

MGA Nuclear Energy Summit

February 11-12 | Washington, DC

Speaker Bios

Maria Korsnick, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

Maria Korsnick is president and chief executive officer of the Nuclear Energy Institute, the nuclear industry's policy organization in Washington, D.C., a role she has held since January 1, 2017.

Drawing on her engineering background, hands-on experience in reactor operations and a deep knowledge of energy policy and regulatory issues, Korsnick aims to increase understanding of nuclear energy's economic and environmental benefits among policymakers and the public.

The Export-Import Bank of the United States has appointed her to its Advisory Committee and its Council on China Competition; and the U.S. Department of Energy has appointed her to its Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee. In addition, she serves as a member of the board of directors of the U.S. Energy Association and the Foundation for Nuclear Studies. She also serves as a trustee of the Nuclear Power Labor Management Cooperation Committee Trust, vice chair of the University of Maryland Department of Mechanical Engineering External Advisory Committee, and a member of the Purdue University School of Nuclear Engineering Advisory Board.

Before joining NEI, she was senior vice president of Northeast Operations for Exelon, responsible for overseeing operation of the Calvert Cliffs 1 and 2, R.E. Ginna, and Nine Mile Point 1 and 2 nuclear power plants. Before Exelon, Korsnick served as chief nuclear officer (CNO) and acting chief executive officer at Constellation Energy Nuclear Group. She began her career at Constellation in 1986 and held positions of increasing responsibility, including engineer, operator, manager, site vice president, corporate vice president, and CNO.

Korsnick holds a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Maryland, and has held a Senior Reactor Operator license. She lives in Maryland with her husband, and they are the parents of two adult children.



Alah Ahn, Third Way

Alan Ahn is the Deputy Director for Nuclear at the think tank Third Way. In this position, he communicates the importance of nuclear energy to US economic, climate, and national security interests and the role nuclear energy will play in decarbonization strategies. He also helps demonstrate the job-creation benefits of investing in nuclear reactors. Ahn previously spent ten years as the director of programs and communication at the Global America Business Institute, where he managed research and policy dialogues on clean energy issues, with a principal focus on nuclear energy. Prior to that, he worked on the Managing the Atom project at Harvard University, editing works and helping conduct research on nuclear energy, security, and proliferation.



Margaret Cosentino, Westinghouse Electric Company

Margaret Cosentino is Executive Vice President, External Affairs at Westinghouse Electric Company. In this role, she is responsible for Westinghouse's strategic approach to global government relations, public policy, communications, sustainability, as well as the company's government solutions business.

Ms. Cosentino brings 20 years of experience in global government affairs, international business development and strategy for aerospace, defense and industrial companies. Most recently, Ms. Cosentino was Corporate Director for Policy at Northrop Grumman where she led the execution of the company's public policy and regulatory portfolios. Ms. Cosentino was previously Vice President, Global Government Affairs for Arconic where she was responsible for advancing the company's public affairs interests across its international operations and leading its defense business. She has held senior roles at The Cohen Group, a strategic global consultancy, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a leading bi-partisan, non-profit think tank in Washington, D.C.



Ms. Cosentino earned a bachelor's degree in international politics from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service (SFS) and a master's in international economics and strategic studies from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

Lucian Niemeyer, United Coalition for Advanced Nuclear Power (UCAN Power)

Lucian co-founded the non-profit entity, United Coalition for Advanced Nuclear Power in 2021 to facilitate the use of advanced nuclear reactor to meet federal and commercial energy needs. Lucian founded The Niemeyer Group, LLC in 2014, providing public and private sector clients strategic advisory services for economic and business development. He is currently leading private sector initiatives to build submarine construction capacity, to develop large scale energy and data center campuses, and to accelerate design/construction processes using artificial intelligence and virtual twin technologies.

