



# REGIONAL CONFERENCE



## GCPA 11th Annual MISO / SPP Regional Conference

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Wednesday, February 19th - Thursday, February 20th

The Sheraton New Orleans at 500 Canal Street -  
Rooms Available at \$260 - [BOOK HERE](#)

Cocktail Reception for all Attendees on February 19th



11th Annual MISO / SPP Regional Conference

The Sheraton New Orleans

February 19 - 20, 2025

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### THANKS TO OUR PLANNING TEAM

- Ben Bright**, SPP
- Daryl Brown**, MISO
- Ken Dell Orto**, Entergy
- Tom Kleckner**, RTO Insider
- Andy Kowalczyk**, Southern Renewable Energy Assoc.
- Trey Mayeux**, Cleco Power LLC

- Courtney Mehan**, Tenaska Power Services Co.
- Gordon Polozola**, Kean Miller LLP
- David Sapper**, Clean Grid Alliance
- Clint Savoy**, SPP
- Jennifer Vosburg**, Jennifer J. Vosburg LLC

### ABOUT GCPA

Since 1983, Gulf Coast Power Association (GCPA) has served Texas and the Gulf Coast as a regional electric power trade organization dedicated to promoting an improved understanding of the issues and opportunities impacting contemporary power markets. GCPA's highly diversified membership base consists of 150+ corporate members and 300+ individual members representing virtually every segment of the electric power industry. Our popular Spring and Fall Conferences are the largest gatherings of electric power professionals in the region and typically attract over 1,300 registrants annually. Additional educational and networking opportunities include virtual forums as well as periodic special briefings. GCPA's focus on providing superior educational and networking opportunities for its members and event attendees has contributed to its strong reputation as a premier and precedent-setting educator within the region's competitive power market.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view a list of our current Corporate Members

[CLICK HERE](#) to view a listing of 2024 MISO SPP Conference Attendees



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## REGISTER NOW!

To visit our website and register for this conference - [CLICK HERE](#)

If you need help setting up your online account or accessing your existing account before registering, please contact Donna Foy at [dfoy@gulfcoastpower.org](mailto:dfoy@gulfcoastpower.org) or 503-574-2130.

## PRICING INFORMATION

- Registration pricing is all inclusive and includes a cocktail reception on Wednesday, February 19, breakfast and lunch on Thursday, February 20 plus all-day beverage service and snack breaks on both days.
- Early bird pricing ends on Friday, January 31st.
- On-Line Registration closes on Friday, February 14th at 5 PM.
- On-Site Registration is available at the conference. Registration opens at 12:15 PM on Wednesday, February 19th. See below table for onsite pricing.
- Requests for refunds must be received by 5:00 PM on Friday, January 31st. A 10% processing fee will be deducted from all refunds.

Registrant Type	Early Bird Pricing through 1/31/25	Regular Reg. 2/1/25-2/14/25	Onsite Reg. 2/19/25-2/20/25
GCPA Members	\$800	\$950	\$1050
Non-Members	\$1000	\$1150	\$1250
Govt. / State Agency	\$410	\$410	\$460

## HOTEL & ROOM BLOCK INFO

GCPA has a room block with a limited number of rooms at the Sheraton New Orleans located at 500 Canal Street. **Standard rooms (single or double occupancy) are available at the special rate of \$260 per night. Rate includes complimentary in-room high speed wireless internet service.** Reservations must be received on or before the **room block cutoff date of Tuesday, January 28th.**

[CLICK HERE TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM ONLINE](#)

Call 504-525-2500 if you need assistance; mention the room block

TO VIEW THE SHERATON NEW ORLEANS WEBSITE: [Click Here](#)

## LOUISIANA CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

GCPA will be applying to the Louisiana State Bar for approval of MCLE hours for this conference.

