

Co-Hosts



John Gulliver, Pierce Atwood LLP

John Gulliver is a senior partner at Pierce Atwood, a member of the Management Committee, and head of the firm's International Group. For over 10 years he also was head of the Energy Practice Group. Mr. Gulliver's experience involves literally all elements of legal and regulatory power sector issues. He has represented clients on a broad range of energy sector transactions, policy issues, financing, mergers and acquisitions, privatization, competition, and regulatory reform matters. Mr. Gulliver has worked throughout the United States and in over 50 countries around the world, including the Mid-East, Europe, Central and South America, Asia, Central Asia and Africa, applying his skills and experience to projects involving renewable energy development, energy efficiency and sustainable development; global warming and CO2 offset trading; gas sector regulation, pipelines, and retail distribution; project development and finance; BOT transmission planning, transmission support and interconnection agreements; oil and gas sector agreements; pipeline allocation and related oil and gas project work; power pools, power markets, market design and cross-border trading; complex corporate and commercial transactions; and nuclear issues. John received a B.A. in history from Yale University and a J.D. from Yale Law School.



William Harwood, Verrill Dana, LLP

William Harwood has devoted most of his 30-year career to representing public utilities before state and federal regulatory agencies. He has represented electric, gas, water and telecommunications companies in more than 50 major cases before the Maine Public Utilities Commission and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, including rate cases, prudence investigations, management audits, merger approvals, requests for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity, and rulemaking proceedings. Mr. Harwood counsels utilities on proactive strategies to both anticipate regulatory developments and efficiently manage the regulatory process. Mr. Harwood has been extensively involved in traditional rate setting issues, including CWIP in rate base, attrition, accounting orders and cost of capital. He has negotiated long-term alternative rate plans which include automatic inflation adjustments, service quality penalties, and recovery of mandated or exogenous costs. He has also negotiated numerous long-term special rate agreements between utilities and specific industrial consumers. Mr. Harwood was actively involved in the restructuring of the Maine electric utility industry, including representing utilities in the sale of their generating assets, recovery of stranded costs and providing standard offer (default) service. More recently, he has represented developers of new transmission lines in securing Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and wind developers in negotiating Interconnection Agreements and securing adequate transmission capacity for delivery of the output. Mr. Harwood earned a B.A. from Harvard University and a J.D., *cum laude*, from Fordham University.

Keynote Speaker

Governor Paul R. LePage

Paul LePage spent most of his life tackling one challenge after another—the kinds of challenges that defeat most people. The oldest son of 18 children, Governor LePage left home at 11 to escape domestic violence. He lived on the streets for two years before being taken in by two local families.

In college, Governor LePage excelled academically and graduated with a BS in Business Administration in Finance/Accounting from Husson College. He then went on to earn an advanced college degree, an MBA from the University of Maine.

Before becoming Governor, he was elected Mayor of the City of Waterville and worked as the General Manager for Marden's, a retail chain he helped to expand statewide. Prior to that, he headed a private consultancy firm providing services and advice to banks, law firms, client companies, insurance companies, bankruptcy courts and trustees.

His private-sector experience includes consulting and management work in manufacturing, wood products, forestry, power, furniture, food and beverage, building supply and construction in Maine and Canada.

Paul LePage became Maine's Governor in 2011. Major achievements include passing the largest tax cut in Maine's history, enacting long-overdue welfare reforms, reducing the state's unfunded pension liability, cutting red tape for Maine's businesses, signing charter school legislation and implementing market-based health insurance reforms.

Governor LePage won reelection in 2014 with the highest number of votes ever cast for a Maine governor. He has attracted national attention for his ongoing efforts to reduce taxes, reform welfare and bring sound fiscal responsibility to state government.

As Governor and throughout his life, he has been an outspoken advocate for reducing domestic violence in Maine.

Luncheon Speaker

Kurt Adams, Summit Utilities, Inc.

Kurt Adams has served as President and Chief Executive Officer for Summit Utilities, Inc. since October, 2015, a Director of Summit Utilities, Inc. from 2014 to present and as a Member of Board of Trustees of University of Maine System from 2010 to 2015.

