy Summit

February 11-12, 2026

Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) | 1201 F St., NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20004

Day 1 - Wednesday, February 11

- 10:00 am** **Optional Tour – George Mason University Energy Exploration (E2) Center Tour – NuScale Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Simulator**
The E2 Center at [Fuse at Mason Square](#), the largest of its kind in the United States, engages students in hands-on nuclear science and engineering educational activities. [NuScale E2 Centers](#) feature a state-of-the-art simulator that replicates a NuScale small modular reactor (SMR) control room. Participants will have the unique opportunity to assume the role of a control room operator, engaging with real-life scenarios that bridge theoretical knowledge with practical application.
- 12:00 pm** **Lunch Available**
- 12:50 pm** **Welcome and Introductions**
- [Jesse Heier](#), Executive Director, Midwestern Governors Association
- 1:00 pm** **Opening Remarks**
- [Maria Korsnick](#), Chief Executive Officer, Nuclear Energy Institute
- 1:30 pm** **Panel Discussion: Federal and International Nuclear Policy**
Panelists from U.S. Federal Agencies and the Administration will discuss how Nuclear policy is being viewed at the Federal level and what it means for states. What does energy dominance mean for the Nuclear industry.
- [Alan Ahn](#), Deputy Director for Nuclear, Third Way
 - [Margaret Cosentino](#), Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Westinghouse Electric Company
 - [Lucian Niemeyer](#), Principal, United Coalition for Advanced Nuclear Power (UCAN)
 - [Natalia Saraeva](#), Tribal, State, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Lead, U.S. Department of Energy
 - **Moderator:** [Andrew Neill](#), Senior Director, Nuclear Energy Institute
- 3:00 pm** **Break**
- 3:20 pm** **Keynote Address: Nuclear Energy as Part of Energy Dominance**
- [Julie Kozeracki](#), Acting Chief Investment Officer, Office of Energy Dominance Financing, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- 3:55 pm** **Panel Discussion: Community Engagement & Meeting the Workforce Requirements for New Nuclear**
With a resurgence of interest in nuclear energy across the country, a workforce to meet the potential growing demand and the voices from local community housing these facilities need to be part of any policy discussions. This panel will examine the

workforce implications and needs of increased nuclear power. At the same time, we are seeing community concerns with new energy facilities, including nuclear. What is being done to ensure local communities are set-up for success?

- [Richard Coaxum](#), Manager, Corporate Strategy, Constellation
- [Missy Henriksen](#), Executive Director, Center for Energy Workforce Development
- [Laura Hermann](#), Deputy Executive Director, Energy Communities Alliance
- [Michelle Zietlow-Miller](#), Public Engagement Manager, GAIN, Idaho National Laboratory
- **Moderator:** [Erik Funkhouser](#), Executive Director, Good Energy Collective

5:25 pm **Day 1 Wrap-up/Preview of Day 2**

5:30 pm **Reception: Astro Beer Hall**
1306 G St., NW

Day 2 – Thursday, February 12

8:30 am **Breakfast Available**

9:00 am **Discussion: The State of Nuclear Energy Across the Country**

A talk about what is happening across the country in regards to nuclear energy. What are states doing and how are states are engaging on Nuclear Energy.

- [Betsy Smith](#), Senior Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL)
- [Kirsten Verclas](#), Senior Managing Director, National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)
- **Moderator:** [Benjamin Stafford](#), Senior Policy Manager, Energy Systems, Great Plains Institute

9:45 am **Panel Discussion: Survey of Advanced Nuclear Technologies**

How are technological advancements aiding new nuclear projects and what are some of the most important technologies for the nuclear industry. How will these projects be built and what are regulatory considerations?

- [Patrick O'Brien](#), Director of Government Affairs & Communications, Holtec International
- [Everett Redmond](#), Senior Director of Federal Affairs, Oklo
- [Cole Simons](#), Managing Director, U.S. Government Affairs & Policy · GE Vernova
- [Christina Walrond](#), Director, State Government Relations, X-Energy
- **Moderator:** [Marcus Nichol](#), Executive Director, New Nuclear, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

11:15 am **Break**

11:30 am **Fireside Chat with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

This discussion will focus on what's next for the nuclear energy industry and the role of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in ensuring the safety, siting and development of new nuclear is done in accordance with the long-standing 'Gold Standard' of the commission.

- Commissioner [Matthew Marzano](#), United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
- **Moderator:** [Judi Greenwald](#), President and CEO, Nuclear Innovation Alliance

12:15 pm **Wrap-up/Adjourn Meeting**

12:15 pm **Boxed Lunch Available**

For more information about the MGA's efforts in Nuclear Energy, please visit:
<https://midwesterngovernors.org/nuclear-energy-in-the-midwest/>