



# THE BULLETIN



**Inside This Issue**

Commissioner News	2
NARUC's Ramsay Celebrates 20-Year Anniversary	3
Association Launches Smart Grid Working Group	4
States Gearing Up for Lifeline Awareness Week	5
Yucca Mountain Uncertainty Continues	6
Employment Opportunities	8



## Simon to Lead Gas Committee

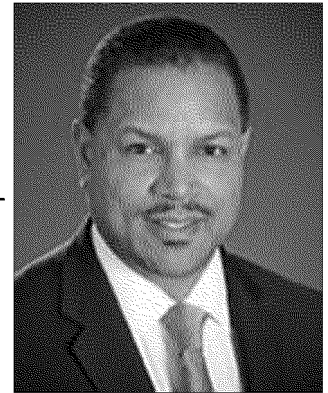
NARUC President David Coen of Vermont appointed Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon of California as Chair of the Association's Committee on Gas.

Commissioner Simon, currently a Co-Vice Chair of the committee, replaces current Committee Chair G. O'Neal Hamilton of South Carolina, whose term is expiring in mid-September. President Coen also nominated Commissioner Matt Baker of Colorado to fill Commissioner Simon's Co-Vice Chair slot, serving alongside Co-Vice Chair Colette Honorable of Arkansas.

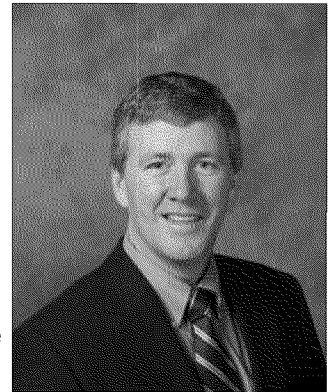
Through panel discussions and educational sessions, the Gas Committee fosters awareness and understanding of issues affecting the transportation, distribution, and sale of natural gas safely, efficiently, and economically. Committee members work closely with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the U.S. departments of Energy and Transportation.

"Commissioner Simon's leadership of this committee could not come at a more crucial time," President Coen said. "With Congress and the federal government considering profound changes to our energy sector, Commissioner Simon will provide a balanced look at all the challenges we face. He will position this committee to educate our members and develop best practices so NARUC can be well-situated to impact the national debate. I am also grateful to Commissioner Baker for stepping up to serve his colleagues as a Co-Vice Chair. He brings a unique perspective that will serve the Gas Committee and our nation's ratepayers well. Finally, I want to thank Commissioner Hamilton for his determined and inclusive oversight of the Gas Committee. NARUC, State regulators, and consumers are better off because of his service."

Commissioner Simon was appointed to the California Public Utilities Commission by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Feb. 15, 2007, and confirmed by the California State Senate on Feb. 28, 2008. Commissioner Simon is a securities and banking lawyer and law professor. He uses his background to facilitate balanced public policy in utility regulation.



Commissioner Simon



Commissioner Baker

(continued on page 8)

**NARUC Bulletin**

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The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1889. Its members include the governmental agencies that regulate utilities in the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Specifically, NARUC's member agencies regulate the activities of telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. NARUC's declared mission is to serve the public interest by improving the quality and effectiveness of public utility regulation.

**BULLETIN****Commissioner News****Board Appointments**

Chairman **Barry T. Smitherman** of the Public Utility Commission of Texas has been appointed as a member of the NARUC Board of Directors.



Com. Smitherman

**Committee Appointments**

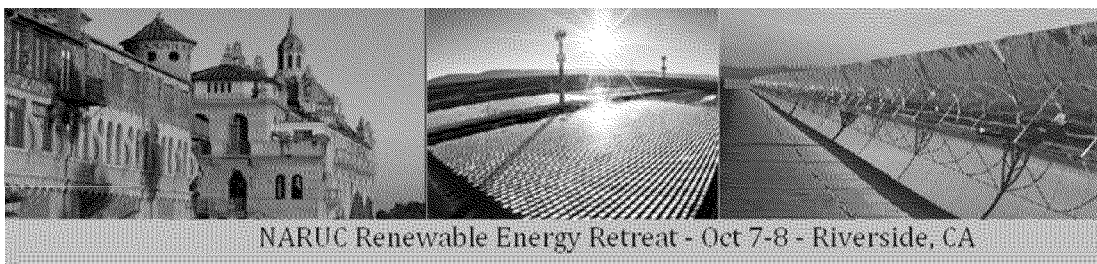
Commissioner **Timothy Alan Simon** of California has been appointed as Chair of the NARUC Committee on Gas (see story, page 1).