Prior to joining Summit Utilities, Inc., Mr. Adams served as the Chief Development Officer at SunEdison and First Wind (which was purchased by SunEdison in Q1 2015). At First Wind and SunEdison, Mr. Adams led utility scale renewable energy development. Prior to joining First Wind, Mr. Adams was Chairman of the Maine Public Utilities Commission from 2005 to 2008, where he served as Maine's primary energy regulator. As Chairman, he served as a member of the New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissions, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions (NARUC), the NARUC Electricity Committee, and the NARUC Competitive Procurement Committee. He was also Maine's representative on the New England State Committee on Electricity. Prior to his position with the Maine PUC, Mr. Adams was Governor John Baldacci's chief legal counsel from 2003 to 2005. Before joining the Governor's staff, Mr. Adams was a non-equity partner in the law firm of Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson in Portland, Maine. At Bernstein Shur, Mr. Adams was the Vice Chairman of the firm's energy practice. Mr. Adams represented independent power producers in all facets of project development. Mr. Adams also represented national and international private and public sector clients on energy projects, and lenders on energy project financings.

Kurt holds a B.A. in Government from Skidmore College, an MA in International Affairs from George Washington University and J.D. from the University of Maine Law School.

Commercial/Industrial Usage

Stuart Jablon, Backyard Farms

Since 2014, Stuart has been the President and COO of Backyard Farms, a nationally recognized premier grower of greenhouse tomatoes, based in Central Maine. Backyard Farms employs over 200 people and sells into premier customers such as Hannaford, Whole Foods, Market Basket, WalMart and Shaws. Prior to joining Backyard Farms, Stuart worked in the banana business for 25 years with Dole Fresh Fruit Company, 10 of which he lived and worked in Central America. Stuart also served as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica. He has a BA in Economics from Union College and an MBA from UCLA.

He serves on the boards of the Alford Youth Center (Waterville) and the Madison Business Alliance.

He and his wife Emma have been married for 31 years (having met while they were both working in Jamaica). They have 2 daughters: Juno, living in London, U.K. and Georgia living in Denver, CO.

Rich Silkman, Competitive Energy Services

Dr. Richard Silkman, is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Competitive Energy Services, LLC (CES). He is a Ph.D. economist and a nationally recognized expert in the regulation of public utilities, the development of competitive energy markets and the development, licensing and operation of power plants, including hydroelectric generating stations. Dr. Silkman has extensive experience in a wide range of settings, including education, government, consulting and the private sector. He is also a founding partner in Kennebec Valley Gas Company, the predecessor to Summit Natural Gas, and of GridSolar, a pioneering firm in the development of Non-Transmission Alternatives.

Education: Ph.D., Economics, Yale University, New Haven, CT; M.A., Economics, Yale University, New Haven, CT; B.S. (w/ Distinction), Economics, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

Dana Storer, Maine Natural Gas

Dana joined Maine Natural Gas in 2014 as a Sales Consultant and now serves as the Manager of Customer Service and Marketing for the company. Mr. Storer is responsible for, billing, meter reading, customer acquisition, marketing, and customer service. Mr. Storer assists the company in the interpretation of MPUC regulations as they pertain to marketing and sales practices.

Dana received his Associates of Science from Vermont Technical College and his Bachelor of Applied Science from the University of Maine. Also, as a BPI Certified Building Analyst Dana has a passion for residential energy efficiency.

When Dana is not working he enjoys adventures with his three children and his wife.

Sarah Tracy, Pierce Atwood LLP

Sarah Tracy is a partner in the Energy Group at Pierce Atwood LLP, where she advises clients regarding electric, natural gas and communications matters. Sarah represents electric and natural gas utilities, large commercial and industrial energy users, community-based renewable energy companies, and competitive energy providers on a range of matters before public utility commissions. Sarah also assists clients in negotiating long-term agreements for the purchase and sale of electricity, natural gas, and renewable energy credits, and in conducting due diligence regarding state, regional and federal regulatory issues on behalf of clients seeking to acquire energy related companies. As a former staff attorney for the Maine Public Utilities Commission, Sarah brings a unique insight to resolving legal and regulatory issues facing her clients. Sarah serves as the Chair of the Freeport Town Council and she received a B.A., cum laude, from Amherst College and a J.D., cum laude, from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Moderator – William Harwood, Verrill Dana, LLP

