

NMPP Energy Annual Conference
March 18-20 2025



1975

2025



NMPP MEAN NPGA ACE

*Reflecting on the past,
Powering the future.*



A Message From... Robert Poehling, Executive Director/CEO

On behalf of the NMPP Energy coalition of organizations, welcome to the 2025 NMPP Energy Annual Conference!

This year's conference marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool, the founding organization of what would eventually evolve into the NMPP Energy coalition of organizations.

I'm looking forward to this conference and the chance to engage with municipal representatives, sponsors and presenters. Each year we strive to provide value by having timely topics, excellent speakers and plenty of opportunities for you to network with your peers and industry colleagues.

This year's conference includes timely topics on:

- Ethics and fraud in municipal government
- Physical and cyber threats impacting the energy industry
- Community solar developments
- An overview of the current natural gas environment
- A state issues panel presentation
- The annual Awards Banquet and much more!



I'd like to personally thank you for taking time out of your schedule to attend this year's conference, which is being held at the Embassy Suites for the first time. I also want to thank our many conference sponsors. Without their support, this conference would not be possible. I encourage you to visit with these important resource providers to learn about the products and services they can provide your community.

If there is anything you need while attending the conference, please do not hesitate to ask me or any of the NMPP Energy team. We're here to ensure you have a great experience!



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NMPP Energy Champions are businesses and organizations that support NMPP Energy's effort to provide products and services to communities. For information on becoming a Champion business, contact Mandy Hansen at (402)-473-8259.