Commissioner **Matt Baker** of Colorado has been appointed as a Co-Vice Chair of the NARUC Committee on Gas (see story, page 1).

Commissioner **Vendean V. Vafiades** of Maine Public Utilities Commission has been appointed as a member of the Committee on Electricity.



Com. Vafiadas



NARUC Renewable Energy Retreat - Oct 7-8 - Riverside, CA

NARUC is hosting the Renewable Energy Retreat, a two-day school and study tour at the historic Mission Inn Hotel in Riverside, Calif., Oct. 7-8, 2010.

NARUC invites Commissioners and Commission staff to learn about renewable energy integration from colleagues and renewable energy experts, with sessions focused on issues impacting State utility commissions, including:

- *What are the current tools to integrate variable generation and what tools will we need?*
- *Is there benefit in consolidating balancing areas?*
- *Can modeling and forecasting tools be utilized to enable more value from renewable energy?*

Participants will also visit several renewable energy facilities, including the Sierra Sun Tower and the Solar Energy Generating Systems.

Reimbursement Authorizations for Travel (RAFTs) are available to Commissioners and Commission staff to support travel-related costs. There is no registration fee for this event.

Please contact Julie Taylor, [jtaylor@naruc.org](mailto:jtaylor@naruc.org) for additional information or to reserve a RAFT for this activity.

## NARUC News

# NARUC GC Ramsay Celebrates 20-Year Anniversary

NARUC General Counsel Brad Ramsay can talk to just about anyone about anything. Name the topic and Mr. Ramsay either knows something about it or will want to learn more so he can discuss it further. Be it the law, Congress, or, most notably, his family, Mr. Ramsay has never shied away from a conversation.

So as he celebrated his 20-year anniversary at NARUC this month, Mr. Ramsay found himself willing and able to talk about almost everything that happened over the past two decades. Everything, that is, except about himself. "I'm not a very good interview when I'm talking about myself," Mr. Ramsay told the *Bulletin* at the outset of an interview in his office.

Still, Mr. Ramsay's modesty can't hide the fact that he has either overseen or been intimately involved in NARUC's advocacy over significant industry, regulatory, and technological change since the early 1990s.

When he started out as Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Mr. Ramsay worked on an old IBM computer complete with floppy disks and a paper trail of agency comments that piled up high on his desk. "I had 60 or 70 telecommunications dockets" when he first started, he said. "I spent my first week organizing files. I threw away 37 boxes of papers and would stack these comments in long, tall piles."

Among his first assignments was working on the Telecommunications Act, which was signed into law in 1996. The act ushered in profound change to the telecommunications sector, and NARUC and Mr. Ramsay were right in the thick of it. "We spent a lot of time on Capitol Hill," he said. "It was just mindboggling—the number of comments I filed in those proceedings."

Since then, he has seen NARUC grow with the addition of the Consumer Affairs Committee and become even more involved in national policy. From filing Supreme Court briefs to meeting commissioners from all over the country, Mr. Ramsay has left a lasting legacy within and outside the Association.

"NARUC is always at the center of things," he said. "This job has been a lot of fun because NARUC has been in the middle of most of the major telecommunications issues" that have emerged. In addition, "I get to work with a lot of great people from all over the country. That makes NARUC a tough place to leave because if I ever left, I'd lose friends from everywhere."

Although most at NARUC are familiar with his unmatched work ethic, Mr. Ramsay takes as much pride in his family as he does anything else. "My daughter was born the week before I started this job," he said. "Tracey, she grew up with NARUC."

Mr. Ramsay's son David also spent his formative years while Dad was working at NARUC. David recently graduated college and won a Fulbright scholarship to study in Ireland.

As he reflects over his 20-year career, Mr. Ramsay, recalling the predictions that regulation would be out of style with the advent of wireless communications, restructuring, and, now, the Smart Grid, said the important work of the nation's public service commissioners will never be complete.

"It is a shibboleth that regulation can't keep up with technology," Mr. Ramsay said. "It's just not true."



20-year NARUC veteran General Counsel Brad Ramsay accepts a certificate and a hearty congratulations from Executive Director Charles Gray  
Photo by Deana Dennis

## NARUC News

# NARUC Launches Smart Grid Working Group

NARUC established a working group to analyze smart-grid issues that will interact with the federal government and other stakeholders.