Lucian's national security expertise spans five decades of service in the Air Force, the U.S. Senate, the Pentagon and White House. Throughout his professional career, he has been a strong advocate for the use of nuclear power to enhance energy reliability and resiliency. The Honorable Niemeyer served as an Assistant Secretary of Defense managing the world's largest real property portfolio valued at a trillion dollars. He was responsible for identifying and mitigating risk to national security programs, as well as improving energy and environmental resilience through power generation development. He also served on the professional staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Service providing expertise on policies and programs for our Nation's security.



Lucian is an Air Force veteran with 21 years of active and Virginia Air National Guard service. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Business Administration from The George Washington University, and a Master of National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He is a Fellow in the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), an Honorary Seabee, and actively promotes Standards of Care for cyber safety in the engineering profession.

Natalia Saraeva, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Nuclear Energy

Natalia Saraeva serves as the Lead for Engagement at the Office of Nuclear Energy within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). She leads efforts to foster collaboration and engagement with states, tribes, and local governments around key nuclear energy projects. Previously, she led a team of professionals working on a siting initiative.

Before joining DOE, Natalia was an advisor for nuclear energy at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and principal nuclear engineer at Argonne National Laboratory, contributing over a decade of expertise to a wide range of complex projects for DOE and the National Nuclear Security Administration. Earlier, Natalia was a staffer for the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future and a fellow with the U.S. Nuclear Industry Council, among other roles.

Natalia holds a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering and an M.S. in Nuclear Security from the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute, as well as an M.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

She lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, and enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, and unwinding with a good book or by practicing Pilates.



Andrew Neill, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

Andrew Neill is currently Senior Director of Government Affairs & Political Advocacy at the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) where he engages on Capitol Hill and the Administration. Prior to NEI Andrew spent 8 years on Capitol Hill as a Senior Policy Advisor on Energy issues to Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Legislative Director to Congressman Russ Fulcher. Andrew is a proud alumnus of Washington State University.



Julie Kozeracki, US Depart of Energy (DOE), Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF)

Julie Kozeracki is the Acting Chief Investment Officer for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) and serves as the office's nuclear sector lead. Ms. Kozeracki has been instrumental in EDF's provision of both a \$1.52 billion loan to restart the Palisades nuclear reactor in Michigan and a \$1 billion loan to restart the Crane Clean Energy Center in Pennsylvania.

Previously, Ms. Kozeracki was the office's Director of Strategy and was the lead author for DOE's Advanced Nuclear Pathways to Commercial Liftoff report. Prior to DOE, she was a Principal with the Boston Consulting Group, where she was a leader in the firm's federal and operations practices. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the Wharton School and a Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania.



Richard Coaxum, Constellation

In his role as Manager of the Grants program in Corporate Strategy, Richard identifies, and tracks opportunities for the company to leverage competitive federal and non-federal grants to de-risk novel and disruptive technologies and strengthen organizational performance within Constellation. Prior to this role, Richard spent six years supporting various program offices including the Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) and the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as a contractor. His primary focuses were on strategic planning, environmental justice and equity, and leading interagency and external coordination across federal agencies toward the development of roadmaps. Richard received his undergraduate education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He received his MS in Global Energy Management from the University of Colorado Denver and currently serves as a Senior Climate Justice Fellow with the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health.



Missy Henriksen, Center for Energy Workforce Development

Missy Henriksen is the Executive Director of the [Center for Energy Workforce Development](#), a position she has held since December 2019. Bringing 30 years of non-profit management and workforce-development expertise to the organization, she is responsible for leading CEWD's programs and initiatives to ensure a highly skilled talent pipeline for the energy sector.

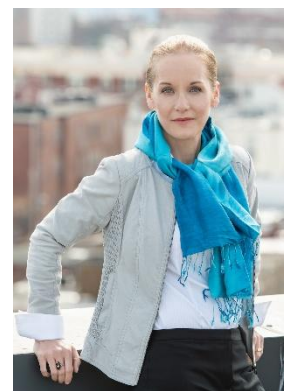
She chaired the Department of Energy's 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board for the past two years, served on DOE's Electrification Advisory Committee, providing a talent development voice, and was appointed to the Department of Labor's Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship, which has recently been disbanded.