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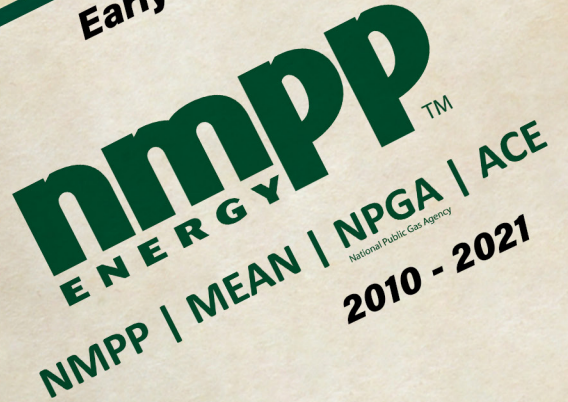
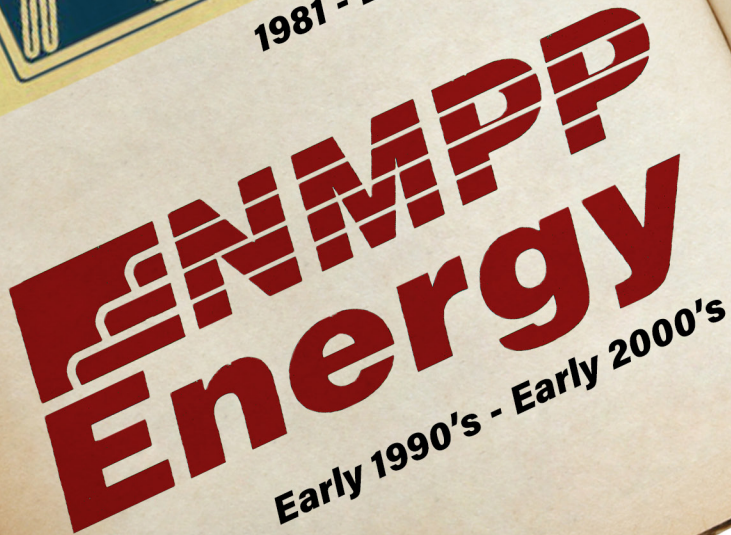
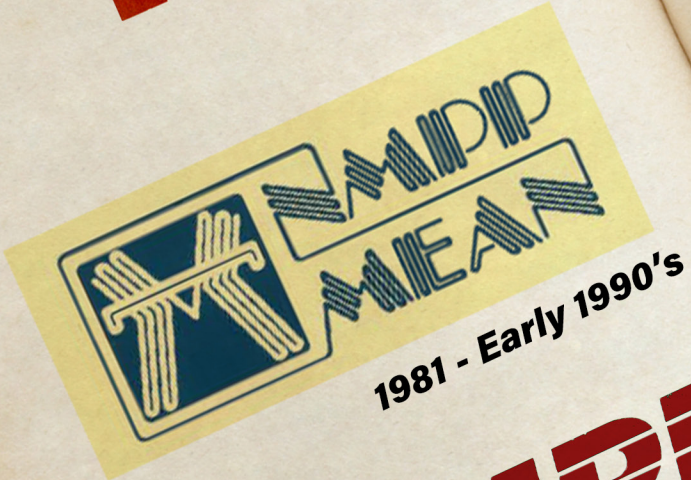
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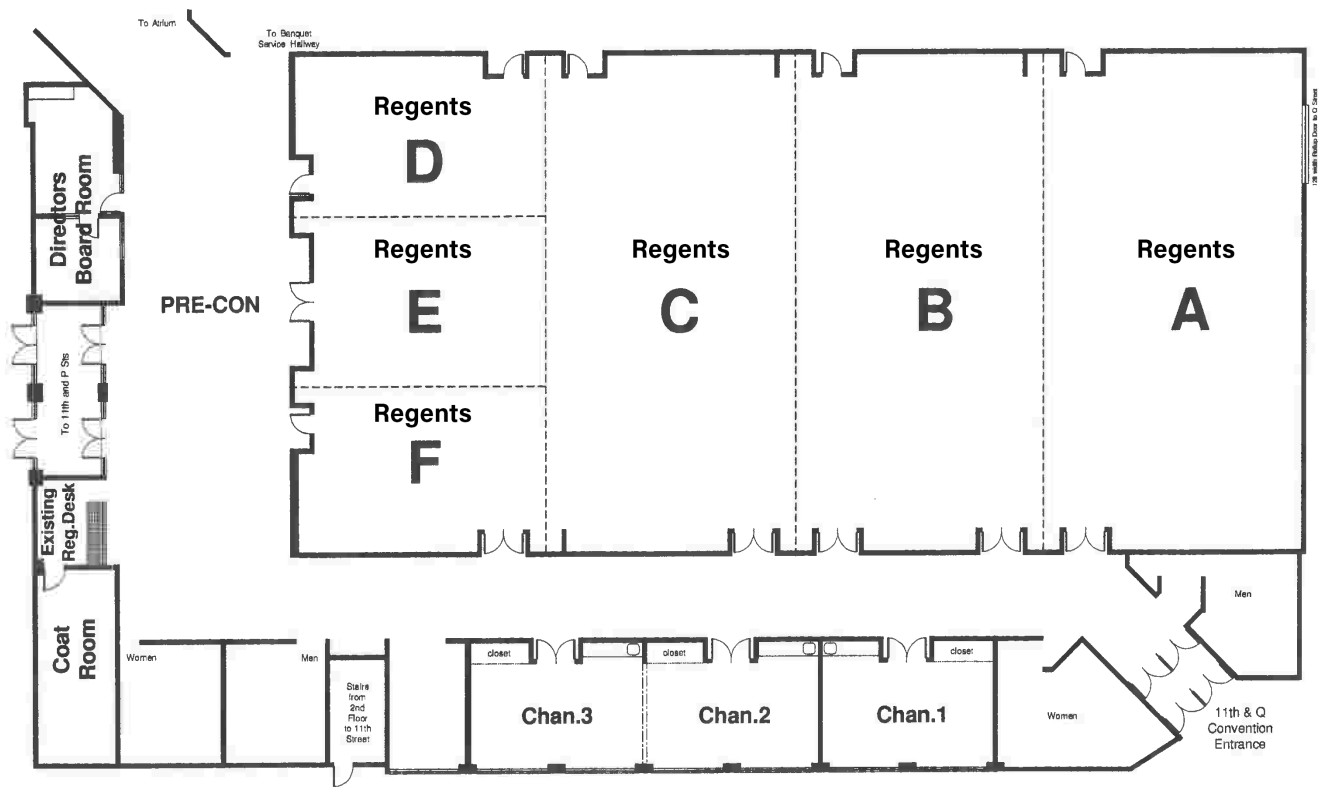
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NMPP Energy logos through the years...