The Smart Grid Working Group consists of seven State utility regulators who represent the Association's geographic diversity and most relevant committees—Electricity, Telecommunications, Energy Resources and the Environment, Critical Infrastructure, Consumer Affairs, and the Executive committees.

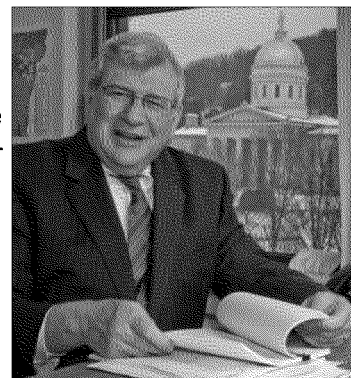
The Working Group is co-chaired by Chairman Orjiakor Isiogu of Michigan and Commissioner Maureen Harris of New York.

NARUC formed the Working Group to serve as the central focus for communication both within the Association and to outside entities such as federal agencies, consumer groups, and other industry stakeholders. Because the smart grid marks a convergence among telecommunications and energy utilities, NARUC created the Working Group to coordinate its outreach, education, and advocacy on this issue.

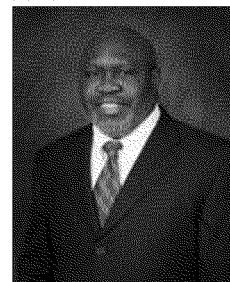
"The smart grid is perhaps the hottest topic in the utility sector," said NARUC President David Coen of Vermont. "It is touching off a rapid convergence between telecommunications and energy companies. This group gives us a forum to organize our internal deliberations and our outside advocacy. Our members stand on the frontlines of ensuring that the promise of the Smart Grid meets with the needs of the consumer. I thank Commissioners Isiogu and Harris for taking leadership of this Working Group."

Aside from Co-Chairs Harris and Isiogu, the following NARUC members were appointed to the Working Group: Commissioner Colette Honorable of Arkansas (Executive Committee), Commissioner Paul Centolella of Ohio (Energy Resources and the Environment), Commissioner Lib Fleming (Critical Infrastructure), Commissioner Jack Betkoski of Connecticut (Consumer Affairs), and Commissioner Susan Ackerman of Oregon (Electricity).

"We look forward to working with our State colleagues and others in addressing these issues," said Co-Chairs Harris and Isiogu. "If the smart grid is going to be successful, we must make sure that industry, regulators, and, most important, consumers are on the same page. The Smart Grid Working Group will help us achieve that goal."



President Coen



Chairman Isiogu



Commissioner Harris

**Mark your calendars! Registration for the 122nd Annual NARUC Convention begins on Sept. 1!**

**Act early and save on registration fees and hotel rates. Remember, these rates won't last forever, and these rooms WILL sell out!**

**For more information, visit: <http://annual.narucmeetings.org>**

# States Gearing Up for Lifeline Awareness Week

NARUC members from all across the country are beginning their plans for promoting the second annual Lifeline Awareness Week.

A bipartisan group of governors, stretching from Georgia to Minnesota to Michigan to Nebraska, and more to come, will be issuing proclamations declaring the first week after Labor Day—Sept. 13-19—as National Lifeline Awareness Week, and other NARUC members are holding outreach events in hopes of increasing participation in the Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs.

NARUC in July 2009 passed a resolution designating the first week after Labor Day as National Telephone Discount Lifeline Awareness Week. The week is designed to increase awareness of and participation in the Lifeline and Link-Up programs. Lifeline offers savings on basic monthly telephone service, and Link-Up can pay for one-half of the initial installment fees for telephone and/or wireless service.

Last year, more than 30 States participated in the Week. As a result the number of participants in the Lifeline and Link-Up programs ticked up slightly. This year, the goal is to push those numbers higher. Even with last year's efforts, only 32% of eligible consumers participate in the programs, according to the Universal Service Administrative Company. With a strong showing this year, those numbers should increase.

The Florida Public Service Commission, for example, is holding a kick-off event on Sept. 13, following by programs throughout the week. The New York Public Service Commission will be holding their own outreach briefings in New York City and elsewhere throughout the State.

Kentucky, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Virginia, and West Virginia are also planning workshops, issuing press releases, and securing gubernatorial proclamations in recognition of the week.

NARUC, along with the Federal Communications Commission and the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, is planning a national kick-off event on Sept. 13 on Capitol Hill. The event will feature remarks from NARUC President David Coen and officials from the FCC, and the Universal Services Administration Company. Stay tuned for more details.

