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EEI Announces New Leadership

Today, EEI’s Board of Directors elected Portland General Electric President and CEO Maria Pope as EEI Chair for the 2024-2025 cycle. Pope succeeds Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO of Edison International. Calvin Butler, president and CEO of Exelon Corporation, and David Campbell, chairman and CEO of Evergy, also were elected as Vice Chairs.

“We are pleased to welcome Maria as EEI chair for the 2024-2025 cycle,” said EEI President and CEO Dan Brouillette. “Maria previously served as an EEI vice chair and has been critical in our industry’s efforts to mitigate wildfire risk and liability. She is a tremendous leader, and we all look forward to her ascension as chair.”

“It is an honor to serve as EEI’s chair during this transformational period. EEI’s member companies continue to lead on clean energy and are focused on affordability and reliability as we meet accelerating customer demand,” said Pope. “The investments being made to enhance the reliability and resilience of the energy grid have never been more important as we work to deliver the future of energy.”
Brouillette also applauded the vice chairs who will support Pope as part of the leadership team.

“Calvin and David are exceptional leaders for our industry, and we are very fortunate for their service and dedication to EEI.”

Read more in EEI’s press release.

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**Wednesday Morning Keynote Session**

This morning began with a warm welcome from EEI President and CEO Dan Brouillette, who shared an overview of the day’s programming and discussed EEI member companies’ commitment to delivering resilient clean energy.

“I enjoyed seeing so many of you throughout the day yesterday and at the opening reception,” said Brouillette. “We have another great day ahead of us.”
Above: U.S. Congressman Steven Horsford (D-NV).

Brouillette was followed by U.S. Congressman Steven Horsford (D-NV), who welcomed attendees to Las Vegas and spoke about the strides the United States has made in the transition to clean energy.

“Over the past few years, some monumental pieces of legislation and policies from the Biden-Harris administration, including the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, have transformed the energy landscape of the United States,” said Congressman Horsford. “These will translate to a more affordable, reliable, and efficient energy supply to our homes and businesses.”

He also spoke about the strength of industry-government partnerships in delivering resilient clean energy: “Let's collaborate to lower costs for customers and small business owners and make sure no one in our nation experiences unnecessary energy loss. Americans' livelihoods, and, sometimes, their very lives, are on the line. I look forward to our continued partnership to advance America's energy technology.”
Above, L to R: Chairman Willie Phillips, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and EEI Vice Chair Calvin Butler, President and CEO, Exelon Corporation.

Wednesday’s opening session continued with an insightful conversation on the energy transition and regulatory policies between Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Willie Phillips and EEI Vice Chair Calvin Butler, president and CEO of Exelon Corporation.

On industry-government partnership, Chairman Phillips said it’s important for FERC, state regulators, legislators, and electric companies to work together: “We’re all in this together. So, when you ask me do we have the right tools—we have the tools. The question is, are we deploying them the right way to get us where we need to go?”

Butler noted that addressing resource adequacy is a current focus for the energy industry. “It’s all about the reliability and resilience of the system,” said Butler. “All of this means nothing if we don't get that done.”

“I want to applaud the work of so many utilities here today on reliability,” agreed Chairman Phillips. “For more than 100 years, many of you have provided reliable service. ... It's the most surprising thing when you go to the wall and flip the switch and the lights don't come on. That's how reliable the service is.”

Butler and Chairman Phillips concluded by talking about environmental justice, with Chairman Phillips noting it’s a personal topic for him, having grown up in what was an environmental justice community in Alabama before the term was developed.
“It's not true that dealing with environmental justice communities makes our process longer; I believe it's the opposite,” said Chairman Phillips. “By addressing environmental justice concerns from communities on the front end, you save time on the back end. At the end of the day, folks just want to be heard about things that matter to them.”

Above, L to R: EEI Vice Chair David Campbell, Chairman and CEO, Evergy; EEI Vice Chair Calvin Butler, President and CEO, Exelon Corporation; EEI Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric; Outgoing EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, President and CEO, Edison International.