All sessions will take place in Regents rooms. Scan the QR code below for full agenda details.

Conference Highlights

Keynote Speaker Bill Busch, Wednesday, 8-9:30 AM, Regents A

Breakout Sessions, Wednesday, 10-11 AM & 1:30-2:30 PM, Regents D & F

State Issues Legislative Panel, Wednesday, 11-Noon, Regents A

Roundtable Sessions, Wednesday, 3-4:45 PM, Regents A

Mutual Aid and Disaster Recovery Programs, Thursday, 8-9:15 AM, Regents A

Security Threats to Critical Infrastructure & Growing Cyber Threat, Thursday, 9:30-10:30 AM, Regents A





NMPP MEAN NPGA ACE

Conference Schedule

18
TUE

2:00 PM

Registration/Exhibitor Setup.....Preconference Area Registration Desk

2:00-3:30 PM

ACE Board of Directors Meeting.....NMPP Energy Office

4:30-6:30 PM

Reception with Sponsors.....Regents C & E

Dinner

On Your Own to Enjoy Lincoln Dining Opportunities

19
WED

6:00-9:00 AM

Embassy Suites Breakfast.....Embassy Atrium

7:30 AM

Registration/Exhibit Booths Open.....Regents C & E

8:00-9:30 AM

Opening/Keynote Speaker.....Regents A
Coach Bill Busch - "Successfully Navigating Life's Turnovers"

9:30-10:00 AM

Break/Visit Sponsor Booths.....Regents C & E

10:00-11:00 AM

Breakout Sessions
The Energy Authority - Natural Gas Market Conditions.....Regents D

10:00-11:00 AM

Breakout Sessions
Sandhills Energy - Community Scale Solar:
From Conception to Operations.....Regents F

11:00-12:00 PM

State Issues Legislative Panel.....Regents A

12:00-1:00 PM

Lunch/Sponsor Introductions.....Regents B

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19
WED

1:30-2:30 PM

Breakout Sessions
Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Hydro Update (Virtual)..... Regents D

1:30-2:30 PM

Breakout Sessions
Nebraska State Auditor’s Office – Ethics and Fraud in Government.....Regents F

2:30-3:00 PM

Break/Visit Sponsor Booths.....Regents C & E

3:00-4:45 PM

Roundtable Sessions.....Regents A

5:30 PM

Social Time.....Regents B

6:30 PM

Awards and Banquet.....Regents B

20
THU

6:00-9:00 AM

Embassy Suites Breakfast.....Embassy Atrium

8:00-9:15 AM

American Public Power Association (APPA).....Regents A
Mutual Aid & Disaster Recovery Program

9:30-10:30 AM

Wade Greening, FBI – Physical Security/Cyber Attacks.....Regents A



2025 Annual Conference Speakers



“Successfully Navigating Life’s Turnovers”

Bill Busch - Keynote Speaker

Longtime Football Coach and Sports Talk Show Personality

A Division I football coach for more than 30 years, Coach Bill Busch’s story will highly entertain and inspire conference attendees. A cold call to legendary Nebraska football Coach Tom Osborne launched Busch’s 30-plus year coaching career at college football’s highest level. You don’t have to be sports-minded to appreciate Bill’s message. He has a gift for engaging audiences by transforming his experiences into unique and memorable lessons. Most recently, he serves as a co-host on the “Early Break” radio show in Lincoln, Neb. His infectious personality has helped contribute to the show being the most listened-to radio show in Nebraska.



Overview of Today’s Natural Gas Market

Michael Gehring

Director, Portfolio Management and Analytics - The Energy Authority

Michael will provide an overview of today’s natural gas market along with other current trends in the energy industry. Michael leads his team at The Energy Authority in developing customized forward hedging solutions for TEA clients, which includes the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska. He is heavily involved in TEA’s in-house fundamentals-based energy market analysis.