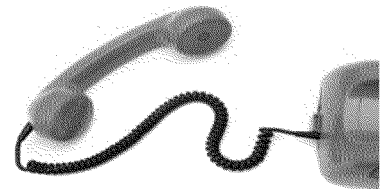
What is your State doing? Let us know. Contact Brian O'Hara ([bohara@naruc.org](mailto:bohara@naruc.org)) or Rob Thormeyer ([rthormeyer@naruc.org](mailto:rthormeyer@naruc.org)).

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## SAVE THE DATE!

**Sept. 13-19, 2010 is National Telephone Discount Lifeline Awareness Week.**

NARUC members should have received an updated Outreach Toolkit that will help you plan events and reach out to your governors, legislatures, and the media.



Drafted by the Consumer Affairs Staff Subcommittee, the Outreach Toolkit contains draft press releases, letters to the editor, gubernatorial proclamations, public service announcements, and much more. The toolkit is available on the NARUC Website at [www.naruc.org/Lifeline](http://www.naruc.org/Lifeline).

If you have any questions, please contact Brian O'Hara ([bohara@naruc.org](mailto:bohara@naruc.org)) or Rob Thormeyer ([rthormeyer@naruc.org](mailto:rthormeyer@naruc.org)).

## NARUC News

# Yucca Mountain Uncertainty Continues

Tensions are mounting over the status of the once-proposed geologic repository for nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, Nev.

The project, to be built 90 miles outside of Las Vegas, remains in a sort-of bureaucratic purgatory, awaiting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's response to the Department of Energy's request that it be terminated before the NRC completes its safety review.

But even if the NRC rejects the White House's appeal, Yucca Mountain will likely fade away nonetheless, as the Administration has made clear it intends to shutter the project.

As chronicled in the Bulletin, DOE in its FY 2011 budget request contained no funding for Yucca Mountain. After that the agency sent a request to withdraw the license application before the NRC "with prejudice." The sole reason cited in the motion to withdraw was that the Secretary of Energy had determined that developing a repository at Yucca is "not a workable option."

In view of the fact that Congress passed a joint resolution in 2002 approving the Yucca site, subject to successfully obtaining the license from the NRC, several organizations, including NARUC, expressed the belief that since Congress had approved the site, only Congress could rescind the designation. When the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, a panel within the NRC, reviewed the DOE motion to withdraw the application it agreed with those opinions and rejected the motion (July 2, 2010, issue, page 4).

The ASLB noted that DOE conceded that "the application is not flawed nor is the site unsafe," so the central question is whether the Secretary can withdraw the application as a matter of policy. The decision issued June 29 was that the Nuclear Waste Policy Act does not give the Secretary the discretion to "substitute his policy for one established by Congress in the NWPA that, at this point, mandates progress toward a merits decision by the NRC on the construction permit."

DOE appealed the decision to the full five-member Commission. The three newest commissioners were asked to recuse themselves over a question posed to them during their Senate confirmation hearings as to whether they would each avoid "second guessing" the Administration's decision to abandon Yucca. Each declined, although one commissioner did recuse himself since he did some technical work on the project.

Meanwhile, the NRC Aug. 23 published the first of five volumes of the safety evaluation by the NRC staff of the license application. While the report does not represent a licensing decision, it did find that the five areas it examined in the application review for this review were satisfactory. The more technical aspects of the application will be examined in the months ahead, depending on whether the funding is exhausted.

An NRC final ruling on the withdrawal petition is expected imminently, and in either way it decides there awaits a related case (No. 10-1050) being held in abeyance at the District of Columbia Circuit of the U. S. Court of Appeals where the same issues have been brought before the Court.—*Brian O'Connell*

## WHAT'S YOUR STATE DOING?

*The Bulletin* wants to hear from you!

If your State is implementing new programs or taking on a significant new initiative, please let us know. *The Bulletin* wants to focus on its members and what is going on outside of Washington.

For more information, send an email or call NARUC Communications Director Rob Thormeyer at [rthormeyer@naruc.org](mailto:rthormeyer@naruc.org) or 202-898-9382.

## NARUC International

# ICC, Kosovo Regulators Discuss Renewable Issues

Illinois regulators and their counterparts in Kosovo completed a successful dialogue earlier this month about feed-in tariffs and other renewable energy issues.

The meeting was the fourth in a series of technical discussions between the Illinois Commerce Commission and the Energy Regulatory Office of Kosovo under the auspices of NARUC's USAID-funded Energy Regulatory Partnership Program.

