



Portland, Oregon

Agenda

(DRAFT SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

At-a-Glance Schedule

Sunday, June 1	Monday, June 2	Tuesday, June 3	Wednesday, June 4
5-6:30 Welcome Reception with a view	8:00 Breakfast 9-11:30 Opening and General Session, Concurrent Panels 1 11:30-1 Lunch and General Session 1-2 Concurrent Panels 2 2:15-3:15 Concurrent Panels 3 3:45-4:45 General Session Dinner on Your Own	8:00 Breakfast 8:30-9:30 General Session 9:45-10:45 Concurrent Panels 4 11:15-12:15 General Session 12:15-1:30 Lunch and General Session + 2026 Preview 2:00-5:00 Afternoon Activities Walk – Energy efficiency Hike – Wildfire mitigation Drive – Electric or gas ops Family – Oregon Zoo 5:00-9:00 Reception and Dinner – World Forestry Center <i>(Limited space for dinner, so check your tickets)</i>	8:00 Breakfast and WCPSC Commissioners Business Meeting 9-10 General Session (CLE Credit available) 10:15-11:30 Closing Session – Keynote and Chairs Panel 11:30 Adjourn

Sunday, June 1, 2025

4:00 – 6:00 PM

Registration for pre-registered attendees.
Plaza Level

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Welcome Reception
Skyline Room I & II, 23rd Floor

Monday, June 2, 2025

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Registration for pre-registered attendees.

Plaza Level

8:00 AM

Continental Breakfast Available

Pavilion Ballroom

9:00 – 10:15 AM – Opening and General Session

Opening Session

Pavilion Ballroom

Opening Speaker: Les Perkins, WCPSC President & Oregon PUC Commissioner

Keynote Speaker: Oregon Governor Tina Kotek (invited)

Opening General Session – Federal Keynote TBD

Pavilion Ballroom

Moderator: Commissioner Les Perkins, Oregon PUC

Speakers: TBD

10:15 – 10:30 AM

Networking Break

Pavilion Foyer (Plaza Level) - Visit the sponsor tables!

10:30 – 11:30 AM – Concurrent Panels 1

Panel 1A – Cooperation: Essential Services and Extreme Fire Risk

Atrium Ballroom

Expert practitioners explore how partnerships between utility commissions, utilities, emergency managers and critical infrastructure operators can make our communities safer as we weather the impacts of outages during high-risk conditions or when an urban conflagration begins to unfold. What can we prepare now to limit cascading consequences? Whether it's fuel shortages, communications outages, continuous water flow or waste-water treatment, how can we prepare together to limit the impacts of growing fire risk and urban conflagration?

Moderator: Commissioner Letha Tawney, Oregon PUC

Speakers: Electricity industry TBD

Water industry TBD

Communications industry TBD

Government TBD

Panel 1B – New Technologies, New Procurement Challenges, and New Risks

Broadway Room

With capacity at a premium in the West, utilities are considering technologies that are either new to the market or have not been procured at large scales in decades. Among the new technologies are advanced nuclear, long-duration energy storage, hydrogen, and thermal with carbon capture and storage. Even established thermal technologies may face new siting challenges and fuel constraints. How can power suppliers, utilities, and customer advocates find a smoother path to promote both fair competition among capacity resources with very distinct characteristics and fair allocation of risk?

Moderator: TBD

*Speakers: Long-Duration Energy Storage – (Plan to invite Mark Thompson, Form Energy)
Nuclear or Hydrogen TBD
Independent Power Producer TBD
Consumer Advocate TBD*

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

Pavilion Ballroom

12:00 – 12:30 PM

Lunch General Session—Bringing “Affordability” into Focus

Pavilion Ballroom

Each panelist will offer a modern definition of the long-hallowed but seldom-defined regulatory objective of “affordability.” Panelists will discuss whether and why these definitions make sense for the interests they represent and offer thoughts on whether and how regulators should define this objective.

Moderator: Public Utilities Fortnightly (To invite Paul Kjellander or Steve Mitnick)

*Speakers: Nina Suetake, National Association of State Consumer Advocates
Investor perspective TBD
Legislator perspective TBD
Large customer perspective TBD*

1:00 – 2:00 PM – Concurrent Panels 2

Panel 2A – Gas Supply in the West: Living with or Relaxing Constraints OR Joint Planning for a Reliable Future

Pavilion Ballroom

A global marketplace makes price volatility a persistent issue for natural gas, with liquefied natural gas and geopolitics perennial uncertainties. But the West has faced unique gas supply constraints and risks due to pipeline and storage capacity issues, made worse when drought shifts electricity generation to gas and this and other factors contribute to low storage levels. These constraints have led to higher natural gas prices in the region.