Prior to joining CEWD, Henriksen held executive level positions with several trade associations. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and also a graduate of the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Organizational Management and earned her Certified Association Executive credential from the American Society of Association Executives.



Laura Hermann, Energy Communities Alliance

Laura Hermann is the deputy executive director of the Energy Communities Alliance and founder of Potentiary. At ECA, she supports a peer-to-peer network of local elected officials and municipal administrators to develop public-private partnerships. She advises initiatives that connect advanced energy technologies with the communities and institutions that make deployment possible. Her work helps new market entrants, national laboratories, and local officials build trust, navigate regulation, and bring complex projects from concept to reality. Previously, Laura was a partner in a DC-based communications firm and led large-scale programs shaping science and technology innovation in the Southeast Asia and the Middle East. She is a 20-year member of the American Nuclear Society and began her career in disaster response with the American Red Cross. Laura holds a Master of Science from Northwestern University.



Michelle Zietlow-Miller, GAIN, Idaho National Laboratory

Michelle Zietlow-Miller is the public engagement manager for GAIN. In this role, she is the go-to person whenever state leaders or community members are considering how nuclear energy fits into their energy future. Similar to Chris Lohse, GAIN's Technology and Innovation Manager, her job is to understand what questions or connections the state or local community have and find the right resources to address those needs. Michelle will also help states who want to have 'a conversation about nuclear' structure that discussion and help identify the right speakers to support the discussion.



Michelle's previous experience gives her a unique perspective on the commercialization of advanced nuclear energy.

Michelle has over 19 years of experience in the nuclear energy field, and over a decade in strategic planning and implementations. Prior to working for GAIN, Michelle served in a variety of positions for Constellation Energy in Cordova, Illinois. She began as a systems engineer and moved through various roles of increasing responsibility including Senior Reactor Operator, Outage Specialist, Outage Manager, and Maintenance Director for Constellation's Quad Cities Power Station. The last year she was the Director of Outage Projects for the Clinton Power Station, focusing on improving outage performance and reducing outage costs and downtime.

Outside of work, she enjoys Gardening, Reading, and Spending time outdoors along the Mississippi River. She also loves to spend time with her family and her dogs.

Michelle holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering at Iowa State University.

Erik Funkhouser, Good Energy Collective

As Executive Director of the Good Energy Collective (GEC), Erik Funkhouser leads an independent think tank shaping the future of nuclear energy through research, policy, and public engagement. He oversees strategy across global supply chains, equitable community engagement, and innovation policy for responsible nuclear development.



With more than a decade of experience in climate technology, clean energy policy, and organizational leadership, Erik has built and scaled major research and demonstration initiatives across government, academia, and the nonprofit sector. His expertise spans market transformation, program design, and evaluation, with a record of guiding multi-million-dollar clean energy portfolios. He has held leadership roles at NYSERDA, the University of Texas at Austin, and Columbia University.

Betsy Smith, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

Betsy Smith is a Senior Energy Policy Specialist at the National Conference of State Legislatures, where she leads the organization's nuclear energy and grid resilience policy portfolios and serves as staff lead for the Nuclear Legislative Working Group. With a background in sociology and policy theory, Betsy brings a holistic, systems-oriented perspective to understanding policy change across the United States. In addition to her work at NCSL, Betsy is a lecturer at the University of Colorado, where she teaches and conducts research on policy issues including public lands, disasters, and energy.



Kirsten Verclass, National Association of State Energy Offices (NASEO)

Kirsten Verclas leads NASEO's electricity program, which informs and educates the states on issues related to generation, transmission, and distribution. She also leads NASEO's work on grid resilience. She serves as a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity's Electricity Advisory Committee, where she is the Vice Chair of the Smart Grid Subcommittee. Prior to NASEO, Ms. Verclas was an ORISE Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the U.S. Department of Energy, where she worked on clean energy, state and local energy policy, cybersecurity issues and emergency response. She also served as a Program Manager in the International Department of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) working on regulatory partnerships in Africa, as well as a Senior Program Manager at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS) at Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Verclas has written extensively on energy and climate as well as security policy in the transatlantic context. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Franklin and Marshall College, a Master of Arts in International Relations from The George Washington University, and a Master of Science in Energy Policy and Climate from Johns Hopkins University.