With each exchange, the Kosovo and Illinois regulators have been able to continue reinforcing specific approaches, reviewing outcomes of their decisions and discussing best practices in order to fulfill their respective regulatory mandates.

On this fourth visit, the partners engaged in consultations and roundtable discussions on tariffs, renewable energy sources, monitoring service quality and other areas of significant importance to ERO. Additional interactions with the renewable energy suppliers and major Illinois utilities offered informative solutions to emerging issues. Since the adoption of regulations establishing feed-in tariffs in Kosovo, the renewables have gained much importance from the Kosovo policymakers and project developers.



Members of the Illinois Commerce Commission and the Energy Regulatory Office of Kosovo gather as part of their fourth regulatory partnership proceeding

*Photo by Martina Schwartz*

Kosovo's Energy Regulatory Office delegation was represented by Chairman Ali Hamiti; Commissioner Theranda Beqiri; Natural Gas and District Heating Expert Mr. Astrit Saraqini; Consumer Protections Department Head Mr. Gani Bucaj; and Licensing and Monitoring Analyst Ms. Hysnije Rexhaj.

In addition to the meetings with ICC's Commissioners and technical experts in Chicago and Springfield, the Kosovo partners also met with representatives of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, NARUC, and U.S. Agency for International Development to discuss ongoing restructuring efforts in Kosovo's energy sector.

This activity has elevated the partnership program into the realm of complex technical applications. The partners have developed a much better sense of each other's challenges, and hope to continue using various methods of sharing practical solutions. Complete resources from this activity are available at NARUC's Partnerships website, [www.narucpartnerships.org](http://www.narucpartnerships.org).--Martina Schwartz

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### Tweet Along with NARUC!

NARUC is now on Twitter, a popular social media Website. Now you can keep up with our latest news, Web updates, jobs, various outreach efforts simply by checking out our "tweets" at <http://twitter.com/naruc>.



Is your commission on Twitter or any other social media portal? Let us know!  
Contact [Rob Thormeyer](#) and give us your thoughts.

## Employment Opportunities

### Regulatory Economist I, II, III

#### Maryland Public Service Commission

**DESCRIPTION:** Regulatory Economists perform economic and regulatory analyses, prepare testimony, conduct policy analyses, and undertake projects and studies for the Commission's consideration. Regulatory Economists are expected to develop and maintain a comprehensive understanding of Maryland's electric and gas industrial sectors, including financial and economic principles, regulatory and industry practices, business operations, legal environment, and customer behavior. The successful candidate will have excellent written and oral communication skills, and strong quantitative skills.

**SALARY:** I: 40,291-\$64,317; II: \$42,891-\$68,664; III: \$45,675-\$73,300

**CONTACT:** You must submit a Maryland State Application (MS100) along with a copy of your college transcripts. Please call 410-767-4850, toll free: 1-800-705-3493 or visit [www.psc.state.md.us](http://www.psc.state.md.us) to obtain an application. Mail your completed MS100 to: Personnel Office, MD Public Service Commission, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

**DEADLINE:** Sept. 3, 2010

### Regulatory Docket Specialist

#### District of Columbia Public Service Commission

**DESCRIPTION:** The incumbent serves as a Regulatory Docket Specialist to accurately and promptly docket filings that have been submitted in paper and electronically. Evaluates each filing to determine the appropriate case and compliance with rules and procedures. Inputs data into Electronic Document System (eDocket) on a daily basis, including filings received via U.S. mail, hand-delivered, and received electronically on the Commission's website. Assists in maintaining the Commission's records management system, which includes microfiche, paper, and electronic documents. Attends evidentiary and community hearings as a representative from the Office of Commission Secretary and the Commission. Maintains and updates service and mailing lists; updates the natural gas, electric, and telephone tariff books; prepares transmittal forms and memoranda for documents scheduled for publication in the D.C. Register; and creates various forms, memoranda, and calendars, as needed, using software programs and the Internet, which serve as the platform for the eDocket system.

**SALARY:** \$34,706-\$45,560

**CONTACT:** Natalie Taylor, [ntaylor@psc.dc.gov](mailto:ntaylor@psc.dc.gov)

**DEADLINE:** Sept. 8, 2010

### Public Utility Accountant III

#### Missouri Office of Public Counsel

**DESCRIPTION:** The Missouri Office of Public Counsel is seeking to fill the above position located in Jefferson City, Missouri. Responsibilities include: serving as lead accountant on complex audits of utilities, providing training to staff in principles of public utility auditing, analyzing the solvency or profitability of utilities, preparing materials and presenting exhibits and testimony.

