



# **2026 New England Regional Nuclear Policy Summit**

**September 30, 2026**

**9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

**University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Meehan Student Center  
100 Meehan Way (220 Pawtucket St.)  
Lowell, MA 01854**

**Wednesday, September 30th – New England Regional Nuclear Policy Summit**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.      **Registration**

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.      **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
Introductions and Overview of goals and plan for retreat

**Speakers**

- **Anne Maglia, Ph.D.**, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, University of Massachusetts, Lowell
- **Rebecca Tepper**, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.      **Thinking Regionally: New England's Electricity Needs and Future Projects**

New England is focused on maintaining reliability and affordability for the power grid while mitigating environmental impacts. This panel will explore how States, private sector partners, and the regional grid operator are thinking about the future of New England's grid and how new nuclear energy might fit into the generation mix.

**Speakers:**

- **John Parsons, Ph.D.**, Senior Lecturer, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- **Eric Johnson**, Executive Director, External Affairs, ISO New England
- **John Carlson**, Senior Northeast Regional Policy Manager, Clean Air Task Force Representative
- **Stephen Auton-Smith**, Senior Managing Director and Sustainability Leader, EY Parthenon Americas

**Moderator:**

- **Dan Phelan**, Regional Policy Director, New Hampshire Department of Energy

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Perspectives on Nuclear in New England: Safety, Community Engagement, and Public Trust**

Public safety, community support, and lasting partnerships are the cornerstones of successful public/private partnerships. This session will bring together representatives of local and state governments with the nuclear industry to discuss how New England can explore new nuclear development while ensuring safety and durable benefits for communities.

**Speakers:**

- **Kati Austgen**, Director, Public Engagement & New Nuclear, Nuclear Energy Institute (confirmed)
- **Rob Brule**, First Selectman, Waterford Connecticut
- **Ed Lyman, Ph.D.**, Director, Nuclear Power Safety, Union of Concerned Scientists
- **Sunil Félix, Ph.D.**, Nuclear Counsellor, French Embassy, Washington D.C.

**Moderator:**

- **Jeff Semancik**, Director, Radiation Division, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Keynote Presentation: Executive Vision for Nuclear Energy****Special Guest Speaker:**

- **The Honorable David Wright**, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission



12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.      **Networking Lunch**

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.      **Fitting the Pieces Together: State Actions, Regional Approach**

The New England states have a long history of working regionally to pursue shared energy goals. This panel will bring together senior leadership from each state to discuss their own initiatives and to articulate how their state's work fits into the broader regional strategy. In addition, this session will explore next steps for the regional conversation on new nuclear exploration.

**Speakers:**

- **Emma Cimino**, Acting Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment Protection
- **Mary Lousie "Weezie" Nuara**, Deputy Secretary for Federal and Regional Energy Affairs, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- **Celina Cunningham**, Acting Commissioner, Maine Department of Energy Resources
- **Thomas Barrasso**, Director of Energy Innovation, New Hampshire Department of Energy
- **Chris Kearns**, Acting Commissioner, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
- **Kerrick Johnson**, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Service

**Moderator:**

- **Sukesh Aghara, Ph.D.**, Professor, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, University of Massachusetts, Lowell

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.      **Networking Coffee Break**

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.      **Advanced Nuclear Business Models Showcase**



A variety of advanced nuclear reactors are in development across the industry. While each reactor is designed to safely produce electricity, there are substantial differences in size, scale, and underlying business models. This session will invite a cross-section of nuclear industry representatives to present their vision for how their reactors might fit into the New England power grid.

**Presenters:**

- **Bill Spellane**, Chief Executive Officer, StarCube
- **Youssef Ballout, Ph.D.**, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Kadmos Energy Services
- **Drew Walker**, Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer, Apollo Atomics
- **Michelle Gardner**, Executive Director, Regulatory Affairs, NextEra Energy Resources
- **Erica Tillotson**, Manager, Government and International Affairs, Westinghouse Electric Company

**Facilitator:**

- **Chris Fletcher**, Policy Director, Energy, National Governors Association

4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Wrap-Up & Adjourn**