Benjmain Stafford, Great Plains Institute (GPI)

Benjamin Stafford joined the Great Plains Institute in 2024 as senior policy manager for the Energy Systems program. Benjamin leads work on utility regulatory innovation and transmission deployment.

Benjamin brings over 20 years of experience in the energy industry to GPI. Most recently, he provided strategy consulting to address regulatory and business model challenges to a clean energy transition. Benjamin's past clients include investor-owned electric and gas utilities, environmental interest groups, and federal and state agencies. Benjamin also has worked extensively in government affairs, advocating for legislative and regulatory policy changes. Benjamin also brings experience in state regulation of public utilities.



Patrick O'Brien, Holtec International

For over 20 years, Pat has built a reputation for his proactive communications strategies, government and community relations, and media management in high visibility situations. Prior to joining Holtec in 2021, Pat spent 3 years with Holtec's decommissioning unit, Holtec Decommissioning International, as Senior Manager Government Affairs and Communications overseeing the Government Affairs and Communications programs at our five, current, decommissioning sites. Pat began his career in the nuclear industry serving 4 years as the Company Spokesman and Sr. Communications Specialist for Entergy's Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. In this role, he served as the company's direct media contact, managed day-to-day communications with employees, ran the company's charitable contributions, and saw the plant through Column 4 recovery and transition from operational facility to decommissioning site.



More importantly, Pat has been a key conduit to the local community. Throughout his career he built relationships with elected officials and key community stakeholders. He has served on various non-profit boards including the Generation Atomic, Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce, South Shore Community Action Council, and the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority. He served three years on the Town of Plymouth Advisory and Finance Committee, the last year as Vice-Chair.

Prior to joining Pilgrim station in 2015, he spent thirteen years working in state and local government in Massachusetts. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a master's degree from Norwich University.

Everett Redmond, Oklo

Everett Redmond is Senior Director Federal Affairs at Oklo. Everett is responsible for policy activities and interface with the U.S. Department of Energy and other federal agencies. Everett also supports nuclear fuel supply and fabrication efforts and Aurora Powerhouse deployment efforts. Everett joined Oklo in September 2022. Prior to joining Oklo, Everett was a Senior Technical Advisor at the Nuclear Energy Institute where he was responsible for programs and policy efforts to support commercialization of advanced reactor technologies. Everett was with NEI from 2006 to 2022. Before joining NEI, Everett was a Principal Engineer at Holtec International. Everett holds a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Nuclear Engineering (1997).



Cole Simons, GE Vernova

Cole Simons is the Managing Director of U.S. Government Affairs and Policy at GE Vernova. In this role, Cole serves as an advisor to the GE Vernova leadership and business units while leading on domestic policy and government interactions including on energy innovation, tax, permitting, banking, and manufacturing.

Prior to joining GE Vernova in 2023, Cole served as the Senior Policy Advisor for Energy & Industry for Senator Cassidy. In this role, Cole served as a lead negotiator of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and led the introduction of policies spanning border carbon adjustments, energy tax, permitting, and energy research, development, and deployment (RD&D).



Before joining Senator Cassidy's team, Cole served as Chief of Staff and as a Policy Analyst at ClearPath. In his roles at ClearPath, Cole helped quadruple the size of the organization, organized several NGO-based coalitions, oversaw political giving and SuperPAC activities, and crafted policy proposals that formed the basis of the Energy Act of 2020, IIJA, multiple appropriations bill, and tax packages.

Christina Walrond, X-energy

Christina Walrond is an accomplished energy strategist with deep experience advancing technology commercialization for nuclear energy and heavy industry.

