

**ACEC Water, Environment, and Energy Committees**  
**2024 Winter Meeting**  
**ACEC Headquarters**  
**1400 L. Street, N.W., Washington, DC**  
**February 27th, 28th & 29th, 2024**  
**p. 202-347-7474**  
[www.acec.org](http://www.acec.org)

**DRAFT Agenda**

**Context: Election Year, Fiscal Challenges, Energy Transition Market Shift, IIJA/IRA implementation**

Meeting registration link: [Register Here](#)

Hotel registration link: [ACEC Booking Link](#). Hotel reservations are for the **Hamilton Hotel** 1001 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20005 and **must be made by Friday, January 26th to claim the block rate for nights of February 26, 27, 28 and 29<sup>th</sup> for those who cannot or choose not to fly out until the 29<sup>th</sup>.**

WEE 2024 Winter Meeting PDH Form: TBD

[ACEC Antitrust Policy](#)

[ACEC Policy on Conflict of Interest](#)

<i>Tuesday February 27, 2024, Plenary - Conference Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor</i>
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- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast - Opening Remarks (*advocacy and awareness message*),  
 Introductions & Announcements
- 8:30 a.m. Context (political/economic) and meeting goals (common/tracks) (staff/cochairs)
- Market disruption (energy/water): inflation, regulation, fiscal uncertainty, AI
  - Congress/Administration/Court
    - Budget, WRDA...
    - NCA5, COP28
- 9:30 a.m. Meeting Goals – chairs (*facts and issues suggest path forward short/long term*)
- Common:
    - Finance (federal role revenue/appropriations; fiscal rules and targets)
    - Regulatory (ER&P, models, reliability/resilience, contaminants)
    - Liability (SOC)
    - Workforce
  - Track: Water/Environment: strategies – water scarcity/flooding, climate resilience, contaminant risk assessment

- Track: Energy: strategies - grid reliability, market transition management, technology commercialization

9:45 a.m. Network Break

10:00 a.m. Fiscal Rules and Targets – This session will provide perspectives of federal budget organizations and how budget trends may affect infrastructure investments. Among potential organizations participating: GAO and Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. Topics to be discussed:

- discretionary/mandatory challenge
- potential effects on infrastructure investments (public and private), and
- urgency to manage imbalance.

10:45 a.m. Environmental Review and Permitting (ER&P) – This session will provide an update on implementation of recent NEPA reauthorization including the E-NEPA provision to advance digital technology applications in ER&P. Among potential organizations participating:

- FIPSC
- CEQ, and
- NEPAAccess.

11:30 a.m. Climate Resilience – This session will report on developments concerning a potential ACEC statement on climate resilience and the engineers’ standard of care. Matters to be covered include background, ACEC intra-organizational collaboration, objectives, communications (staff and members (Andrew Ratzkin)).

12:00 p.m. **Lunch** – Congressional Guest – **Invited: Cong. Garrett Graves(R-LA) & Cong. Scott Peters(D-CA)**– to provide commentary and discussion on fiscal challenges and the effect on infrastructure finance under IIJA/IRA and regular programs (SRFs/WIFIA) and regulatory challenges (e.g., NEPA, BABAA etc.).

**Tuesday February 27, 2024, Water Breakout Session - Conference Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**2:00 p.m.** Water Scarcity – This session will explore regional water scarcity management challenges and the federal response. Among potential organizations participating: Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps, and others. Topics to be discussed:

- operational planning processes
- climate models
- ER&P processes, and
- Technology developments.

4:00 p.m. Adjourn for the day.

**Tuesday February 27, 2024, Energy Breakout Session - Conference Room 3rd Floor**

- 2:00 p.m. Grid Reliability – **Confirmed: CPS Energy (Rudy Garza, CEO), IEEE(Panos Moutis, CCNY)** *Invited: Southern Company; PSEG; AMEREN* This session will explore electricity reliability perspectives of an ISO, IOU and G&T REC and federal energy and environmental policy including FERC and EPA regulatory initiatives and proposed legislation. Topics to be discussed:
- gas/electric interdependence
  - renewables/storage transition, and
  - transmission (gas/electric) challenges.

