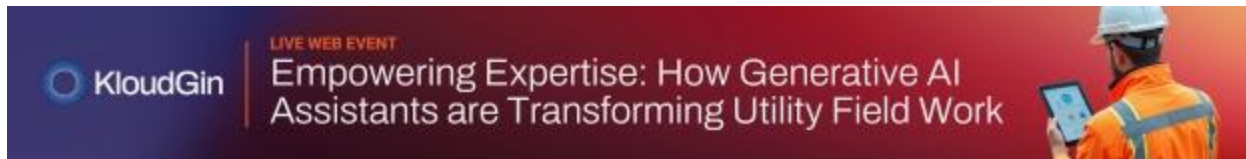


Energy Talk

Your Monthly Energy News Digest

February 2025



Left to right: Chris Harris, International Representative, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Eliecer Viamontes, President and CEO, Entergy Texas; Harry Sideris, President, Duke Energy; Michele O'Connell, President and CEO, Orange & Rockland Utilities; EEI Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric; and Chris Womack, Chairman, President, and CEO, Southern Company.

Energy Leadership on Display During NARUC's Winter Policy Summit

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC's) Winter Policy Summit gathered more than 2,100 state regulators, electric power industry leaders, customer advocates, and other stakeholders in Washington, D.C., from February 23-26 for timely discussions on the pressing issues facing the nation's energy sector.

Following are brief highlights from the summit:

- NARUC President and Georgia Public Service Commissioner Tricia Pridemore moderated the inaugural Demand Roundtable, featuring state commissioners, electric company leaders, and large customers who offered their insights on the impacts of large-scale projected energy needs for data centers, new manufacturing, and other sources of new energy demand.
- EEI Chair Maria Pope, president and CEO of Portland General Electric, participated in a panel discussion on the history of mutual assistance in the industry with Michele O'Connell, president and CEO of Orange & Rockland Utilities; Harry Sideris, president of Duke Energy; Eliecer Viamontes, president and CEO of Entergy Texas; and Chris Womack, chairman, president, and CEO of Southern Company. The panel opened with [a video](#) highlighting the industry's mutual assistance response to recent extreme weather events, narrated by Stan Connally, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Southern Company.
- EEI Vice Chair Calvin Butler, president and CEO of Exelon, joined a general session with Mark Birk, chairman and president of Ameren Missouri, to discuss the factors that they see impacting energy grid reliability and customer affordability.
- EEI Executive Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and International Programs Phil Moeller joined a panel discussion with other energy trade association leaders to discuss the federal policy outlook for 2025.
- The EEI Women's Breakfast featured a panel discussion on the industry's efforts to reduce and prevent serious injuries and fatalities. Con Edison Vice President of Environment, Health, and Safety Venetia Lannon moderated the panel, which included Gina Cooper, Fourth District international vice president, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Liz Shuler, president, AFL-CIO; Katie Sieben, chair, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; and Tamla Olivier, chief operating officer, Pepco Holdings.

Stay tuned for in-depth coverage of NARUC's Winter Policy Summit on [the *Electric Perspectives* website](#).



Left to right: Venetia Lannon, Vice President of Environment, Health, and Safety, Con Edison; Liz Shuler, President, AFL-CIO; Katie Sieben, Chair, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; Gina Cooper, Fourth District International Vice President, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; and Tamla Olivier, Chief Operating Officer, Pepco Holdings.



NEW ADMINISTRATION

EEI Congratulates Energy Secretary Chris Wright

“EEI and our member electric companies congratulate U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright on his Senate confirmation and look forward to working with him, his team at the Department of Energy, and the Trump administration to meet today’s rapidly growing energy needs, reliably and affordably,” said EEI interim President and CEO Pat Vincent-Collawn following Secretary Wright’s confirmation.

[Read the full statement on EEI's website.](#)



FOCUS ON WILDFIRES

How Electric Companies Are Responding to Wildfire Threats

EEI Vice President of External and Government Affairs Eric Grey recently joined an OurEnergyPolicy webinar to discuss the work that electric companies are doing to prevent wildfires and to protect their customers and communities from the financial risks that are resulting from the lack of a comprehensive national strategy.

“The frequency and severity of wildfires have increased, and wildfires now are seen as an industry-wide risk,” said Grey when discussing how electric companies’ approach to wildfire mitigation has evolved. “We’re working across the industry as a whole and across EEI’s member companies to address this issue, and we’re partnering with policymakers and other stakeholders to create a national, holistic approach to mitigating wildfire risk.”