## AGENDA - Wednesday, February 19, 2025

- 1:00 PM **Welcome & Opening Remarks: Barbara Clemenhagen**, Executive Director, GCPA
- 1:05 PM **The Moeller Sugg Impact Award** - Presentation
- 1:10 PM **Keynote - SPP: A Vision for the Future**  
Barbara Sugg shares her vision for the Southwest Power Pool, emphasizing innovation and collaboration as it addresses resource adequacy challenges across its growing footprint. She discusses western expansion as well as the future of transmission planning at SPP. Sugg will share her hopes for continued collaboration with neighboring systems to ensure reliability and affordability. Her insights a glimpse of what is to come for SPP in the future.  
Speaker: **Barbara Sugg**, President & CEO, SPP
- 1:50 PM **Vignette - Value of Lost Load**  
Author of the recent ERCOT Value of Lost Load (VOLL) Study discusses how data and findings can help inform cost-benefit decisions with respect to generation and transmission investments and can be an important input for resource adequacy decisions.  
Speaker: **Dr. Sanem Sergici**, Principal, The Brattle Group
- 2:05 PM **Session I - Resource Adequacy and the Markets - A Balancing Act**  
Regional experts will address the challenges of balancing supply and demand amid the growing reliance on renewable energy. The panel will explore market mechanisms and propose strategies to ensure adequate resources during peak demand, while also fostering economic efficiency and grid reliability. Emphasizing collaboration among regulators, market operators, and generators, the discussion aims to highlight adaptive policies and technologies necessary for a resilient energy future.  
Moderator: **Will McAdams**, President & Founder, McAdams Energy Group  
Panelists:  
**Melissa Alfono**, Sr. Director Energy Markets and Counsel, Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA)  
**Natasha Henderson**, Sr. Director, Grid Asset Utilization, SPP  
**Zak Joundi**, Executive Director - Markets Innovation & Strategy, MISO  
**Colton Kennedy**, Director, Energy Portfolio Planning, Omaha Public Power District
- 3:00 PM **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 3:30 PM **Session II - It's a Cluster: Queue Reform in the US**  
Leaders from the RTO/ISOs will discuss the efforts to streamline interconnection processes to support the integration of large loads and renewable energy. The panel will address current challenges that include lengthy wait times and regulatory bottlenecks, and evaluate solutions to improve transparency and coordination among stakeholders.  
Moderator: **David Mindham**, Sr. Director Regulatory & Market Development, EDP Renewables NA  
Panelists:  
**Casey Cathey**, Vice President, Engineering, SPP  
**Aubrey Johnson**, Vice President, System Planning & Competitive Transmission, MISO  
**Neil Millar**, Vice President of Infrastructure & Operations Planning, CAISO

4:15 PM

**Session III - Investors' Perspective on the Impact of Scarcity and Capacity Pricing**

Industry experts will analyze how scarcity pricing mechanisms affect investment decisions and market outcomes. The panel will explore the implications of these pricing strategies on resource adequacy, profitability, and long-term sustainability within the market. By discussing current trends and potential risks, investors will share insights on how effective capacity pricing can incentivize new generation while ensuring reliability. This conversation aims to foster a deeper understanding of the financial landscape in evolving electricity markets.

Moderator: **Werner Roth**, Sr. Market Economist, Public Utility Commission of Texas

Panelists:

**Holly Adams**, Vice President of Origination, Pattern Energy

**Julien Dumoulin-Smith**, Managing Director | US Power, Utilities, & Clean Energy Research, Jeffries LLC

**Aine Folan**, Manager, Capacity Markets, Karbone Energy

**Chris McCarthy**, Managing Director, Research, NextEra Energy

5:00 PM

**Vignette: GCPA emPOWERing Young Professionals**

How the GCPA Scholarships encourage and inspire students to pursue careers in the electric power industry.

Speaker: **Sean Whitaker**, Economic Studies Planner, MISO

5:15 PM

**COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

**AGENDA - Thursday, February 20, 2025**

9:00 AM

**Fireside Chat - Shaping MISO's Future**

Join us for an insightful fireside chat featuring Jason Blake, President and CEO of SERC Reliability Corporation, and Todd Ramey, SVP of Markets and Digital Strategy at MISO. They will discuss critical energy technologies, market design, and pressing policy issues facing our regions. This engaging dialogue will explore transformative innovations, the challenges of evolving market structures, and the role of effective policy frameworks in driving technological advancement and sustainability. Together, they will highlight the importance of collaboration among stakeholders to address regional and national energy needs. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights into the future of energy.

Speakers:

**Jason Blake**, President & CEO, SERC Reliability Corporation

**Todd Ramey**, Sr. Vice President, Markets and Digital Strategy, MISO

9:30 AM

**Session IV - State Commissioners Panel**

State commissioners from Louisiana, Oklahoma, Iowa, and Minnesota will examine pressing regional electricity market issues and future trends. They will address challenges such as grid reliability, resource diversity, and the integration of renewable energy sources. The commissioners will also share their perspectives on collaboration efforts to improve market structures and regulatory practices, emphasizing the importance of adaptive policies in a rapidly evolving energy landscape. This dialogue aims to provide valuable insights into how states can work together to enhance market efficiency and support a sustainable energy future.

Moderator: **Kim O'Guinn**, Senior Director Regulatory Policy, SPP

Panelists:

**Josh Byrnes**, Commissioner, Iowa Utilities Commission

**Kim David**, Chair, Oklahoma Corporation Commission

**Mike Francis**, Commissioner, LA Public Service Commission

**Joe Sullivan**, Commissioner, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

10:15 AM

**NETWORKING BREAK**

10:45 AM

**Session V - Market Participants' Perspectives on FERC Order 1920**

Market participants will share their perspectives on FERC Order 1920, which aims to enhance regional electric transmission planning and cost-allocation practices. The conversation will delve into how the final rule, issued in May 2024, mandates long-term regional transmission planning, requires transparent cost allocation methods, and emphasizes stakeholder engagement. Panelists will discuss the implications of these reforms on market dynamics, including improved reliability and efficiency in addressing long-term transmission needs. By exploring both Order 1920's challenges and opportunities, this dialogue will provide valuable insights into navigating the evolving landscape of electricity markets and the critical role of effective transmission planning.

