

GCCPA

Gulf Coast Power Association

38th Annual Fall Conference & Exhibition

October 3rd - 4th, 2023

The AT&T Conference Center in Austin

CONFERENCE CHAIRS:

Jason Ryan, Exec. Vice President, CenterPoint Energy

Juliana Sersen, Partner, Baker Botts

OUR LARGEST CONFERENCE OF THE YEAR!

Prominent Industry & Government Speakers

Timely Session Topics & Discussions

PLUS Cocktail Reception on October 3rd

[REGISTER FOR FALL CONFERENCE NOW](#)

Pre-Conference Activity Add-Ons on Monday, October 2nd

Afternoon: 1/2 Day Workshop - “Virtual Power Plants in ERCOT”

Evening: Pre-Conference Welcome Reception for Attendees

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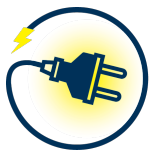
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To learn more about sponsorships and exhibits, please review our [Sponsor/Exhibitor Brochure](#) and contact Mary Armstrong, Deputy Executive Director, at 281.460.3054 or marmstrong@gulfcoastpower.org.



HOTEL, ROOM RESERVATION & PARKING INFORMATION

GCPA has a room block with a limited number of rooms at the AT&T Conference Center located at 1900 University Ave., Austin TX 78705. ***Standard King and Double Queen rooms are available at the special rate of \$230 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 Monday, September 12th.

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

Call 512-404-3600 if you need assistance; mention the room block

TO VIEW THE AT&T CONFERENCE CENTER WEBSITE: [Click Here](#)

Parking is available in the attached Conference Center Garage. Guests may self-park for 8-24 hours for \$21 per day. Valet services are also available at the University Avenue entrance for \$21 per day or \$38 for overnight.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT INFORMATION

PEs: As part of the Continuing Education Program requirements for Professional Engineers in Texas, each licensed engineer is required to earn 15 hours per year of Professional Development Hours (PDH). Attendees will receive approximately 8.5 hours of credit if all conference sessions are attended. 3.5 credit hours will also be available for the 10/2 workshop.

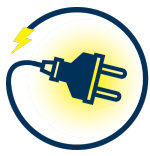
CPAs: GCPA is a Board Registered CPE Sponsor with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy. This registration does not constitute an endorsement by the Board as to the quality of our CPE program. The learning objectives for CPAs attending the conference are: in-depth knowledge of current issues in ERCOT Resource Adequacy, the Consumer Perspective, RTO CEO's Viewpoints, Investor's Viewpoint, Generator's Perspective, Energy Efficiency & DR, and Resiliency of Texas Grid. There are no prerequisites. Attendees will receive approximately 11.5 hours of credit if all sessions are attended. 3.5 credit hours will also be available for the 10/2 workshop. The learning objectives for the workshop are: in-depth knowledge of Virtual Power Plants in Texas.

Attorneys: GCPA's sponsor number is 2661 and the course number is 174211415 when self-reporting hours. The Texas State Bar has approved a total of 4.5 MCLE hours for the conference: Session I - 0.75; Session III - 0.75; Texas PUC Vignette - 0.25; Session V - 0.75; Energy Efficiency Vignette - 0.25; Session VI - 0.75; Resiliency Vignette - 0.25; Session VII - 0.75. The 10/2 Workshop was also approved for a total of 3.5 MCLE hours.

THANKS TO OUR MEDIA PARTNER



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CONFERENCE OVERVIEW - [REGISTER NOW](#)

Join us at this year's leading electric power conference for the ERCOT/Gulf Coast region.

675+ attendance expected based on 2022 attendance of 690 with approximately one-third of these attendees holding upper level management titles ranging from CEO to Vice President.

