## Suggested Topics for the Eastern and Western Conferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>37th ANNUAL EASTERN CONFERENCE</th>
<th>31st ANNUAL WESTERN CONFERENCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turf Valley Hotel</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Monterey</td>
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<td>Ellicot City, Maryland, U.S.</td>
<td>Monterey, California, U.S.</td>
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<td>June 6 - 8, 2018</td>
<td>June 27-29, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Abstracts Due: January 3, 2018</strong></td>
<td><strong>Abstracts Due: November 30, 2017</strong></td>
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### 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
- Business data services
- Privacy

### Energy
- The future of regulation in the electricity industry with the rise of distributed energy resources
- Electric vehicles
- Energy Imbalance Market
  - Wholesale Energy Markets
  - **Regulatory Effects on Market Performance**
    - 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
  ▪ Fuel Diversity in Electricity Markets
▪ Abundance of low cost gas and rapid penetration of renewables

▪ Grid modernization regulatory policies
  ▪ This decomposes into rate regulatory policies needed for the
    • Transition to “clean” energy
    • Service to customers who require increasingly customized
      (nonstandard) services
    • Plan, finance, build, and operate integrated grids.
▪ Lessons learned by network industries (Telecom, for example)
▪ Universal service policy (cuts across telecom, postal, and to some extent
  electricity (Low Income Energy Program (LIHEAP))

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,
▪ Reaching out to bricks and mortar companies

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?