Moderator: Commissioner TBD

*Speakers: Consultant TBD
 Gas industry TBD
 Pipeline TBD
 Electric IRP TBD
 Policy/NGO TBD*

Panel 2B – Broadband Rollout and Electric Safety Clash in the Rural West

Broadway Room

With historic federal funding for broadband deployment on a tight timeline, contractors are swarming the rural West to run lines. Pole owners, often rural electric providers with few human resources, are challenged to keep pace as the only line of defense against attachment practices that exacerbate the risk of wildfire ignition. Hear how this issue is playing out in both FCC states and those under state jurisdiction, and why regulators concerned about wildfire risk should care.

*Moderator: Sam Ackley, Hunter Comms and Oregon Joint Use Association Board President
Speakers: Leon Grumbo, Oregon PUC Electric Safety Staff (to be invited)
 FCC Staff TBD
 Rural Electric or Investor-Owned Utility TBD
 Broadband company or contractor TBD*

2:00 - 2:15 PM

Networking Break

Pavilion Foyer (Plaza Level) - Visit the sponsor tables!

2:15 – 3:15 PM

Panel 3A – Electric Reliability: Responding to the Alarm Bells

Atrium Ballroom

Panelists will dig into the Western Electricity Coordinating Council's Western Assessment of Reliability and discuss the status of both the collective response offered through the fledgling Western Resource Adequacy Program and the individual responses by responsible load-serving entities.

*Moderator: Commissioner TBD
Speakers: Crystal Ball, Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (to be invited)
 Other speakers TBD*

Panel 3B – Customer and Community Consultation Enters a New Era

Broadway Room

Engagement with utilities is at an all-time high. Customers of all types—from energy burdened residential customers to new hyperscale loads—are concerned about bills and access to service. Some customers seek more choices and opportunities to inform their energy supply. Tribal and local governments are likewise concerned about rising rates, while also looking to share in the benefits and

avoid the burdens of energy infrastructure development. Can utilities remain trusted providers with so many divergent and engaged constituencies? What is working and what is not working around the region when it comes to consultation and engagement?

Moderator: Commissioner TBD

*Speakers: Chuck Sams, Northwest Power and Conservation Council (to be invited)
Other speakers TBD*

3:15 - 3:45 PM

Networking Break

Pavilion Foyer (Plaza Level) – Visit the sponsor tables!

3:45 – 4:45 PM

General Session – Lagging Technology Adoption Rates and Regulatory Reform

Pavillion Ballroom

Load growth, extreme weather, and policy requirements all contribute to a need for rapid scaling of technology investment in the energy system. How can utility regulation keep up?

Moderator: Commissioner TBD

Speakers: TBD

5:00 PM

Dinner on Your Own – [View a list of restaurant options](#)

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Registration for pre-registered attendees.

Plaza Level

8:00 AM

Continental Breakfast Available

Pavilion Ballroom

8:30 – 9:30 AM

General Session – Is Affordability Possible When Costs are Rising?

Pavilion Ballroom

Moderator: Commissioner TBD

Speakers: Electric, Gas, Telecomm, Water TBD

9:30 – 9:45 AM

Networking Break

Pavilion Ballroom (Plaza Level) - Visit the sponsor tables!

9:45 – 10:45 AM

Panel 4A – The Plight of Small Water Companies: Navigating Infrastructure Challenges and Modernizing Aging Water Systems

Atrium Ballroom

Moderator: TBD

Speakers: Operator of a small system

Rep from regional or national water association

Rate payer advocate

Public health/engineer/scientist to speak on contaminants issues

Panel 4B – Large Loads: Tracking the Emerging Regulatory Best Practice

Broadway Room

What is the state of play on large loads? Panelists engaged in deal-making around the country and the West will discuss what regulatory compromises and solutions have come for reliability, cost-shifting, and policy mandates.

Moderator: TBD

Speakers: TBD

10:45 – 11:15 AM

Networking Break

Pavillion Ballroom (Plaza Level) - Visit the sponsor tables!

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

General Session – OR – 2 more PANELS TBD

Pavilion Ballroom

Moderator: TBD

Speakers: TBD

12:15 PM – 1:30 PM

Lunch

Pavilion Ballroom

12:45 – 1:15 PM

Lunch General Session

Pavilion Ballroom

Keynote Speaker(s) - TBD

1:15-1:30 PM Learn about 2026 WCPSC Event

Pavilion Ballroom

Hear from Pat O'Connell to learn about the 2026 WCPSC event in New Mexico!