Pre-Conference Activity Add-Ons - Monday, October 2

- Workshop - "New Kid on the Block: Virtual Power Plants in ERCOT" from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (Registration Opens at 12:30 PM)
- Welcome Cocktail Reception for Attendees at AT&T Conference Center from 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Fall Conference Day One - Tuesday, October 3

- Registration and Continental Breakfast opens at 7:00 AM
- Conference opening welcome at 8:15 AM
- Sessions and keynotes from 8:25 AM - 5:00 PM
- Cocktail Reception from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Fall Conference Day Two - Wednesday, October 4

- Registration and Continental Breakfast opens at 7:45 AM
- Conference Announcements at 8:25 AM
- Sessions and keynotes from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- Conference adjourns at close of final session at 12:00 PM

THANKS TO OUR PLANNING COMMITTEE

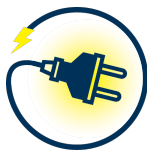
Conference Chairs:

Jason Ryan, Exec. Vice President, CenterPoint Energy

Juliana Sersen, Partner, Baker Botts

Ryan Aldridge, AB Power Advisors
Shelly Botkin, TPPA
Mindy Carr, Oncor
Beth Garza, R Street Institute
Eric Goff, Eric Winters Goff, LLC
Dan Jones, Independent Consultant

Jessica Oney, NRG
Robert Orr, Lone Star Transmission
Julie Parsley, Pedernales Electric Coop
Sandip Sharma, Shell Energy
Mark Stover, Apex Clean Energy



AGENDA - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

7:00 AM

REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:15 AM GCPA President's Welcome **Mark Dreyfus**, Principal, MD Energy Consulting
Recognition of Chairs **Kim Casey**, Executive Director, GCPA
Conference Introduction **Jason Ryan**, Exec. VP, CenterPoint Energy & **Juliana Sersen**, Partner, Baker Botts

8:25 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Representative Todd Hunter

Chair, State Affairs Committee, Texas State Legislature

9:10 AM

Session I - ERCOT Resource Adequacy: Reliability Standard and Market Design Implications

Senate Bill 3 (2021) requires the PUCT and ERCOT to establish a reliability standard for the ERCOT region and to procure ancillary or reliability services on a competitive basis to ensure that the adopted reliability standard will be achieved. ERCOT's reliability standard analysis is ongoing. House Bill 1500 (2023) added requirements and limitations that may present challenges. Senate Bill 2627 (2023) would subsidize up to 10 GW of new dispatchable generation. What is the status of these efforts and where might it all be headed?

Moderator: **Dan Jones**, Independent Consultant

Panelists:

Carrie Bivens, Vice President, ERCOT IMM Director, Potomac Economics

Zach Ming, Director, Energy & Environmental Economics (E3)

Sam Newell, Principal, The Brattle Group

Woody Rickerson, Sr. Vice President & COO, ERCOT

10:00 AM

NETWORKING BREAK

10:30 AM

Session II - The Consumer Perspective on ERCOT

Prior to Winter Storm Uri, most Texans had no idea who ERCOT was or what it did. Today, Texas consumers are very concerned about the reliability of the grid and are experiencing sticker shock at the escalating cost of electricity. From areas open to retail competition to the regulated areas, consumers are exploring options to manage electricity reliability and costs including alternative REP supply options, behind the meter/backup generators, solar panels, demand response, and energy efficiency projects. For some residential consumers, they have no choice but to curtail consumption and/or seek financial assistance. This panel of consumers from various segments will share their views on the ERCOT retail market and its far-reaching impacts.

Moderator: **Jay Harpole**, CEO, APG&E

Panelists:

Shawn McGlothlin, Director, Global Energy, Texas Instruments

Melissa Trevino, Asst. Vice President, Power, Oxy

Margo Weisz, Executive Director, Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute

11:15 AM

Vignette ~ Lubbock Integration Update - Chris Rowley, Director, REP & Market Relations, Oncor and **Matt Rose**, Public Affairs and Government Relations Manager, Lubbock Power & Light

11:30 AM

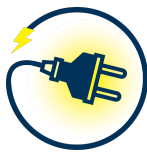
Session III - GCPA Insider: Chat with RTO CEOs

Both different and alike! While each RTO operates according to its own market structure and rulebook, all are faced with a growing set of common challenges: the rapidly changing generation resource mix in a time of capacity constraints and backlogged interconnection queues, latent demand for transmission expansion, and renewed pressure to prepare for extreme weather. In this GCPA Insider Chat, the CEOs of ERCOT and MISO will share their insights and views on what it will take to meet these challenges while delivering the moderate cost and reliability that regulators and consumers have come to expect.