The morning keynote session concluded with the popular and time-honored tradition of a CEO leadership panel. Outgoing EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO of Edison International, moderated this conversation with EEI Chair Maria Pope, president and CEO of Portland General Electric, EEI Vice Chair Calvin Butler, president and CEO of Exelon Corporation, and EEI Vice Chair David Campbell, chairman and CEO of Evergy.

“All of our companies in the room, we should be really proud of what we're doing,” said Pizarro to open the conversation. “We are leading the way to a resilient and clean energy future…and we’re finding some familiar and some new challenges and opportunities out there ahead of us.”

“We are at a time of historic opportunity,” agreed Campbell. “Everyone wants to talk about our space. It's great to be playing offense and leading and taking part of the transition that is taking place.”

“All of the things that we are doing come down to the reliability and resilience of the system,” emphasized Butler. “We are investing $35 billion over the next 5 years and enhancing our grid. ... It's all about meeting customer demands. Our customers are expecting something different of us tomorrow than they do today.”
“The policy work that we have has been extraordinary, starting at the highest levels of federal government, to the state governments, to local communities seeing energy development for the first time,” said Pope on the importance of industry-government partnerships. “What we’re not seeing with the rising energy demand is a pace of change that we’re not used to. This pace of change is going to challenge us. We need to keep the main thing, the main thing: reliability and affordability have been important for more than 100 years and are absolutely paramount today.”

Pizarro concluded the conversation by acknowledging the history of Juneteenth and the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the energy industry: “We wouldn’t be here but for all the folks who recognized the importance of diversity at a time when it wasn’t such a big thing. Fast forward, the diversity you are seeing in our industry, that change has been fantastic. And it’s really about diversity of thought. We all stand on the shoulders of folks who really planted the seeds to support others who didn’t look like them decades and decades ago.”

Above, L to R: Bill Farber, Regional Design Supervisor, PPL Electric Utilities, and Kim Greene, Chairman, President, and CEO, Georgia Power; Aaron Minervine, Operations Manager of Major Underground, CenterPoint Energy, Ryan Schoor, Supervisor Underground, CenterPoint Energy, and Kim Greene; Corey Capasso, Founder and CEO, Urbint, Kim Greene, and Fran Forehand, Senior Vice President of Transmission, Georgia Power.

The morning also included a presentation of the Thomas F. Farrell Safety Leadership and Innovation Awards by Georgia Power Chairman, President, and CEO Kim Greene.

The recipients were selected for the following achievements across three categories:

- **Organization Award**: CenterPoint Energy for its direct control of high-energy hazards related to movement of distribution equipment in excess of six tons in enclosed spaces.
- **Member Company Employee Leader**: PPL Electric Utilities Design Supervisor William F. Farber III for enhancing safety by engineering and constructing a first-of-its-kind battery-powered electrical safety exhibit to teach first responders, contractors, and the general public about dangers associated with electricity.
- **Partner Service Provider**: Urbint and Georgia Power for their partnership to create a revolutionary artificial intelligence-powered hazard recognition and
reporting tool to enhance workforce safety.

Read more in EEI’s press release.

Above, L to R: Junhui Zhao, Manager of Transmission and Substation Data Innovation, Eversource Energy; Umair Zia, Director of Distribution Engineering, Eversource Energy; and Asim Fazlagic, Vice President for Substations & Transmission Lines Engineering, Eversource Energy.

2024 Edison Award Winners: EEI Congratulates Eversource Energy and EDP

On Wednesday afternoon at EEI 2024, EEI President and CEO Dan Brouillette proudly presented the 96th Edison Award to Eversource Energy and the International Edison Award to EDP.

Presented annually and selected by a panel of former energy industry executives, the Edison Award is the electric power industry’s highest honor, recognizing distinguished leadership, innovation, and contributions to the advancement of the electric power industry. (Read about the finalists in Electric Perspectives.)

Eversource launched the SmartInspect platform in 2022 to streamline inspections of its thousands of miles of transmission and distribution lines. Using advanced image recognition and artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms, the cloud-enabled platform
improves efficiency and accuracy, centralizes data collection and analysis efforts, and automatically identifies potential system defects.