Ethics and Fraud in Government

Craig Kubicek, Nebraska State Auditor’s Office

Craig will provide insight on what to look for in audits through case studies on fraud as well as case studies showing what can happen when people make unethical decisions.

Western Area Power Administration Hydro Update (Virtual presentation)

Brent Osiek, VP of Power Marketing for Colorado River Storage Project

Brent will share the latest activities and information regarding WAPA’s federal hydro allocations.

Community Scale Solar: From Conception to Operations

Brian Boerner, SVP Development, Kyle Gorsuch, Director of Operations and Maintenance, Sandhills Energy

Brian and Kyle will talk about the lifecycle of the development and construction process of behind-the-meter solar generation on municipal grids.

Security Threats to Critical Infrastructure and the Growing Cyber Threat

Wade Greening, FBI Supervisory Intelligence Analyst

U.S. adversaries are continually seeking to disrupt the country’s critical infrastructure, including targeting critical infrastructure through innovative means. Wade will provide a presentation on counterterrorism and counterintelligence threats toward critical infrastructure, particularly the energy sector.

State Panel Legislative Sessions

Legislative lobbyists from Iowa, Colorado and Nebraska will highlight current happenings of each of their respective 2025 state legislatures.

APPA Mutual Aid and Disaster Recovery Program

Giacomo Wray, Operations Services Manager, American Public Power Association

Fredrick Rumery, Supervisor of Project Management, Lincoln Electric System

Giacomo and Fredrick will provide an overview of the public power mutual aid process and the importance of these programs, including the roles and responsibilities of utilities, states and national coordinators and how to request and coordinate mutual aid resources.

ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19, 3-4:45 PM

Eight roundtable sessions will run concurrently from 3-4:45 p.m. in Regents A on Wednesday, March 19.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to participate in three 25-minute table sessions of their choice.

The Upside and Downside of Unified Utility Solutions

InHANCE Utilities/PowerManager

Isabelle McCarthy, Marketing Specialist

Andrew Jordan, Executive Vice President

Managing a utility office often means switching between different software platforms for customer service, billing, payroll, accounting, financials and inventory, resulting in a process that's time-consuming and inefficient. This session will discuss the pros and cons of unified, centralized solutions versus those from managing utility functions in multiple disparate systems.

GIS Mapping Technologies

RVW, Inc.

Jim Herchenbach, Electrical System Analyst & GIS Specialist

This session will provide an overview on Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping technology with a focus on urban areas, highlighting the tools and trends of a basic GIS system. Additionally, it will touch on maintenance and common issues associated with GIS systems.

Utility Technology Planning and Deployment

Katama Technologies

Scott Durham, Partner/Sr. Consultant

Advancement of emerging technologies is having a profound impact on our business operations, service delivery and customer management. This session will review and focus on how to develop a technology plan that is aligned with strategic goals and maximizes long-term value across the utility.

RTOs, Demand Response and Aggregations Related to FERC Orders 2222 and 719

Healy Law Offices, LLC

Heather Starnes, Attorney

Learn the basics about FERC Orders 719 and 2222 regarding demand response and aggregations of distributed energy resources and how these orders may impact your cities. Understand the applicability of the opt-in and opt-out provisions of each and help your city to assess its options and make decisions to best ensure your city protects its ability to manage its generation and load and ensure reliability.

Power Optimization

Secured Energy/PowerHouse

Paul Wohl, Consultant

This session will discuss how to increase capacity and raise the power factor to consume power more efficiently within your electric distribution system.

What to do About Nitrates in Public Drinking Water

Groundwater Solutions Group, LLC

Tom Christopherson, Owner

This presentation will illustrate the need for abundant high-quality groundwater and the methods and technology for water quantity restoration. The presentation will focus on the efforts to identify the water wells that can be restructured to restore intended use of the well or how to permanently seal the well to preserve the site. Case histories where such methods were used to improve water quality will be presented.