Regional Issues

Sean Mahoney, Conservation Law Foundation

Sean Mahoney serves as the Conservation Law Foundation's Executive Vice President and Director of its Maine Advocacy Center. Prior to joining CLF in 2007, Sean practiced environmental law in San Francisco and Portland, ME for 15 years, where he represented a variety of commercial and nonprofit clients in all aspects of state and federal environmental litigation and permitting. At CLF, Mahoney focuses on climate change and clean energy, marine conservation and sustainability, transportation and energy infrastructure, and restoring and protecting Maine's rivers and coastal watersheds. Mahoney, a resident of Falmouth, received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and his undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College. After college he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sri Lanka and after law school as a law clerk for the Honorable Fred I. Parker, U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont. He has served on a number of boards, including the Falmouth Town Council, GrowSmart Maine (chair), Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Konbit Sante and the Falmouth Land Trust, and currently serves as a member of the Vinalhaven Land Trust.

Steven McGrath, Governor's Energy Office

Steve McGrath is the Director of the Governor's Energy Office. He is the past Chief Financial Officer of Downeast Energy Corp, where he was also responsible for oil and propane supply and hedging. For the past four years he served the CEO of Greystone Advisors, a financial and management advisory company. While at Greystone he acted as a part-time CFO for a number of small businesses in Maine. Steve started his corporate career in New York City, where he worked for Bristol-Myers Company, now Bristol-Myers Squibb. He has also held senior financial management roles at Beiersdorf AG, Hyperion Software, and Wright Express (now WEX).

His degrees include a Master of Business Administration in Finance from New York University, a Master of Arts in Mathematics from the University of Maine and a Bachelor of Science from Bates College.

Steve began his tenure at the Energy Office on Aug. 25, 2017.

Heather Hunt, NESCOE

Ms. Hunt joined NESCOE as Executive Director in January 2009. Prior to that, she had a regulatory law practice in Connecticut for six years. Previously, she was Director of State Government Affairs at United Technologies Corporation and a Group Director, then Vice President of Regulatory at Southern Connecticut Gas. Earlier in her career, she was a Public Utility Commissioner in Maine and Connecticut and worked for the Legal Counsel of a Connecticut Governor. She graduated from Fairfield University and the Western New England College School of Law.

Tom Kiley, Northeast Gas Association

Steve Leahy is Vice President, Policy at the Northeast Gas Association (NGA). NGA is a regional trade association that represents the natural gas industry of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the six New England states. Its members include the gas distribution companies of the multi-state region, interstate transmission companies, LNG transporters, and over 300 associate member companies.

Prior to joining NGA, Steve was Director of Energy and Environment Programs for the New England Governors' Conference in Boston. He also has served as a consultant for the Northeast Advanced Vehicle Consortium, and as a contractor on projects funded by the U.S. EPA and U.S. Department of Energy. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the New England-Canada Business Council.

Steve has a B.A. from Harvard College and an M.A. in international relations from Tufts University (Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy).

Cynthia Armstrong, Portland Natural Gas Transmission System

Cynthia L. Armstrong is Marketing Director for Portland Natural Gas Transmission System ("PNGTS"). She is responsible for marketing short and long term capacity, and development of new projects and services on PNGTS.

Ms. Armstrong has been with PNGTS since 2004. Previously she worked with Sprague Energy as its Managing Director – Natural Gas Supply and Risk Management. She also held other marketing and trading positions at SEMCO Energy Services and Norstar Energy (O&R Energy Development).

She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the State University of New York in Buffalo, and also earned a Master of Business Administration in Corporate and Investment Finance from New York University.

Rob Furino, Unitil

Rob Furino is Director of Unitil's Energy Contracts department. Rob joined Unitil in 1994 and has held positions in the company's energy contracts, regulatory and finance departments before taking his current position in 2008, the year Unitil purchased Northern Utilities. Mr. Furino is responsible for supply planning and procurement for Unitil's gas and electric distribution companies, as well as the structure and operation of the retail choice programs operated by each of the distribution companies. Unitil operates gas distribution companies in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and electric distribution companies in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Mr. Furino attended the University of Maine, where he studied Economics.