As the Director of State Government Relations, Christina leads X-energy's strategy for state and local government affairs, building relationships with key stakeholders to advance nuclear energy deployment. This includes X-energy's first project with Dow Chemical Company, which would be the first grid-scale advanced nuclear reactor project deployed to serve an industrial site in North America, as well as the company's partnership with Amazon to deliver more than 5 GW of reactors by 2039, starting with the development of the Cascade Advanced Energy Facility with Energy Northwest in Washington State.



Prior to joining X-energy, Christina served as Senior Advisor and Engagement Lead at the U.S. Department of Energy, where she guided strategy and outreach for more than \$10 billion in federal funding matched by over \$25 billion in private capital. Her portfolio included a range of large-scale, public-private programs, including the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program, the Generation III+ Small Modular Reactor Pathway to Deployment Program, and the Industrial Demonstrations Program.

Christina previously held leadership roles at an energy consulting firm, where she advised international governments, national laboratories, and energy technology companies ranging from nuclear start-ups to Fortune 500 utilities. Earlier in her career, she served as a nuclear research analyst, publishing more than 30 technical papers on uranium enrichment and nonproliferation that were cited by outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Economist*.

Christina holds a Master's in International Science and Technology Policy with a concentration in nuclear technology from The George Washington University and a Bachelor's in Political Science from Allegheny College.

Marc Nichol, Nuclear Energy Institute

Marc Nichol joined Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) in 2011 and leads a team focused on addressing regulatory and technical issues related to new nuclear. In this role, he works with members representing utilities, designers, and suppliers, and with other stakeholders, to address challenges and opportunities for new and advanced reactors.



Commissioner Matthew J. Marzano, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

The Honorable Matthew J. Marzano was appointed as Commissioner of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission by President Joe Biden and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to a term ending June 30, 2028.

Marzano previously served as a “detailee” from the Idaho National Laboratory on the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, where he advised the committee on policy matters relating to clean air, climate, and energy, including the bipartisan ADVANCE Act.

Prior to this role, Marzano was selected as an American Association for the Advancement of Science Congressional Fellow, representing the American Nuclear Society and serving on the U.S. Senate EPW Committee. Marzano combines his policy background with more than a decade of experience in the nuclear industry, during which he focused on nuclear energy systems for both defense and commercial applications.



Marzano earned his Senior Reactor Operator license at Braidwood Nuclear Power Station, in Illinois, where he led installation testing of a modernized control system to improve plant performance and safety. He began his career as a civilian instructor for the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program at the U.S. Department of Energy. In that capacity, he oversaw the training of U.S. Navy personnel preparing for assignment as nuclear plant operators on submarines and aircraft carriers. Following this role, Marzano transitioned to the commercial nuclear power industry at the V.C. Summer new nuclear construction project in South Carolina, where he supported construction activities while pursuing a Senior Reactor Operator license.

Marzano earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Florida, where his research focused on the modeling of nuclear energy systems

Judi Greenwald, Nuclear Innovation Alliance

Judi Greenwald is the President and CEO of the Nuclear Innovation Alliance.

Ms. Greenwald has over 35 years of energy and environmental policy leadership experience in the public and nonprofit sectors, including the U.S. Congress, the White House, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES, formerly the Pew Center on Global Climate Change). Highlights of her distinguished career include working on the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments as congressional committee staff; overseeing energy and environmental programs at C2ES and DOE; co-founding the Carbon Capture Coalition; advising U.S. state and regional greenhouse gas initiatives; and collaborating with stakeholders to advance both economic and environmental goals.



She has focused extensively on deep decarbonization through the interplay of public policy, technology innovation, human behavior, and markets. She served as Deputy Director for Climate, Environment, and Energy Efficiency at US DOE's Energy Policy and Systems Analysis Office, and the Senior Climate Advisor to the Energy Secretary. She is a fellow at Princeton University's Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment. Ms. Greenwald received a B.S. in Engineering, *cum laude*, from Princeton University, and an M.A. in Science, Technology, and Public Policy from George Washington University.