RTO CEOs:

John Bear, CEO, MISO

Pablo Vegas, President & CEO, ERCOT

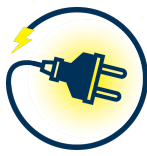


AGENDA - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3 (continued)

- 12:15 PM **LUNCHEON**
- 1:45 PM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Chris Moser, Executive Vice President, Head of Competitive Markets and Policy, NRG
- 2:15 PM **Session IV - The Investor's Viewpoint**
Over the past 12- 18 months, a considerable number of ERCOT power generation assets have changed hands. Both fossil and renewable power plants traded, and there have been changes in Texas law designed to subsidize the construction of new dispatchable generation. What factors have contributed to the growing number of transactions across all fuel types? What will happen to investor interest in ERCOT as the invisible hand of the past 20+ years is replaced by a more interventionist approach to markets? This panel aims to better understand what investors are seeing in renewable and fossil power opportunities today, and whether market participants should anticipate continued investor interest in ERCOT.
Moderator: **Mark Egan**, Founder, Energy Evolution Advisors
Panelists:
Mark Crawford, Head of Power, Kennedy Lewis Investment Management
Eddy Daniels, Partner, McGuireWoods
Tyler Kopp, Principal, Energy Capital Partners
Kellie Metcalf, Managing Partner, EnCap Investments
Anthony Omokha, Managing Director, Ares Management Corporation
- 3:15 PM **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 3:45 PM **Vignette ~ Texas PUC: The Work in Progress - David Smeltzer**, Agency Counsel, Rules, PUCT
- 4:00 PM **Session V - Market Reactions from Power Generators**
The recent 2023 Legislative Session resulted in numerous changes for the existing generation fleet. The panel will delve into HB 1500 (the PUCT and ERCOT sunset bill that contained many market design additions) and discuss how its various market design features could impact the existing generation fleet. We'll also touch on recent results from Firm Fuel Supply Service, ECRS, and Summer 2023, and discuss how these items impact current and future opportunities for generation. Lastly, the panel will discuss the current regulatory environment at the Legislature, PUCT, and ERCOT and discuss their thoughts on how regulatory certainty or uncertainty impact current and future expectations. This panel represents a diverse set of technologies and will provide valuable insight through the lens of generators with various views on the market.
Moderator: **Ryan Aldridge**, Managing Partner, AB Power Advisors
Panelists:
Tina Lee, Vice President, Asset Management, Wattbridge
Caitlin Smith, Vice President, Policy & Corporate Communications, Jupiter Power
Mark Spencer, Project Director, LS Power
Frank Swigonski, Director, Market Design, Pine Gate Renewables
- 4:45 - 6:45 PM **COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

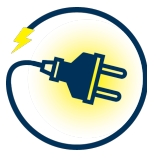
REGISTRATION QUESTIONS?