Moderator: **Christina Hayes**, Executive Director, Americans for a Clean Energy Grid

Panelists:

**Karen Onaran**, President & CEO, ELCON

**Liz Salerno**, Principal, GQS New Energy Strategies

**Sharon Segner**, Sr. Vice President, LS Power

**Jennifer Vosburg**, Principal, Jennifer J. Vosburg, LLC

11:30 AM

**LUNCHEON**

1:00 PM

**Keynote - The Role of Effective Leadership in Modernizing the Grid**

In an engaging keynote address, Michael Skelly, Co-Founder and CEO of Grid United, will explore the complexities of modernizing the power grid and the critical role of effective leadership in this transformation. He will discuss innovative strategies for enhancing grid infrastructure to support an increasingly interconnected and renewable energy future. Skelly will also address the future of regional markets, emphasizing the need for collaboration among stakeholders to promote resilience, efficiency, and equitable access to energy resources. This keynote aims to inspire a forward-thinking dialogue on how to harness technology and leadership to shape the next generation of a sustainable power grid.

Speaker: **Michael Skelly**, Co-Founder & CEO, Grid United

1:30 PM

**Session VI - The Impact of Weather Events in the Region**

Regional experts and policymakers will explore the significant challenges posed by weather-related disruptions. The panel will examine extreme weather incidents such as winter storms, hurricanes, and regional wildfires, analyzing how these events affect grid reliability, resource availability, and market dynamics. Experts will discuss recent events and the economic implications of such weather disruptions on energy prices and supply chains, emphasizing the critical need for resilient infrastructure and adaptive market strategies. This session aims to deepen understanding of the intersection between weather patterns and electricity markets, encouraging proactive measures to enhance resilience and sustainability in the face of increasing climate variability.

Moderator: **Logan Burke**, Executive Director, Alliance for Affordable Energy

Panelists:

**Bill Blevins**, Director Grid Coordination, ERCOT

**Andre Guillory**, Chief Customer Officer, Cleco

**Davante Lewis**, Commissioner, LA Public Service Commission

**Justin Sharp**, Technical Leader, EPRI





2:15 PM **Session VII - ABC's of Interregional Planning**

Panelists will examine the implications of FERC Order 1000 and the recent evolution to FERC Order 1920 on collaborative transmission planning across neighboring regions. While these landmark orders aim to encourage public utility transmission providers to identify cost-effective interregional transmission projects, progress to date in realizing energized projects has been limited. Despite the aspirations of these reforms, ongoing challenges remain in achieving effective interregional planning, including navigating political complexities, differing state energy policies, and the need for improved cost allocation frameworks. This session will illuminate how overcoming these barriers is crucial for fostering a more resilient and efficient power grid.

Moderator: **Beth Garza**, Sr. Fellow, R Street Institute

Panelists:

**Nicole Luckey**, Sr. Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Invenergy

**Sunny Raheem**, Director System Planning, SPP

**Laura Rauch**, Executive Director, Transmission Planning, MISO

**Corey Sellers**, General Manager of Transmission Policy & Services, Southern Company

3:00 PM **NETWORKING BREAK**

3:30 PM **Vignette - Location Location Location: Siting Large Loads in the Regional Markets**

Insights from Tract, a data center land acquisition and development company, will explore strategic considerations for siting large loads in the regions, particularly data centers, while balancing environmental responsibilities and regulatory challenges.

Speaker: **Phillip Sandino**, Sr. Vice President, Utility Development, Tract Capital Management

3:45 PM **Session VIII - Large Loads in the Regional Markets**

Panelists will delve into the dynamics of managing large loads in regional markets. The conversation will focus on the implications of increased energy demand from data centers on grid reliability, resource allocation, and pricing structures. Panelists will discuss strategies for optimizing energy usage, enhancing infrastructure, and fostering collaboration between utilities and large load consumers to ensure a sustainable and efficient energy future. This dialogue aims to illuminate the challenges and opportunities in integrating significant energy loads while supporting regional energy goals.

Moderator: **Rob Gramlich**, President, Grid Strategies LLC

Panelists:

**Betsy Beck**

**Ray Fakhoury**, Manager, Energy Policy, Amazon

**Paul Kelly**, Energy Manager, Commercial Energy Supply, Meta

**Phillip May**, President & CEO, Entergy Louisiana

4:30 PM **ADJOURN**

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