

CRACKING THE CODE

Meeting Changing Customer Demands & Expectations



Annual Public Utility Symposium

September 23, 2026

University of Missouri campus | Columbia, MO



September 22, 2026

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

(invitation only) Speaker and Advisory Board Reception, *The Broadway, Columbia, Missouri*

September 23, 2026

FRI Public Utility Symposium – 35th Annual

Memorial Union, University of Missouri campus, 518 Hitt Street

Symposium Networking and Registration

8:00 AM – 8:55 AM

Welcome

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Welcoming Remarks

Michael Sykuta, PhD, FRI Executive Director, *University of Missouri*

Matthew Martens, PhD, Provost & Exec. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, *University of Missouri*

Opening Remarks – FRI Advisory Chair & Commissioner Ann McCabe, *Illinois Commerce Commission*

Master of Ceremonies – Commissioner Erik Helland, *Iowa Utilities Commission*

Panel I - Intercepting the New Reality

9:15 AM – 10:25 AM

Before a code can be broken, the signals must be intercepted. This session maps the "raw data" hitting the system: massive AI loads, supply chain bottlenecks, and the critical water-energy requirements of data centers. By evaluating inputs from hyperscalers, economic developers, and supply chain specialists, we will define the "new reality" of the utility landscape. We will weigh the requirements for regional competitiveness against physical system constraints to find what our new regulatory protocols must solve.

Moderator: Chair Kayla Hahn, *Missouri Public Service Commission*

Panelists: Tyler Huebner, Central Region Manager – Energy Market Development, *Google*
Rebecca Losli, President, *Illinois American Water*
Glenn McDonell, Operations Manager, *Gridwise Alliance*
John Moura, Director - Reliability Assessment and Performance, *NERC*



Morning Break

10:25 AM - 10:40 AM

Panel II - Architecting for Reliability & Financial Health

10:40 AM – 11:50 AM

With signals named, our specialists must design protocols to manage resource constraints and balance demand with reliability and utility health. This panel introduces three alternative regulatory models: structural ring-fencing to isolate financial risk, consumer-identified resource frameworks for market speed, and cross-sector utility partnerships to optimize resources. We will explore how these alternative structures improve regulatory efficiency and support utility creditworthiness without compromising system integrity.

Moderator: President John Reynolds, *California Public Utilities Commission*

Panelists: Greg Gordon, Senior Advisor, *Moelis & Company*
Bryan Likins, Asst Gen Counsel, *Northern Indiana Public Service Co.*
Angela Navarro, President, *Align Energy Advisors*
Marc Vinson, Renewable Program Development Mgr., *Georgia Power*

FRI Crystal Award for Distinguished Contribution

11:50 AM-12:10 PM

Honoree: Greg White, retired President, National Assn of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

Lunch – plated service

12:15 PM – 1:20 PM

Service Awards **Special Acknowledgements**

12:20 PM – 12:30 PM *Introductions by: Mike Sykuta, FRI Executive Director*

Lunch Feature **Mizzou's New Energy Innovation Center**

12:30 PM – 12:45 PM *Speaker: Maria Chrysochoou, PhD, Dean & Ketcham Prof.*
College of Engineering, University of Missouri

Panel III - Breaking the Affordability Code

1:40 PM – 2:50PM

Even the best mechanisms need a tactical breakthrough. We will explore the implications of hyperscale growth and how alternative cost allocation models might affect affordability, equity, and economic value. What approaches do we have to protect low-income customers, while modernizing infrastructure, and fueling regional development?

Moderator: David Springe, Exec. Director, *National Assn. of State Utility Consumer Advocates*

Panelists: Jessica Hobbick, Vice President - Rates & Regulatory, *Arizona Public Service*
Chuck Rea, Vice President - Regulatory Pricing & Affordability, *American Water*
Scott Weitzel, Vice President of External Affairs, *Spire Missouri*
Patrick Woods, President, *ITC Great Plains*



Afternoon Break

2:50 PM - 3:10 PM

Panel IV - Strategic Command from the C-suite

3:10 PM – 4:20 PM

This final mission briefing brings together C-suite leadership to interpret the signals and deploy decoded strategies. This roundtable synchronizes the four pillars of modern utility management: affordability, infrastructure needs, reliability, and financial health. Leaders will share their strategies for 'cracking the code' of the modern regulatory compact. Their focus: ensuring company codebooks adapt to solve for supply chain resilience, system stability, creditworthiness, and resource adequacy.

Moderator: Sue Kelly, Member – Board of Trustees, *NERC*

Panelists: Josiah Cox, President, *Central States Water Resources*
Ryan King, Chief Regulatory & Growth Strategy Officer, *Delta Utilities*
Gil Quiniones, President and CEO, *ComEd*
Brian Rybarik, Chair, *Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission*

Closing Remarks

4:20 PM – 4:30 PM

Incoming FRI Advisory Chair – Karen Stachowski, Senior Asst. Attorney General
Tennessee Office of the Attorney General