[REGISTER NOW](#)

Join Us in New Orleans for EEI 2025

Demand for electricity is growing at the fastest pace in decades, and energy issues are front and center in Washington and around the world. EEI 2025 will bring together leading policymakers, industry and technology company CEOs, innovators, and influencers for timely keynote and breakout sessions that explore how America's electric companies are leading the way to a reliable, secure energy future. One-of-a-kind networking opportunities will help you make powerful connections.

[Register now for EEI 2025](#) to secure your chance to be where the energy industry's present and future converge!

A sponsored content banner. On the left, the KloudGin and AWS logos are displayed. Below them, the text 'EXPERT INSIGHTS' is written in small orange letters. The main headline reads 'Empowering Expertise: How Generative AI Assistants are Transforming Utility Field Work'. At the bottom left, there is an orange button with the text 'Register Now'. On the right side of the banner, a utility worker in an orange safety vest and white hard hat is shown from the back, looking at a tablet device displaying data charts.

SPONSORED CONTENT

Empowering Utility Field Workers with GenAI

Join KloudGin and Amazon Web Services for a [live Expert Insights web event](#) on March 20 to learn how you can leverage practical, generative AI-powered solutions designed specifically for the field workforce that deliver tangible benefits from day one.



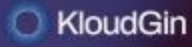
TUNE IN

The Electric Perspectives Podcast Releases Its 100th Episode!

Across 100 episodes, the *Electric Perspectives* podcast has covered the latest trends and issues shaping the electric power industry.

Our milestone episode focuses on the cutting-edge technology solutions many electric companies are using to mitigate and respond to extreme weather events and catastrophic wildfires. Arizona Public Service Director of Forestry and Fire Mitigation Scott Bordenkircher; KloudGin Co-Founder and CEO Vikram Takru; and EEI Senior Vice President of Energy Security and Industry Operations Scott Aaronson discuss the work underway to protect customers from growing wildfire risk, how electric companies and technology companies are partnering to support emergency response efforts, and more. This episode is sponsored by KloudGin.

[Listen to the episode—and the full *Electric Perspectives* archive—here.](#)



EXPERT INSIGHTS

Empowering Expertise: How Generative AI Assistants are Transforming Utility Field Work

Register Now



SKILLS SHOWCASE

Highlights from the 40th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo

In October 2024, more than 1,000 lineworkers gathered in Kansas City, Mo., to compete in the 40th annual International Lineman's Rodeo, hosted by Evergy. The four-day event drew competitors from across the continental United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Brazil, and beyond.

The rodeo is a friendly competition among some of the most skilled lineworkers in the world, and it celebrates the brave men and women who regularly work in dangerous conditions to maintain and repair the critical energy infrastructure that powers our nation.

“I love it. I’ve been blessed over the years to have some great teammates, and I have friends I’ve met from all over the country out here,” said Jason Novak, an Ameren Illinois lineman and 23-time rodeo competitor whose team ended up placing first overall at this year’s competition.

Read about the full rodeo experience on [the *Electric Perspectives* website](#).



HAPPENING NOW

EEl Recognizes Black History Month

Each February, EEl celebrates Black History Month, which commemorates the achievements of Black Americans and highlights their central role in our history. EEl also recognizes Thomas Edison’s birthday and National Inventors’ Day on February 11.

Learn about the notable contributions of Black scientists and engineers—including Lewis Latimer, who improved upon Edison’s light bulb design—[on EEl’s website](#).



EP SPOTLIGHT

Investing in Reliability and Customer Experience


Brian Tierney, chair, president, and CEO of FirstEnergy Corp., recently spoke with *Electric Perspectives* to share his thoughts on prioritizing grid resilience, leading a company that serves more than 6 million customers in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest, and more.

“Working in the electric power industry isn’t merely a job,” said Tierney. “It’s a vocation. It powers lives, and it sustains modern living, economic development, and innovation. For those of us in this field, we take this responsibility seriously.”

[Read his full interview on the *Electric Perspectives* website.](#)

GET SOCIAL

Celebrate Love Responsibly

Today is #ValentinesDay ! Unlike latex balloons, Mylar balloons can stay inflated and float in the air for more than 2 weeks because they are filled with helium, increasing the risk of hazard. Let's celebrate love responsibly.

Learn more safety tips: bit.ly/4b0gn8P



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