Moderator – John Gulliver, Pierce Atwood LLP

Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel

Jerry Livengood, Bangor Gas

Mr. Livengood is a natural gas industry professional with over 20 years of industry related experience. Since 2008, he has planned, organized, and directed the business activities of Bangor Natural Gas, a startup local distribution company serving customers in Central Maine. Prior to Bangor Gas, he worked as the Director of Business Development for Orwell Natural Gas for 4 years. He began his career in the gas industry at American Meter/ Elster where he worked for over 10 years eventually departing the company as a District Sales Manager to pursue work at the utility level. He has a BS in Business Administration, with honors, from Myers University, Master of Business Administration, with honors, from Husson University, and is a Registered Gas Distribution Professional with the Gas Technology Institute. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1989 to 2000. He lives in Orono, Maine with his wife Celeste and their three sons.

Ben Lake, Greater Portland Council of Governments

Benjamin Lake is the Coordinator of the Maine Clean Communities (MC2) Clean Cities Coalition, housed at the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) in Portland, Maine. He joined GPCOG and MC2 in 2009, and assumed the role of Coordinator in August 2015. Lake provides fuel neutral support for the local alternative fuel market through outreach, grant management, alternative fuel education, event coordination, and development of capital replacement and alternative fuel switching cost-benefit analyses for MC2 projects and stakeholders.

Lake also provides planning support and technical assistance to GPCOG communities and public transportation agencies in the areas of transit planning, multi-modal transportation infrastructure, climate and energy planning, demographic data management, grant writing, ridership surveying, and alternative transportation fuels capital planning and assessment.

Michael Bostwick, Pan Am Railways

Michael P. Bostwick began his railroad career in 1996 starting out in the Freight Claims Department with Pan Am Railways. Michael was promoted to Director of Marketing-Forest Products in 1999, later AVP Marketing, Vice President Sales, Vice President Sales & Intermodal until being appointed Senior Vice President Sales & Marketing and most recently assuming his current position in 2012. Michael is a 5th generation "Boston & Maine" railroader.

Michael earned his BA from the University of Massachusetts Amherst graduating Cum Laude with a double major in Economics and History.

Michael is happily married to his wife Amy with whom he has a beautiful daughter Bianca. Michael and his family reside in Hampton, NH.

Matt Smith, Sales and Marketing, XNG

Matt Smith has spent the past decade working in private equity and venture capital. Prior to founding Xpress Natural Gas, he was an executive and senior member of the investment team that originally funded Backyard Farms in Madison, Maine - a company that has grown to become the largest tomato greenhouse operation on the US east coast. At Backyard Farms, Matt led the company's energy efforts, creating a wholesale electrical entity to buy and sell power directly from the grid, and also initiating a first-of-its-kind captive LNG plant to provide thermal energy to the facility, where he also managed the regulatory and state permitting processes. Previously, Matt worked in private equity and venture capital at Devonshire Investors, a division of Fidelity Investments. Matt is a graduate of Williams College and has an MBA from the Tuck School at Dartmouth College.

Moderator – Katie Gray, Verrill Dana, LLP

Katie Gray advises public utilities and significant consumers of energy on all aspects of energy law and regulatory practice before the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and other agencies and state courts. Ms. Gray has represented natural gas, electric, water, and telecommunication companies and others in numerous cases before the Maine PUC, including rate cases, gas safety proceedings, customer complaints, conversation assessment cases, affiliate transaction and merger approvals, financing approvals, requests for accounting orders, and rulemakings.

Ms. Gray's most significant work has been in the natural gas field. Ms. Gray represents two interstate pipeline companies in a landmark proceeding concerning a public investment of up to \$75 million in new natural gas pipeline capacity into New England. Ms. Gray was instrumental in obtaining a number of foundational regulatory approvals for Maine's newest natural gas local distribution company. In addition, she has represented industrial, municipal, and nonprofit institutional consumers of natural gas in rate cases of two natural gas utilities.

Natural Gas in Power Generation

Carlisle McLean, Avangrid

Carlisle Tuggey Mclean is a Senior Corporate Regulatory Attorney at Avangrid, Inc. Prior to her current position at Avangrid, she served as Commissioner at the Maine Public Utilities Commission from January 2015 to June 2017. Preceding her appointment to the PUC she served as Chief Legal Counsel to the Maine Governor Paul LePage, as well as holding other positions within the Governor's office from 2011 to 2015. She practiced environmental, land use and climate strategy law with Preti Flaherty from 2005 to 2011. She also worked at the Yale Center for Environmental Policy, Trustees for Alaska, and the New York State Office of the Attorney General. She has been an active member of the Maine and American Bar Associations and has held leadership positions with both organizations. Commissioner McLean received her Juris Doctor from Pace University School of Law and her Master of Environmental Management from Yale University School of Forestry. She completed her undergraduate degree at Bates College.

