



Conference on

GRIDS IN TRANSITION: US

September 24, 2026

Jay Conference Center, Midtown East, New York

Host

Global **Transmission** Report

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Time	Session	Speakers
08:00-08:45	Registration and Reception	
08:45-08:55	Welcome Remarks by Alok K. Brara, CEO, Global Transmission Report Release of the Report Grids in Transition: US	
08:55-09:05	Keynote Address	• Dr. Gerhard Salge, Chief Technology Officer, Hitachi Energy
09:05-09:50	Executive Plenary: International Perspectives	Panel Discussion • Laura Cozzi, Director of Sustainability, Technology and Outlooks, International Energy Agency (IEA) • Rhian Kelly, Chief Sustainability Officer, SSE • Dr. Gerhard Salge, Chief Technology Officer, Hitachi Energy • Marguerite Wells, Executive Director, Alliance for Clean Energy New York (Moderator)
	Key Themes • Perspectives from regions undergoing similar transitions • Balancing the three core objectives of sustainability, affordability, and energy security • Policies, investments, technologies, and partnerships needed to accelerate decarbonization while maintaining reliable energy supplies and ensuring costs remain manageable for consumers, businesses, and economies. • Opportunities for international collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing to accelerate energy transition	
09:50-10:45	Executive Plenary: The New Operating Reality for US Grids	Panel Discussion • Dr. Douglas J. Arent, Global Fellow, Center for Global Energy Policy at Columbia University • Hernan Cortes, Chief Investment Officer, U.S. DOE Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) • Nathanael Occenad, Vice President, Regional HVDC Sales Manager, North America, Hitachi Energy • Joris Veldhoven, President, NY Transco • Julia Frayer, Managing Director, London Economics International (Moderator)
	Key Themes • Electrification of transport, buildings, and industry driving new load profiles and peak demand • Explosive growth in data center and AI infrastructure creating concentrated demand • Renewable integration, distributed energy resources, and bidirectional power flows • Interconnection backlogs, generator queues, and the pace of new capacity delivery • Federal policy levers for grid acceleration • Building coordination across FERC, RTOs/ISOs, state regulators, utilities, and industry	
10:45-11:15	Coffee and Networking	
11:15-12:00	System Reliability, Resilience & Security in a Changing Grid	Panel Discussion • Kimberly Hood, Chief Information Security Officer, Unitil Corporation • Mark G. Lauby, Chief Engineer and NERC Fellow, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) • Gary Stephenson, Senior Vice President, Power Supply, Long Island Power Authority • Devin Hartman, President, Lighthouse Energy Institute (Moderator)
	Key Themes • Declining system inertia and frequency response in high-renewables systems • Grid-following vs. grid-forming inverter technologies and evolving NERC/FERC standards • Lessons from recent grid stress events and extreme weather impacts (Winter Storm Uri and beyond) • Physical and cybersecurity threats to grid infrastructure • Climate resilience planning for T&D networks • The role of storage, demand response, and smart grid technologies in maintaining reliability	
12:00-12:50	Accelerating Grid Infrastructure Delivery	Panel Discussion • Walter Alvarado, Vice President, Con Edison Transmission • Thomas Nevinger, VP of Sales, Utilities Northeast Region, Hitachi Energy • Michael Tierney, Head of North America, Continuum Industries • Brian Wilkie, Director, Transmission for Renewables, National Grid • Gretchen Kershaw, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Strategy, Grid Strategies LLC (Moderator)
	Key Themes • The interconnection queue crisis: reform efforts at FERC and across RTOs/ISOs • Transmission permitting reform: federal siting authority, FERC’s recent orders, and NEPA streamlining • Challenges of long-range transmission planning in a multi-state, multi-stakeholder environment • HVDC transmission and its role in unlocking remote renewable resources • Large load growth and need for grid expansion • Supply chain challenges on delivery timelines	
12:50-13:50	Lunch and Networking	

Time	Session	Speakers
13:50-14:35	Speed to Power: Optimizing the Existing Grid Through Advanced Technologies, Digitalization and Flexibility Key Themes - Advanced conductors and dynamic line ratings to increase capacity on existing rights-of-way - Grid topology optimization, power flow control devices, and network reconfiguration - AI, digital twins, and real-time situational awareness for system operations - Demand response, virtual power plants, and distributed flexibility as grid assets - Grid-scale storage as a transmission and distribution system resource - Regulatory and market incentives for non-wires alternatives and grid-enhancing technologies (GETs)	<i>Panel Discussion</i> Jenifer Farrell, Chief Administrative Officer, Northeast Power Coordinating Council Brandon N. Owens, Vice President of Innovation & Research, NYSERDA Elizabeth Bellis Wolfe, Senior Consultant, U.S. DOE Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) Nana Ayensu, CEO, Zorro Energy Solutions (<i>Moderator</i>)
14:35-15:20	Regulation, Markets, and Affordability: Aligning Incentives with the Grid Transition Key Themes - Rate-of-return regulation vs. performance-based and outcome-driven incentive models - FERC transmission incentive policy and the balance between cost allocation and investment signals - State vs. federal jurisdiction in transmission expansion - Grid tariffs, cost allocation, and public acceptance of rising network costs - Valuing resilience, flexibility, and system services in wholesale market design - Financing grid modernization: utility balance sheets, green bonds, DOE loan programs, and private capital	<i>Panel Discussion</i> Steve Caminati, Vice President, Government & Regulatory Affairs, Pattern Energy Group Stephen C. Walls, Director, Energy Partnerships, National Audubon Society John Williams, Chief Policy Officer, NYSERDA Whitney Muse, President, Muse Energy LLC (<i>Moderator</i>)
15:20-16:00	Looking Ahead America’s Electricity Grids to 2035 and Beyond Key Themes - The US grid as the backbone for economic competitiveness and energy independence - Strategic priorities for grid transformation over the next five to ten years - What must change in the next 24 months — regulatory, operational, and investment - No-regret actions for the current and next investment cycle - Where federal coordination and leadership are essential - Building the workforce, institutions, and governance structures for the grid of the future	<i>Panel Discussion</i> Anna Foglesong, Executive Director, Connected Grid Initiative (CGI) Maggie Molina, Executive Director, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) Erin Smith, Energy & Grid Policy Director, Environmental League of Massachusetts Dr. Jose Miguel Maldonado, Vice President, Asset Management – Energy, NYCEDC (<i>Moderator</i>)
16:00	Closing Remarks and End of the Conference	

Note: This conference program provides draft topics. The session timings and topics are subject to change as we approach the conference date.