

The Electric Utility Industry Gathers at EUCG's Spring Workshop to Discuss Benchmarking, Business Practices, and Emerging Industry Trends

(Reston, VA, April 18, 2017) – Safety, reliability, risk management, and adaptability to the changing energy markets were just a few of the issues examined by electric utility industry leaders during the EUCG Spring Benchmarking Workshop this month in Charleston, SC.

EUCG, a global association of energy and electric utility professionals, meets semiannually to discuss current and emerging industry issues, share best practices and exchange data for benchmarking purposes.

The Workshop's opening remarks were provided by EUCG President Stephanie Maggard of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). President Maggard updated the members on EUCG's "Vision 2020", the organization's strategic plan, and introduced the addition of a new Solar Committee, which will be chaired by Ruben Soto of Southern California Edison, to the EUCG family. The keynote address was given by Patrick Schwerdtfeger, a leading authority on technology trends including big data, artificial intelligence and the social media revolution.

EUCG Committees held forums to discuss current events and the future of the utility industry. Committee highlights are as follows:

- **Transmission and Distribution (T&D) Committee:** Led by T&D Committee Chair, Eileen Brannon of Oncor Electric Delivery, the forum opened by welcoming members and introducing new representatives from American Electric Power and Southern Company. Many relevant topics were discussed including CenterPoint's reformulated New Designer Training for rapid proficiency gain, BGE/Exelon's successful implementation of Innovation Central portal, employee safety-related updates from Duke Energy's "Keys to Life" and "Cardinal Electric Safety Rules" programs, PSEG's implementation of safety best practices on hazard recognition and tailboard sessions from Construction Industry Institute (CII), Oncor's incorporation of Lean Six Sigma methodologies for continuous process improvement, and development of Capital Program Performance Metrics among member companies.
- **Hydroelectric Committee:** Hydroelectric Committee Chair, Chris Utracki of Ontario Power Generation began the workshop with a warm welcome and round table introductions, then discussed the most recent accomplishments of the committee and its future direction. The workshop agenda included 19 sessions that included topics such as commercial availability, asset management strategy, new data visualization tools, scorecard & incentive program comparisons, as well as case studies and lessons learned on challenging operations and maintenance projects and safety incidents. Twelve utility companies from around the world participated in the Hydro workshop.
- **Fossil Committee:** Led by Fossil Committee Chair Steve Royall of PG&E, the committee members actively engaged in discussions on a wide variety of industry challenges and shared best practices. The workshop was focused on three key areas - safety, combined cycle facility flexibility, and coal unit retirement strategies. Participants received a best practices report compiled from a daily summary at the conclusion of the workshop.

- **Nuclear Committee:** The Nuclear Committee, led by committee chair David Ward, Jr. of Duke Energy, discussed some key industry topics with a common theme around helping member companies 'Deliver the Nuclear Promise'. "A very engaging activity during the workshop was the identification /solicitation of specific issues or concerns that companies submitted to gain input or potential contacts to discuss later. A couple of companies provided insight to their new builds and there was a lot of interest in the creation of a decommissioning cost database," remarked Ward. Two key presentations included "Delivering the Nuclear Promise" which was a three member panel discussion on The 'Nuclear Promise' Program (NPP) launched by the US nuclear energy industry, which is a multiyear initiative aimed to boost industry efficiency, safety and economic viability of the nuclear power plants. The second key presentation was the winner of the Nuclear Energy Institute's Top Industry Performer on "Risk Management Process" which is the process developed to improve the management of significant risk issues that represent a major threat (high consequential) to the business.

Like all the previous workshops, the EUCG Spring 2017 workshop continued delivering the key objectives of the organization, which are the importance, and usefulness, of timely and consistent data sharing; the availability to discuss current issues in a peer network format; and the benefits of sharing best business operations practices across the industry.

"We had an outstanding workshop with educational and networking opportunities that were second to none. Our attendees will take valuable information and industry contacts back to their companies that they can use to improve operational and financial performance," remarked Maggard.

The next EUCG Workshop will be in Portland, Oregon from September 17-20, 2017 at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront. For more information, please visit the EUCG website, www.eucg.org.

About EUCG: EUCG is a global non-profit association of energy and electric utility professionals who discuss current and emerging industry issues, share best practices and exchange data for benchmarking purposes. The 44 year old association is organized into committees that represent specific utility functions: Fossil, Nuclear, Hydroelectric, Transmission & Distribution, and Solar. Membership is open to all utility companies worldwide. Interested parties should contact Don Kaiser, EUCG Executive Director, at 703/234-4116 or Kaiser@eucg.org.

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