Dan Peaco, Daymark Energy Advisors

Dan Peaco is a Principal Consultant and Board Chairman at Daymark Energy Advisors. Mr. Peaco has over 35 years of experience in the electric industry, which includes experience with a broad set of policy, planning, and decision support advice and analysis. His consulting practice has included engagements in competitive procurement and power contracts, integrated resource planning, strategic planning, competitive electric markets, evaluation of generation asset investments and siting, renewable energy policy, transmission planning, and industry restructuring. Mr. Peaco has substantial experience with natural gas generation planning, siting, and valuation in New England and across the U.S.

Prior to joining Daymark, he held management and planning positions in power supply planning at Central Maine Power, CMP International Consultants, Pacific Gas & Electric, and the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Council. Mr. Peaco earned a Master's Degree in Engineering Sciences, Resource Systems and Policy Design from the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College and his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, Water Resource Systems from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Tony Buxton, Preti Flaherty

Tony serves as Chair of Preti Flaherty's Energy and Utilities Practice Group and is a member of the firm's Management Committee. He also is Co-chair of Preti Flaherty's Climate Strategy Group. Tony creates solutions to energy problems, including the twin challenges of high-energy costs and emission reduction. Tony has been a key player in New England on energy and infrastructure issues, playing an important role in energy legislation in Maine as well as being involved in the formation and operation of ISO-NE. In recent years, Tony has focused on overcoming challenges to infrastructure development in New England, both fixed and network in nature.

After law school, Tony co-founded the Energy Law Institute in Concord, New Hampshire, the nation's first renewable energy think tank. The Institute served the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Navy, the National Conference of State Legislatures and others in developing state and federal policies to encourage renewable energy. Tony was also law clerk to the Honorable Hugh H. Bownes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston.

Barry Hobbins, Public Advocate

Barry Hobbins was appointed Public Advocate by Governor Paul LePage, and unanimously confirmed by the Maine Legislature in May of 2017 for a four year term. Prior to becoming Public Advocate, Barry has been an attorney in private practice since 1978 with a concentration in telecommunications law and administrative law. He has been elected to both the Maine House of Representatives and the Maine State Senate, serving a total of 13 terms in the Legislature. Barry received his law degree from Franklin Pierce Law Center, now known as the University of New Hampshire School of Law and his undergraduate degree from the University of Maine.

Jim Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP

Based on a broad perspective gained through years of experience as a regulatory lawyer, mediator, and former Portland Mayor and City Councilor, Mr. Cohen combines legal, public policy, networking and facilitation strategies to help clients achieve their goals – whether in legal disputes; before government agencies; in business deals; or in the halls of the Legislature. Mr. Cohen assists investor and consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities in transactions and regulatory proceedings ranging from rate setting, to rate design, to purchase power and special rate agreements, to mergers and acquisitions, to rulemakings and customer complaints, to Commission audits and investigations. He has also advised natural gas utilities, wood pellet heat providers, and energy aggregators on a wide range of state regulatory and legislative matters. Mr. Cohen has been involved in the drafting and adoption of nearly every major piece of energy legislation adopted in Maine since 1995, including the 1997 restructuring of Maine’s electric industry and the 2013 Omnibus Energy Act. He serves on the Energy and Environment Committee of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce.

Moderator – Randall Rich, Pierce Atwood LLP

Randy Rich is the Leader of Pierce Atwood’s Energy Practice Group and the partner-in-charge of the firm’s Washington, DC office. Throughout his over 35 years of experience, beginning in the Office of General Counsel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Randy has guided clients through the rapidly changing regulation of the natural gas industry at the federal and state level, providing comprehensive legal counsel on natural gas regulation and policy, pipeline and utility ratemaking, tariffs, certificates and abandonment; natural gas transportation, gathering, marketing and trading; enforcement of and compliance with the Natural Gas Act, Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 and FERC regulations; natural gas business transactions; and oil pipeline regulation. He has been an active participant in the new natural gas pipeline projects to transport Marcellus and Utica natural gas from the Appalachian Basin to New England and expanding natural gas opportunities for Maine.