Contact Robin Comeaux at rcomeaux@gulfcoastpower.org or 281-610-4303



AGENDA - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

- 7:45 AM **REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
- 8:25 AM Announcements: **Kim Casey**, Executive Director, GCPA
- 8:30 AM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Doug Lewin
Author, Texas and Energy Power Newsletter; President, Stoic Energy Consulting
- 8:55 AM **Vignette ~ SPEER's View on Energy Efficiency - Noah Oaks**, State & Local Policy Manager, SPEER
- 9:10 AM **Session VI - Energy Efficiency and DR: Stepping Up the Game in Texas**
Texas has fallen behind other states in its attention to energy efficiency and demand response. Is there really little being done, or is it just not being measured with the same precision as required in other regulated areas? Are large customers the only ones benefiting from demand response programs? Is anyone focusing on reducing or managing residential consumption? Are there structural barriers in ERCOT preventing greater and more effective investments on the demand-side? Listen in as these panelists share their thoughts with ERCOT's top regulator.
Co-Moderators: **Kathleen Jackson**, Interim Chairman, PUCT
Senator Nathan Johnson, Texas Senate District 16
Panelists:
Garry Jones, Director, Energy Efficiency, Oncor
Michael Lee, CEO, Octopus Energy
Steve Nadel, Executive Director, ACEEE
Cyrus Reed, Conservation Director, Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club
- 10:00 AM **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 10:30 AM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Rudy Garza, President & CEO, CPS Energy
Facilitated by Mark Dreyfus, Principal, MD Energy Consulting
- 10:50 AM **emPOWERing Young Professionals Award Ceremony**
- 11:00 AM **Vignette ~ What Is Resiliency? - Jason Ryan**, Executive Vice President, Regulatory Services & Government Affairs, CenterPoint Energy
- 11:15 AM **Session VII - Taking a Punch and Getting Back Up Quicker: The Path to Greater Resilience on the Texas Grid**
The decades long focus on grid reliability has expanded to emphasize resilience. This panel will address how well the grid takes a punch and gets back up—as extreme weather presents more risk of missing customer and community expectations of the power grid. As with most challenges, there is no silver bullet for a resilience solution, and the panel will discuss their different approaches to the topic. The panel will also discuss legislation passed in Texas in 2021 and 2023, and how its implementation will benefit Texans.
Moderator: **Brad Tutunjian**, Vice President of Regulatory Policy, CenterPoint Energy
Panelists:
Mike Grable, Vice President – Chief Sustainability, Compliance & Risk Officer, Oncor
Brad Grainger, Director North America Sales, RS Technologies, Inc.
Resmi Surendran, Vice President of Regulatory Policy, Shell
Joel Yu, Vice President, Policy, Enchanted Rock
- 12:00 PM **CONFERENCE ADJOURNS**



PRE-CONFERENCE ADD-ONS - MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

[REGISTER FOR ONE OR BOTH PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS HERE](#)

PRE-CONFERENCE HALF DAY WORKSHOP

“New Kid on the Block: Virtual Power Plants in ERCOT”
AT&T Conference Center 1:00 - 5:00 (Check-In at 12:30 PM)

SEE FULL AGENDA ON PAGE 9

In the second half of 2022, the Texas PUC formed a task force made up of market participants and non-profit organizations to work with ERCOT and the PUC to develop a pilot project for aggregated distributed energy resources, also known as virtual power plants, to provide energy and ancillary services in the ERCOT market. The pilot project kicked off in January 2023, and by the time of the workshop, virtual power plants will be powering Texans. The workshop will provide attendees with valuable insights into the latest developments in the pilot project, what the next phase of the pilot project might look like, and the vital role virtual power plants will play in the ERCOT market in the future.

The workshop features presentations and panels that will provide practical insights into virtual power plants. Key topics that will be addressed include:

- The fundamentals behind the Texas PUC decision to move forward with the pilot project
- The innovative process used to develop the pilot project
- The current status of the pilot project, including hearing from market participants with virtual power plants providing power to the ERCOT market
- Opportunities and challenges as the PUC considers expanding the pilot project

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from the speakers about their experience on the ground in deploying virtual power plant projects, what has worked well and what has not, as well as views into the future of these projects in the ERCOT market and elsewhere. The workshop will provide a valuable platform for government officials, regulators and industry professionals to exchange ideas and collaborate on the future of virtual power plants.

Early Bird Price WITH Conference Registration: \$225

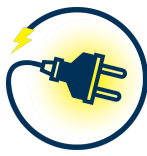
Early Bird Price WITHOUT Conference Registration: \$325

WELCOME COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Mingle and network at a Welcome Cocktail Reception
Monday, October 2nd - AT&T Conference Center - 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM
Pricing: \$45

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS?

Contact Robin Comeaux at rcomeaux@gulfcoastpower.org or 281-610-4303



FULL AGENDA

PRE-CONFERENCE HALF DAY WORKSHOP ON MON. OCTOBER 2

“New Kid on the Block: Virtual Power Plants in ERCOT”

AT&T Conference Center 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (Check-In at 12:30 PM)

In the second half of 2022, the Texas PUC formed a task force made up of market participants and non-profit organizations to work with ERCOT and the PUC to develop a pilot project for aggregated distributed energy resources, also known as virtual power plants, to provide energy and ancillary services in the ERCOT market. The pilot project kicked off in January 2023, and by the time of the workshop, virtual power plants will be powering Texans. The workshop will provide attendees with valuable insights into the latest developments in the pilot project, what the next phase of the pilot project might look like, and the vital role virtual power plants will play in the ERCOT market in the future.

