Speaker Biographies

ENERGY SUPPLY TASK FORCE
Saturday, Aug. 5
Westin Waterfront Hotel │ Grand Ballroom B

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Hydrogen Fuel Cells: Market and Technology Advances

Morry Markowitz is the president of the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association. He has been the president for five years. Utilizing his extensive government relations and communications background, Markowitz leads the association’s outreach efforts both in our nation’s capital and across the country. Previously, he was the Group Director of External Affairs at the Edison Electric Institute (EEI). Before his work at EEI, Markowitz was the vice president of public affairs with the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers.

12:45 – 1:45 p.m. Electricity Storage Revolution

Alan Houghton is a business development manager for Johnson Controls’ Distributed Energy Storage business. Houghton is responsible for driving profitable growth, identifying opportunities, and expanding relationships to create increased value for Johnson Controls customers. Johnson Controls is the world leader in building and energy storage solutions and technologies—a Fortune 100, diversified technology and multi industrial leader serving customers in more than 150 countries. Houghton’s background working for Fortune 50 corporations—including Johnson Controls, Honeywell, Enron and Duke Energy—as well as with energy utilities and energy suppliers, allows him to bring clients an unparalleled perspective on the approaches and solutions available to them to solve their unique energy and energy infrastructure problems.

Will Lauwers is director of the Emerging Technology Division at the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. The division focus includes energy storage, energy resiliency, and alternative transportation technologies. Lauwers’ past experience includes federal, military, and commercial program management with a concentration on research, development, and demonstrations of advanced power technologies. He co-founded the Energy Experience Center at the University of Dayton Research Institute, a testbed and demonstration site for emerging energy technologies to be operated and improved in conjunction with best-in-class components and equipment.

1:45 – 2:30 p.m. Ensuring the Safety & Reliability of Gas Storage
Ray Harris, Jr. is a vice president at the National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation. He is responsible for the Measurement, Regulator and Corrosion Control Department in addition to his responsibilities for management of Gas Storage, Gas Supply, Gas Measurement-Supply, Dispatch, and Transportation and Exchange Functions. Harris joined National Fuel in 1991 as an associate engineer, following time spent at Columbia Gas Transmission. In 1999, he transferred to business development with National Fuel’s Horizon Energy subsidiary, and was involved with various international and domestic energy projects. He returned to National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation in 2001 and was promoted to general manager in 2003 to assistant vice president in 2008.

Byron Coy is a senior technical advisor at the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation. He started his pipeline career with a summer job at Gulf Oil in 1969. Over the years, he has held engineering and management positions with several pipeline companies. Coy began his public service career with the US-DOT in 1995. He was a key contributor to the development of the Hazardous Liquid Integrity Management Rule, Team Lead for the development of Control Room Management Regulations, and now leading the implementation of the new Underground Natural Gas Storage Regulations. He had been the director of PHMSA’s Eastern Region for 10 years, and is now a senior technical advisor.

3:30 – 5 p.m. The Rise of Smart Cities

Michael Pesin is deputy assistant secretary for the Advanced Grid Research and Development Division in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability. Pesin has 30 years of experience in the electric utility industry, much of it directing development and execution of advanced technology programs. His most recent assignment was with Seattle City Light (SCL) where he developed the technology strategy, managed research and development projects, and directed strategic programs to management demonstration projects.

Dr. Subramanian “Mani” Vadari is founder and president of Modern Grid Solutions delivering consulting and training services to a global set of entities (cities, utilities and vendors) seeking deep subject matter expertise in developing the next-generation electric energy and other sustainable mechanisms. His past roles have been VP of infrastructure at Battelle Memorial Institute, partner and global lead for System Operations and Smart Grid at Accenture, lead engineer at ESCA Corporation (now GE Digital Grid Solutions), and affiliate professor at the University of Washington in Seattle. Dr. Vadari’s book “Electric System Operations – Evolving to the Modern Grid” is available at leading book-sellers and has received five-star reviews from industry leaders. Dr. Vadari has published over 50 articles and several blogs on broad range of subjects ranging from Electric System Operations to Smart Grid to Big Data and the Internet of Things. A Smart Grid and Smart Cities expert, he offers sought-after perspectives on the entire electric value chain.