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EEI 2024 Closing Keynote Session

Thursday's keynote sessions began with a conversation between EEI Chair Maria Pope, president and CEO of Portland General Electric, and Antonio Neri, president and CEO of Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), on the changing technology industry and Neri’s career journey.

Neri explained that he has been in the IT industry for four decades and has witnessed many changes happen in the technology industry throughout his career. “Now, we are entering the conversational AI era, where it’s all about data and putting that data to work to improve productivity and decision-making,” he said.

“Data is the most precious asset you have,” Neri continued. “All of us will have to record data value in the balance sheet [in the future]. You have to protect your data
and have to make it work for you. Only 15 percent of data is being utilized effectively today.

Pope also referenced Neri’s work to foster a strong culture at HPE through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, saying that Neri’s “leadership and discussion on diversity and inclusion were very inspirational.”

Neri concluded by noting the rising prevalence of AI across all industries. “All of us in this room need to have a minor in AI,” he said. It doesn't matter what you do: engineer, finance, legal, human resources. If you don't understand how this technology works, you're going to be left behind.”

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**Highlights from Thursday’s Programming**

Above, L to R: Bob Rowe, Principal, RCR LLC; Eric Chung, Partner, Energy & Utilities, West Monroe; Brian Bird, President and CEO, NorthWestern Energy; Commissioner Tricia Pridemore, Georgia Public Service Commission, and First Vice President, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; James M. (Jamie) Van Nostrand, Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities; and Jose Esparza, Senior Vice President of Public Policy, Arizona Public Service.
Thursday morning began with a panel discussion between state regulatory commissioners and EEI member companies on the regulatory models and constructs that can support the delivery of resilient clean energy.

NorthWestern Energy President and CEO Brian Bird discussed the importance of maintaining affordability and reliability, saying “Collectively, we and commissioners should remind customers that our service is extremely inexpensive. People don’t often think about what power costs. We need to work together to continue providing low cost, but to do that in a reliable way.”

Above, L to R: Scott Aaronson, Senior Vice President of Security and Preparedness, EEI; Susan Hermann, Industrial Cybersecurity Strategic Development Lead, Black & Veatch; Chris Grove, Director of Cybersecurity Strategy, Nozomi Networks; and Joe McClelland, Director of the Office of Energy Infrastructure Security, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Emerging technologies and their impacts on the electric power industry were top-of-mind during Thursday’s programming. EEI Senior Vice President of Security and Preparedness Scott Aaronson moderated a panel discussion on mitigating cybersecurity risks in supply chain compliance activities.
"[The electric power industry is] critical to national security, critical to the economic health of the United States, and critical to the health and safety of the customers we serve," said Aaronson. "The grid is changing dramatically, and we have a lot of opportunity here. ... We have to be better today than we were yesterday, and better tomorrow than we are today."


"The electric industry sector is doing everything right, but you’re vulnerable because your suppliers are vulnerable," said McClelland. "[Cybersecurity is] too much for the federal government to handle by itself. We have to work together. ...We’ve been beneficiaries from working with the electric power industry."

AI was centerstage in The Hub. EEI Vice President of Government Relations Eric Grey moderated a series of Tech Talks and panel discussions on the use of AI in the energy industry, including how to harness the technology to increase demand flexibility and to drive transportation electrification plans.

Rick Perez, principal at Deloitte, gave a stage setting talk about the power of AI in the energy industry. He asked ChatGPT how much power will be used by data centers by 2030, and it answered 10 percent. Then, he asked how much will be used by humans by 2030, and it answered 20 percent. "So, when you're looking at your company’s organic (human) workforce, you see the work being done by humans. But for the inorganic work (AI), it should give you pause. How do you track and analyze how much organic versus inorganic work is being done? A number of folks are experimenting with and using AI tools."
The Diverse and Emerging Leaders Cohort

EEI was proud to welcome a new cohort of Diverse and Emerging Leaders, a CEO-nominated group of high-potential leaders from across the electric power industry. The group was invited to participate in EEI 2024, as well as curated leadership development programming.

On Tuesday, the cohort was welcomed by EEI Senior Vice President of Security and Preparedness Scott Aaronson; EEI Executive Director of Clean Energy and Environment Alex Bond; EEI Senior Vice President of International Programs Dr. Lawrence Jones; and EEI Senior Vice President of Energy Supply and Finance and Chief ESG Officer Richard McMahon.

On Wednesday morning, EEI Managing Director of External Affairs Kwame Canty; EEI Vice President of Government Relations Eric Grey; EEI Senior Director of State Regulatory Affairs Patrice Hunter; and EEI Executive Director of External Affairs Kristine Telford held a panel discussion about industry-government partnerships. This was followed by a keynote from U.S. Representative Steven Horsford (D-NV).
Outgoing EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO of Edison International, welcomed the cohort to Wednesday’s lunch session, which featured a panel discussion on leadership career paths with Allete Board Chair, President, and CEO Bethany Owen; American Transmission Company President and CEO Teresa Mogensen; and NiSource President and CEO Lloyd Yates. In the evening, NV Energy hosted the cohort at a WNBA game.

On Thursday morning, Jian Wei, Principal of Power, Utilities, and Renewables at Deloitte, moderated a discussion on inclusive leadership with David Arthur, Vice President of Public Affairs and Sustainability, PPL; Jen Hensley, Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Con Edison; and Tony Sanchez, Executive Vice President of Business Development and External Relations, NV Energy.

EEI’s Board of Directors recognized the 28-member cohort during its Board meeting.

Above: EEI President and CEO Dan Brouillette.
Thank You for Attending EEI 2024

EEI 2024 has come to a close, and it has been an invigorating 2.5 days showcasing how America’s investor-owned electric companies are delivering the future of energy.

Thank you to all the speakers, panelists, EEI member company executives, partners, and attendees who shared their perspectives, knowledge, and commitment to the industry, both in person and online with the #EEI2024 hashtag. Thank you, also, to our sponsors who helped make EEI 2024 such a success. You can find all the highlights from the last few days here.

I look forward to seeing you next year in New Orleans, June 2-4!

Dan Brouillette
EEI President and CEO

Social Post of the Day
In his #EEI2024 keynote, Founder and CEO Jensen Huang described how #AI will transform the U.S. power grid by enabling #utilities to improve energy efficiency, reduce operating costs, and advance clean energy.💡

Read the blog to learn more: nvda.ws/45w86xy

Follow all of the action on social media by using #EEI2024 in your posts and by using the EEI 2024 Social Media Toolkit. Amplify the digital conversation by retweeting, reposting, and sharing with your friends and followers.

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Quick Clicks: Resources for Your Trip Home

- EEI 2024 Home
- EEI Announces 2024-2025 Board of Directors Press Release
- Edison Award Press Release
- International Edison Award Press Release
- EEI 2024 Sponsors
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