Using SmartInspect, Eversource conducted a thorough circuit patrol across its territory in three states, which saved hundreds of hours compared to traditional methods and improved accuracy and efficiency. Broken or missing animal protection, vegetation encroachment, and broken or cracked crossarms are examples of several high-priority issues identified and repaired with the support of the platform, improving reliability for all Eversource customers.

Read more in EEI's Edison Award press release.

Above: Kelly Snyder, Senior Director of Origination, North America, EDP Renewables.

EDP’s Alqueva Park—an innovative hybrid hydropower, floating solar, and battery storage project located in southern Portugal in Europe’s largest artificial lake—is Europe’s largest floating solar energy production facility in a dam reservoir. The project consists of 12,000 solar panels supported by 25,000 floats, which can generate 7.5 gigawatt-hours of clean energy each year. That’s roughly 30 percent of the annual energy usage of the region or the equivalent of around 1,500 households.

In partnership with local stakeholders, most of the reservoir area was left free for neighboring communities to use for recreational purposes and fishing tied to the
local economy, benefiting both the community and the environment.

Read more in EEI’s International Edison Award press release.

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Above, L to R: Sandra Douglass Morgan, President, Las Vegas Raiders, and Doug Cannon, President and CEO, NV Energy.

**Wednesday Afternoon Keynote Session**

Following the presentation of the 2024 Edison Awards, Las Vegas Raiders President Sandra Douglass Morgan delivered an inspirational afternoon keynote. Joined in conversation by Doug Cannon, president and CEO of NV Energy, Douglass Morgan talked about her experiences as the first women or first Black person to hold certain positions throughout her career, and how she approaches leadership through this lens.

“When you realize that you are the first to do something, there is a greater responsibility,” said Douglass Morgan. “It’s really important to pay it forward and to be able to mentor other people of color and women. It’s an honor, but, to me, it won’t be a success if I’m the first and only. ... When they say ‘trailblazer,’ I know it’s a compliment, but it’s not success if it’s just a trail. It needs to be an eight-lane highway. It can’t just be one-and-done with me.”
She also spoke about her leadership style: “As leaders, you have to be intentional. We can't be involved in every single interview, or drafting and crafting every single policy. But, it is our responsibility to stay on top of the people who do and to be clear about what expectations are.”

Cannon commended Douglass Morgan on her work to expand the Raiders fan base to include more women and people of color, saying that leaders “have to be deliberate, whether in how we shape our organization or how we interact with customers—these things don’t happen by accident. ... If we deliberately take action, we can facilitate change.”

Douglass Morgan concluded by sharing her goals: “My goal for myself is to make sure that I’m staying true to myself at all times. ... To me, integrity is important at all times. Making my children proud is important.”

Highlights from Wednesday’s Programming

EEI President and CEO Dan Brouillette began the day’s programming in The Hub by discussing the power of partnerships in promoting workforce diversity with American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) President and CEO Ralph Cleveland and
EEI Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer, and Chief Human Resources Officer Courtney Peterson.

“This is an important relationship that we have between our two organizations, and it goes well beyond some words on a page,” said Brouillette. “It is a deeper commitment to our workforce.”

“I learned at a very early age the importance of bringing the best talent to bear when developing our nation’s infrastructure,” he continued. “It takes all of us to do this, and the scale of these efforts is sometimes lost on the American people. As a leader, I need to recruit from every part of our country and bring talent from every sector of this industry and other industries. We need to bring everyone together on these important projects. It’s the only way that, as a nation, we will be able to get anything done.”

Brouillette and Cleveland signed a memorandum of understanding to reinforce EEI’s and AABE’s joint commitment to strengthening the energy workforce. Read more about this commitment in EEI's press release.