The Importance of Utility Rate Design Planning

JK Energy Consulting, LLC

John Krajewski, Consultant

This session will focus on the importance of regularly reviewing the financial performance of your utilities and ensuring that your rates provide sufficient revenue. In addition, John will discuss the role that a cost of service and rate design study can have in ensuring your rates are providing revenue stability and appropriately recovering your costs from customers.

Optimizing Electric Distribution Systems Amid Increase of Connected Renewable Energy Sources

Schweitzer Engineering Labs

Jon Larson, Technical Manager

Jain Kuriakose, Engineering Manager

This session will focus on the challenges to modern electric distribution systems with the increase of connected renewable energy resources. We will discuss solutions to protect, restore, and optimize the distribution system. We will also discuss microgrid systems.

50



NMPP MEAN NPGA ACE

50 years of working together...

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool, which ultimately evolved into today's NMPP Energy coalition of organizations. Here is a brief timeline of milestones from each organization through five decades of working together!

1975 - The Articles of Incorporation to form NMPP were signed by 19 Nebraska municipalities: Ord, Red Cloud, Sidney, Falls City, Oxford, St. Paul, South Sioux City, Lincoln, Hastings, Gering, Fairbury, Crete, Kimball, Grand Island, Fremont, Broken Bow, Beatrice, Wahoo and Stromsburg.

1976 - Steve Wacker became the first general manager of NMPP.

1977 - Crete and Wahoo become the first two communities to receive power from NMPP under a power purchase agreement from the Omaha Public Power District.

1970'S

1983 - MEAN issues of Lincoln Electric S Wheatland, Wyoming

1984 - Seven municipalities are partic program, which would later be known

1980'S

1990'S

2000'S

2010'S

2011 - The ACE WeatherShield pricing option was introduced to customers, providing an all-inclusive fixed monthly rate for customers.

2012 - NMPP Energy moves to its current home at 8377 Glynoaks Drive.

2015 - MEAN becomes a member of the S Pool (SPP) and MidContinent Independent Operator (MISO) regional transmission orga being a market participant for several years

2018 - NPGA signed its first A additional value to member co

2019 - MEAN joins S balances electric gen in the Western Interco

2020'S

2020 - MEAN Board approves a resolution for a 2050 carbon neutral vision power resource portfolio.

2023 - The NMPP modernization initiative advances, streamlining NMPP's governance structure and transitions several utility services to MEAN.

2024 - The ACE Board approved a \$400,000 revenue distribution, bringing the total amount of funds returned to its 75 Nebraska member communities to \$4.3 million.

1980 – The NMPP Mutual Aid Program was developed when several member utilities aid Grand Island, Neb., after the city was devastated by tornadoes.

1981 – Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) formed after the passage of the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act by the Nebraska Legislature. NMPP transitions to become a utility services organization.

1982 – Haxton and Yuma, Colo., become the first communities beyond Nebraska to join MEAN as wholesale electricity participants.

Issues its first bonds to complete a participation purchase of the system's surplus output from Laramie River Station in 1983.

Participating in NMPP's Computer Services Program as PowerManager software.

1992 – National Public Gas Agency (NPGA) joins NMPP and MEAN under the umbrella trade name NMPP Energy.

1993– The Electric Distribution Service (EDS) program is developed to assist utilities.

1995– The NMPP Energy organizations move into the NMPP Energy Square building in downtown Lincoln, Neb.

1998– Public Alliance for Community Energy (ACE) forms out of a desire by Nebraska communities to compete as a retail natural gas supplier in the Nebraska Choice Gas Program. The initial 54 ACE members sold natural gas to more than 15,000 customers during the first year of the program.

Implemented its Level Purchasing Plan, a long-term gas purchasing strategy for price protection and insulation against rate volatility.

2002– The MEAN Wind Project at Kimball, Neb., goes online to become the state's first utility-scale wind farm.

2003– Start-up fees were fully reimbursed to ACE charter member communities.

2006– ACE transitioned to a call center supported by a computerized system and developed an online selection option through ACE's website to improve customer service.

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