4:00 p.m. Adjourn for the day.

***Tuesday February 27, 2024, Plenary Dinner***

6:00 p.m. Bobby Vans Steakhouse; 809 15<sup>th</sup> St NW, WDC

***Wednesday February 28, 2024, Plenary Breakfast - Conference Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor***

8:00 a.m. Plenary Breakfast – speaker TBD

***Wednesday February 28, 2024, Water Breakout Session - Conference Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor***

- 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Water Markets IJA implementation and PFAS – This session will explore questions concerning the outlook on drinking and wastewater markets and PFAS remediation under IJA implementation and appropriations processes. Among potential participating organizations: CIFA, AWWA, NACWA, AMWA, NAWC, US Conf of Mayors, EPA
- PFAS- cost and benefits, health-based risk standards
  - Public/Private Finance – SRFs and WIFIA
  - Build America Buy America Act (BABAA) implementation.

***Wednesday February 28, 2024, Energy Breakout Session - Conference Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor***

- 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Energy Markets – This session will review with stakeholders IJA/IRA implementation in key energy markets. Among potential participating organizations: DOE, EEI, NRECA, APPA, GSA, ... Topics include:
- Offshore Wind?
  - Transportation – **Confirmed: Dr. Ameya Joshi; ClearFlame Engines** EV rationalization developments:
  - Buildings – **Confirmed: Lance Davis, GSA** effects/efficacy (CBA) of code driven net-zero objectives, reliability, and SOC.

- *Invited: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association*

**Wednesday February 28, 2024, Plenary Lunch - Conference Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

12:00 p.m. Lunch – speaker TBD

**Wednesday February 28, 2024, Water Breakout Session - Conference Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

1:30 p.m. National Flood Protection – This session will explore program developments in levee safety design, and federal finance. Among potential speakers: Army Corps, FEMA, and stakeholders. Topics to be addressed may include:

- update on EM 1913 revisions – risk assessment – standard of care
- climate models
- BRIC program implementation
- regulatory challenges, and
- legislative proposals on national and regional resilience.

3:30 p.m. Adjourn for the day to ACEC residence reception.  
2 6<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Washington DC 20002

**Wednesday February 28, 2024, Energy Breakout Session - Conference Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

1:30 p.m. Commercialization challenges – **Confirmed: Natalie Houghtalen(ClearPath), Jay Baskin(Enercon), Kevin Huberty(Sargent & Lundy) Invited: X-Energy, Duke, Dow, S&L, Breakwater North(Finance).** This session will explore the long-term capital-intensive project finance and energy technology challenges in advanced nuclear power and hydrogen hub developments. Among potential speakers: Topics to be addressed may include:

- IJJA/IRA implementation and regulatory barriers
- supply chain uncertainties
- project economics challenges

3:30 p.m. Adjourn for the day to ACEC residence reception.  
2 6<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Washington DC 20002

6:00 p.m. Dinner: Harvest Tide Steakhouse, 212 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SE WDC

**Thursday, February 29, 2024, Plenary - Conference Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**

- 8:30 a.m.      **Discussion** - identify common awareness/advocacy actions:
- High level challenge: project finance - recognition of federal fiscal (debt) affecting infrastructure investments public and private.
  - General barriers: ER&P, supply chains, human and natural resource limitations
  - Emerging challenges: liability SOC- disclosure ESG - climate model-driven (resilience and mitigation).
  - Workforce - application of AI/ML to improve productivity (design, ER&P)
  - Suggest studies: GAO, or ACEC Research Institute (possibly supported by USACE/FEMA/DOE etc. funding).
    - Fiscal rules and targets to support sustainable infrastructure and manage federal debt/deficits.
    - Climate change policy cost-benefit-risk-analysis; optimization of resource allocations to address both mitigation and adaptation.
    - ER&P and design workforce and AI/ML applications.
  - Check step on Awareness/Advocacy Work Groups to address priority issues.
  - Communications priorities.

Noon            **Adjourn**

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