Above, L to R: Dan Hahn, Partner and Energy Services Providers Segment Lead, Guidehouse; Campbell Howe, Senior Strategy Advisor, U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office; Yuri Freedman, Senior Director of Business Development, SoCalGas; Melody Birmingham, Executive Vice President and Group President of Utilities, NiSource; and Brian Wolff, Chief Strategy Officer and Executive Vice President of Public Policy and External Affairs, EEI.
EEI Chief Strategy Officer and Executive Vice President of Public Policy and External Affairs Brian Wolff continued the day's programming by moderating a conversation on potential business models and policy requirements needed to develop and deploy connective hydrogen infrastructure with NiSource Executive Vice President and Group President of Utilities Melody Birmingham, SoCalGas Senior Director of Business Development Yuri Freedman, Guidehouse Partner and Energy Providers Segment Lead Dan Hahn, and U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office Senior Strategy Advisor Campbell Howe.

“There are many growing opportunities in and around hydrogen,” said Wolff. “We have the 45B tax credit that was part of the Inflation Reduction Act and the Hydrogen Hubs Initiative in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which awarded seven regions across the United States with $7 billion in funding poised to spur about a $40-billion economy with tens of thousands of workers.”

Deloitte Vice Chair and U.S. Power, Utilities, and Renewables Leader Jim Thomson moderated a panel discussion on the impacts of distributed energy resource integration on energy grid resilience with Southern California Edison Senior Vice President of System Planning and Engineering Shinjini Menon, White House Office of Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation Senior Policy Advisor Whitney Muse, and Black & Veatch Digital Advisory Leader Joe Zhou.

“In the past, electric companies looked at mature technologies, and regulators didn’t want them to take on much risk,” said Menon. “That needs to change. Bringing the regulators along with innovation efforts is a big piece of the puzzle. Technologies cost money, so changing the script from the cost of taking action to the cost of not taking action needs to be considered.”
The Edison Foundation’s Institute for the Energy Transition Executive Director Eric Holdsworth led midday programming in The Hub on advanced generation and grid technologies.

EEI Executive Vice President of the Business Operations Group and Regulatory Affairs Phil Moeller began the midday Hub programming by moderating a panel discussion on building system resilience, with a specific look at the Texas energy grid. This conversation featured Public Utility Commission of Texas Commissioner Lori Cobos; ENODA Founder, Chief Policy Officer, and Global Affairs Officer Paul Domjan; and Electric Reliability Council of Texas CEO Pablo Vegas.

“I'm so impressed by the leadership of the Texas energy sector, because what happened after Winter Storm Uri is not going to happen again,” said Moeller. “You should all be proud of the work that you've done in response to that. We should look to Texas, and we should look to ERCOT, for how to make these changes to make the grid more resilient. With all the load growth coming, we know there's more to be done.”

This conversation was followed by a variety of Tech Talks and panel discussions on the multiple avenues to building and maintaining a resilient energy grid, including virtual power plants, deploying advanced nuclear energy, and integrating robotics.
In the midday breakout sessions, Fortis Inc. President and CEO David Hutchens moderated a panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges that on-shoring and near-shoring, geopolitical risks, trade, and tariffs create for critical infrastructure supply chains.

“From a risk perspective, every electric company needs to be thinking about supply chain resilience,” said Hutchens. “Thinking back just five years ago, we weren’t talking about supply chain all that much. If we needed more stuff, we just ordered more stuff, because our suppliers ensured we were fine. The COVID-19 pandemic changed that.”
Southern Company Chairman, President, and CEO Chris Womack joined a panel to talk about how electric companies and technology partners are focused on meeting growing electricity demand reliably and affordably. He was joined by Energy Impact Partners Managing Director of Research and Innovation Evan Pittman, Elementl Power Chairman and CEO Chris Colbert, U.S. Department of Energy Office of Policy Acting Executive Director and Principal Deputy Director Carla Frisch, Enchanted Rock President and CEO Thomas McAndrew, and QTS Data Centers Chairman and CEO Chad Williams.

