Ideas on Topics for the Eastern and Western Conferences

35th ANNUAL EASTERN CONFERENCE
Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort
Shawnee on Delaware, Pennsylvania, U.S.
May 11-13, 2016
Abstracts Due: January 4, 2016

29th ANNUAL WESTERN CONFERENCE
Hyatt Regency Monterey
Monterey, California, U.S.
June 22-24, 2016
Abstracts Due: December 1, 2015

Open networks:
- Distributed energy resources
- Smart Grid and Microgrids - developments in New York and California
- Intellectual property
- Definition of a utility
- Interconnection
- Definition of a customer and a competitor
- Obligations and rights of a carrier of last resort
- Emergency response coordination
- Jurisdictional issues –Supreme Court cases on demand response and innovative pricing
- Pricing nonregulated services (smart metering)

Telecommunications/Internet/Wireless
- Net neutrality
- Poll attachments
- Open Internet

Energy
- The future of regulation in the electricity industry with the rise of distributed energy resources
- Electric vehicles
- Energy Imbalance Market
- Wholesale Energy Markets
  - Dodd-Frank Regulations and Energy Markets Risk Management
  - Derivatives Regulations and their Impact on End Users in Energy Markets
  - The Impact of Post-Dodd-Frank Regulations on Financial Intermediation Costs for Energy Market End Users
  - Financial Regulation and Energy Regulation: Frictions and Synergies
  - Energy Consumer Impacts from Financial Regulations
  - The Impact of Financial Regulation on Energy Industry Structure

Water
- Aging Infrastructure, Water – an area of vital concern – e.g. environmental, conservation, innovative approaches to decaying infrastructure
- The Water-Energy Nexus, Water Scarcity and Reuse,
• Sustainability & Reliability, Intelligent Water Systems, Industry
• Fragmentation, Public-Private Partnerships, Declining Usage, Asset
• Hardening, Extreme Weather Events and, Cyber Security and
• Decoupling/Alternative Ratemaking,

Postal
• PRC 10 Year Review of PAEA 2006
• Can a declining market fund retirement?
• The Internet and Package Delivery – business and regulatory implications
• Cross Industry Collaboration – e.g. USPS and Rural Telcos fulfilling the USO,

Regulatory Issues across industries
• Environmental and Energy Nexus the electric industry, compliance will fall on state
environmental agencies. Federal Clean Power Plan, post-2020 successor to AB32 –
including cap and trade
• Exploring how Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering regulations can create
inadvertent incentives for financial institutions and non-financial end users (e.g., firms in
regulated industries) doing business with financial institutions.

Regulation in the face of declining demand
• What constitutes success for a regulator?
• Economic benchmarking – what have we learned from the application of benchmarking?
• Do traditional theories based on deadweight loss work?
• Cost of Capital Issues
• Economic foundation for attempts to streamline regulatory processes?