INTRODUCTION - Jason Ryan, Exec. Vice President, Regulatory Services & Government Affairs, CenterPoint Energy

1:00 PM KEYNOTE: The National Perspective on VPPs

Speaker: **Arushi Sharma Frank**, Sr. Counsel & US Energy Markets Policy Lead, Tesla

1:20 PM PANEL I: The Texas Journey : What Have We Done So Far?

Moderator: **Will McAdams**, Commissioner, PUCT

Panelists:

Eric Goff, President, Goff Policy

Jason Ryan, Exec. Vice President, Regulatory Services & Government Affairs, CenterPoint Energy

2:05 PM KEYNOTE: ERCOT Status Update

Speaker: **Jason Ryan**, Exec. Vice President, Regulatory Services & Government Affairs, CenterPoint Energy

2:35 PM BREAK

3:05 PM KEYNOTE: VPPs: A Report from Google & Brattle

Speaker: **Aaron Berndt**, Head of Energy Industry Partnerships, Google

3:20 PM PANEL II: The Critical Importance of VPPs for the Future Grid

Moderator: **Eric Goff**, President, Goff Policy

Panelists:

Aaron Berndt, Head of Energy Industry Partnerships, Google

Scott Hinson, CTO, Pecan Street

Micalah Spenrath, Policy Principal, Texas Advanced Energy Business Alliance

Margo Weisz, Executive Director, Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute

4:10 PM PANEL III: The VPP Providers' Perspective

Moderator: **Tiffany Wu**, Advisor, PUCT

Panelists:

John Bonnin, Sr. Consultant, AutoGrid Systems, Inc.

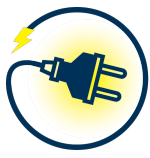
Jaden Crawford, Director of Policy, David Energy

Kristina Rollins, Assistant General Counsel, Regulatory Affairs, NRG

Rajiv Shah, Head of U.S. Policy & Markets, Octopus Energy

Jonathan Tijerina, Vice President, Enterprise Risk & Development, CPS Energy

5:00 PM ADJOURN



PRICING INFORMATION

CONFERENCE PRICING - price includes one and a half day conference on 10/3 - 10/4 and cocktail reception on 10/3. *Non-Member rate includes 2023 Individual Membership good through 1/31/24.

CONFERENCE	Early Bird Registration through 9/12/23	Regular Registration 9/13/23-9/29/23	Onsite Reg. 10/3/23 & 10/4/23
GCPA Members	\$850	\$1000	\$1100
Non-Members*	\$1100	\$1250	\$1350
State Govt. Employees	\$350	\$350	\$400
GCPA Members in Job Search Mode	\$425	\$425	\$525
Non-Members in Job Search Mode*	\$675	\$675	\$775
Full-Time Students	\$175	\$175	\$225

WORKSHOP PRICING - price includes half day workshop on 10/2, beverages and snack.

WORKSHOP	Early Bird Registration through 9/12/23	Regular Registration 9/13/23-9/29/23	Onsite Reg. 10/2/23
Fee w/ conf. registration	\$225	\$275	\$300
Fee W/OUT conf. reg.	\$325	\$375	\$400

WELCOME RECEPTION PRICING - price includes welcome reception on 10/2, one drink ticket and hors d'oeuvres. Additional cocktails can be purchased at the bar.

RECEPTION	Early Bird Registration through 9/12/23	Regular Registration 9/13/23-9/29/23	Onsite Reg. 10/2/23
Fee	\$45	\$45	\$50

REFUND POLICY - Cancellations must be received by 5:00 PM on Friday, September 15 in order to receive a refund. A 10% service fee (minimum fee of \$10) will be charged against all refunds. Please direct all cancellation requests to Mary Armstrong at marmstrong@gulfcoastpower.org.