“As we think about making sure that we serve the needs of our customers, there’s got to be more dispatchable power in the mix as we go forward,” said Womack. “There’s solar, battery storage, all in the mix of this plan, but on that cold, wet morning, you’ve got to make sure you’ve got resources available. ... We still have commitments, and our focus on net zero and being sustainable remains. But to support the needs of the customers and the grid, we must have resources that are dispatchable.”
Maintaining customer affordability also was a topic of conversation for an afternoon breakout session. Jen Hensley, Senior Vice President of Customer Operations and Strategic Initiatives at Con Edison, joined a panel discussion on ensuring customers, regardless of income status, have equitable access to energy. The panelists included Hannah Bascom, chief market innovation officer for Uplight; Shaun Dentice, chief commercial officer for Resource Innovations; Arch Rao, CEO of SPAN; and Melissa Washington, senior vice president of customer operations and strategic initiatives for ComEd.

“People who are controlling the decision about infrastructure aren’t the same ones using it,” Hensley said, explaining that Con Edison has a program that helps renters understand what energy efficiency programs are available to them and to help them advocate for what they want and need. “Partnerships are going to be really key to how we navigate the next few years and get data we need to figure out how these things work.”

Concurrently, executives from the U.S. Department of Energy, NVIDIA, EPRI, Portland General Electric, and Oracle Energy & Water joined a panel discussion to highlight how electric companies and their partners are using AI to enhance electric company operations and to reshape the customer experience.
“The electric power sector is in a position that, over the next few years, we will face complexity that only accelerated computing and AI can address,” said Marc Spieler, senior director of energy at NVIDIA. “It’s not going to replace expertise in the field, but it will enhance and augment it. It will provide opportunities for people to tackle really challenging problems.”

Throughout the afternoon, The Hub was host to a series of deep-dive programming on electric transportation. EEI Senior Director of Electric Transportation Kellen Schefter moderated a variety of conversations on the future of electric transportation and electric vehicle adoption and integration, including a panel discussion with Southern California Edison President and CEO Steve Powell on transitioning to zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles.

“Partnership with customers is critical,” said Powell. “It starts with early engagement to understand their needs. ... Having a team that’s dedicated and can go and talk to [customers] and get feedback along the way—you need someone that’s on top of it and educated and wanting to help customers.”

Preventing Our Thursday Agenda

**Download the EEI 2024 Agenda**

**See All Speaker Information**

AI in The Hub
*Cobalt Ballroom | 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.*

Concurrent Breakout Sessions
Managing Cybersecurity Risks in the Grid Supply Chain: Practical Approaches for Mitigation
*Capri Room 6-7 | 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.*

Regulatory Perspectives on the Energy Transition
*Capri Room 8-9 | 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.*

Closing Keynote Sessions
*Azure Ballroom | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

- Antonio Neri, President and CEO, Hewlett Packard Enterprise in conversation with EEI Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric
- Michael Phelps, world champion swimmer and mental health advocate, in conversation with Drew Marsh, Chairman and CEO, Entergy

**REMINDER:** For security reasons, all attendees are asked to be in the Azure Ballroom by 9:45 a.m. for the closing keynote sessions.

Conference Lunch in The Hub
*Cobalt Ballroom | 12:00 p.m.*

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Social Post of the Day
On Juneteenth, it’s important to reflect on how far we’ve come as a country — and as an electric utility industry — to achieve diversity, equity and inclusion. It’s also important to recognize that simply commemorating the end of slavery in the United States is not enough.

I’m here with Southern California Edison (SCE)’s Kristen Yee and Robert Preston Lloyd, participants in Edison Electric Institute’s Diverse and Emerging Leaders program, which provides networking opportunities and exposure to critical issues facing our business. Kristen and Robert are strong leaders who will help power the clean energy future.

A special thanks to EEI’s Courtney A. Peterson, PCC for championing this program and leading our industry’s DEI efforts and strategies.

Edison International, Southern California Edison (SCE) and Trio are committed to fostering a culture of inclusion and belonging, where everyone can bring their whole selves to work.

#Juneteenth #freedomday #diversity #equity #inclusion #DEI

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.
Download the complete schedule of events at EEI 2024, or find it within the EEI 2024 app. Questions about the app? Contact Chelsea Mulcahy.

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