1:30 – 1:45 PM

Break

1:45 – 5 PM Afternoon Activities/Tours

Check your name badge as reminder of which activity you selected. Those attending a tour will meet in the Hilton lobby at 2 p.m. unless noted differently below. All tours will return to the Hilton prior to the 5 p.m. reception at the World Forestry Center except for the Hiking tour. Limited space on driving tours.

Activity 1 – Walking Tour

Hosted by: Energy Trust of Oregon

Learn firsthand about energy efficiency and renewable energy development through site tours of several projects in downtown Portland. We'll highlight buildings that participated in Energy Trust programs and see a range of projects, meeting site owners to learn about their efforts to lower operating costs, manage energy use, and make their built environments more comfortable and resilient. Energy Trust program staff will serve as your tour guides on this 2-mile, 2-hour tour. A map with locations and project narratives will be provided. Dress comfortably!

Activity 2 – Hiking Tour

Urban hiking at its finest! Walk from the conference to the reception and dinner at the World Forestry Center. In just ~3.5 miles and ~800 feet elevation gain, you'll pass Providence Park, climb through historic Portland neighborhoods, and spend most of the hike on trails in the rose gardens of Washington Park and forested Hoyt Arboretum. Though the walk is officially self-guided, unofficial activities coordinator Megan Decker and some PUC staff will collect hikers at the hotel and two other meeting points to prompt a group discussion of utilities and wildfire risk as we contemplate Portland's legendary urban forests.

Activity 3 – Driving Tour #1 – Portland General Electric Facility

Enjoy a driving tour hosted by PGE. More details provided soon. Space is limited, so register early.

Activity 4 – Driving Tour #2 – Hydrogen Blending Tour & Beer Tasting

Hosted by: NW Natural Gas Company

Enjoy an on-site tour of Northwest Natural's nearby resource center (10-minute drive) that hosts Modern Hydrogen's methane pyrolysis unit. The unit produces hydrogen from natural gas, which is introduced into the company's low-pressure distribution system. Following a brief tour, we'll walk across the street to *Crux*, an Oregon brewery, for a hosted beer-tasting. Space is limited, so register early.

Activity 5 –Welcome to the Oregon Zoo

You're welcome to join Commissioner Tawney and her family at the Oregon Zoo. Ride MAX from the conference venue to enjoy an afternoon at Portland's award-winning zoo where you'll see our new baby elephant, Tula-Tu. After, you'll walk across the street to enjoy the reception and dinner at the World Forestry Center. **Bring the family!**

5:00 – 9:00 PM

Reception & Dinner at the World Forestry Center

4033 SW Canyon Road, Portland OR 97221

***Check your tickets provided at check-in to ensure which of these two events you're attending.*

For easy travel, hop on Portland's award-winning MAX light rail system for a quick trip to the reception and dinner. Meet in the Hilton lobby at 4:30 PM for a two block walk as a group to the Pioneer Square North MAX Station (#8383). Oregon PUC staff will help guide you to avoid confusion and MAX passes are provided. At the World Forestry Center, the Washington Park MAX Station (#10121) is an easy walk across the street.

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Reception ~ World Forestry Center Museum

4033 SW Canyon Road, Portland, OR 97221

Appreciate the museum while you enjoy light hor d'oeuvres and refreshments, including beer and wine.

6:30 – 9:00 PM

Dinner at the World Forestry Center – Miller Hall

There's limited space at the dinner, so make sure you have a ticket for this event. It's a short walk from the museum!

Music by Thirsty Squirrels, a local 80's and 90's cover band featuring employees of the Oregon PUC.

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Continental Breakfast Available

Pavilion Ballroom

8:15-8:45

WCPSC Commissioners Business meeting (closed)

Park Room or Skyline Room

Bring your breakfast!

9:00 – 10:00 AM

General Session – Legal Ethics and PUC Practice

Pavilion Ballroom

From two law firms highly experienced in practice before PUCs, hear about the legal ethics quandaries most likely to arise before PUCs. Relevant for non-lawyers too!

Moderator: TBD

Speakers: TBD

10:00 – 11:30 AM Closing Session

Pavilion Ballroom

10:00-10:30 Keynote Speaker – TBD

10:30-11:15 Panel of State Commission Chairs

11:15-11:30 Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Speaker: Les Perkins, WCPSC President & Oregon PUC Commissioner