**SALARY:** \$38,700 - \$56,680 annually

**CONTACT:** Please view complete announcement at [www.ded.mo.gov](http://www.ded.mo.gov). Questions can be sent to

[kendelle.seidner@ded.mo.gov](mailto:kendelle.seidner@ded.mo.gov).

**DEADLINE:** Sept. 17, 2010

*SIMON, continued from page 1*

Prior to joining the CPUC, Commissioner Simon was an appointment secretary to Gov. Schwarzenegger, and was the first African American in California history to hold the post. Previously, Commissioner Simon served as a legal advisor on complex financial products, and has held positions at Global Crown Capital, LLC, PreferredTrade, Inc., Robertson Stephens Investment Banker, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo.

"Gas as a fuel is likely to take a bigger role as our nation transitions to a low-carbon future," Commissioner Simon said. "It is important that State regulators work together and discuss all options on the table so we can better provide reliable and affordable service for our nation's ratepayers. I look forward to working with my colleagues around the country on these crucial issues. I thank President Coen for his confidence in me and Commissioner Hamilton for the leadership he has shown this Committee."

Co-Vice Chair Baker was appointed to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission in January 2008. Prior to joining the PUC, Commissioner Baker served as the Executive Director of Environment Colorado, where he was the architect of Colorado's Renewable Energy ballot initiative, Amendment 37. He was a leader in efforts to double Colorado's renewable energy goals, implement policies to greatly expand utility energy efficiency programs and promote State goals to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.





September 21-23, 2010

RONALD REAGAN BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER

WASHINGTON, DC

## Detailed Agenda

The Inaugural GridWise® Global Forum will convene leaders from around the world to discuss the most pressing challenges of our time.

### Event Highlights Include:

- A collaborative education program showcasing high-level panels
- Networking opportunities with thought leaders, pioneers, and international dignitaries

### Collaborative Discussions

#### Will Focus On:

- Changing the economy, the grid, and our energy culture
- Transforming our business models, policies, workforce, and our climate
- Revolutionizing our industry

Housing is Limited  
Secure Your Spot Today!

<b>Monday, Sept. 20</b>	
2:00pm – 5:00pm	Registration
5:30pm – 7:00pm	Capitol Hill Reception
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 21</b>	
7:00am – 7:00pm	Registration
8:30am – 8:45am	<u>Opening Remarks</u>
8:45am – 9:15am	<u>Opening Keynote</u>
9:15am – 10:15am	<u>Transforming Our Energy Future</u>
10:15am – 10:45am	Break
10:45am – 12:15pm	<u>Driving the Global Economy</u>
12:15pm – 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm – 3:00pm	<u>Energizing Developing and Emerging Countries</u>
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Break
3:30pm – 5:00pm	<u>Understanding the Costs and Benefits</u>
5:00pm – 6:30pm	Reception
<b>Wednesday, Sept. 22</b>	
7:00am – 7:00pm	Registration
8:00am – 9:30am	<u>Engaging the Consumer</u>
9:30am – 9:45am	Transition
9:45am – 10:45am	<u>Integrating Wireless Technology</u>   <u>Evolving Our Regulatory Model</u>
10:45am – 11:15am	Break
11:15am – 12:15pm	<u>Transforming the Workforce</u>   <u>Resolving the Interoperability Challenge</u>
12:15pm – 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm – 2:30pm	<u>Expanding the Research Horizon</u>   <u>Securing the Grid</u>
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Break
3:00pm – 4:00pm	<u>Transforming the Infrastructure</u>   <u>Ensuring Data Privacy</u>
4:00pm – 4:15pm	Transition
4:15pm – 5:30pm	<u>Learning from Others</u>
5:30pm – 7:00pm	Reception
<b>Thursday, Sept. 23</b>	
7:00am – 1:30pm	Registration
8:30am – 10:00am	<u>Polishing the Crystal Ball</u>
10:00am – 10:30am	Break
10:30am – 11:45am	<u>Meeting Climate Goals</u>
11:45am – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 2:15pm	<u>Transforming the Utility Model</u>
2:15pm – 3:30pm	<u>Innovating for the Future</u>
3:30pm – 4:00pm	<u>Challenging Ourselves</u>

Session Details are at [www.gridwiseglobalforum.org/agenda](http://www.gridwiseglobalforum.org/agenda)

**Register NOW at [www.gridwiseglobalforum.org/](http://www.gridwiseglobalforum.org/)**