

Electric Utility Cost Group (EUCG) News Release

For Immediate Release

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

(Reston, VA, May 9, 2018) – The Electric Utility Cost Group (EUCG) hosted electric utility industry leaders from 49 utility companies from across the globe during the EUCG Spring Benchmarking Workshop held April 23-25 at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio in San Antonio, TX. These semi-annual workshops provide a forum for discussion of current and emerging industry issues, best practices, and data exchange for benchmarking purposes.

EUCG President Stephanie Maggard of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) provided the Workshop's opening remarks. President Maggard updated the members on the status of the EUCG Resource Library, a digital platform where archived presentations and general committee documents will be accessible by members. Maggard also reported that this workshop marked the first formal workshop sessions of the Solar Committee, chaired by Ruben Soto of Southern California Edison (SCE-E). Bob Edwards, the HOP Coach, presented the keynote address, and discussed Human and Organizational Performance in the workplace, the importance of recognizing the inevitability of human error, and encouraged employers to consider ways to build systems that are more error tolerant. Edwards has led over 250 Learning Team sessions for safety and quality events and for operational upsets and challenging design issues, and is a leading expert on Human Performance Learning Teams.

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 (ONCR), the workshop featured 13 presentations on the topics of Cost & Safety metrics, Best Practices, Technology, Innovation, and Operations, and included four collaborative sessions with the Fossil Committee. Public Service Enterprise Group (PEG) presented a pilot program utilizing unmanned aerial vehicles to collect important information in evaluating T&D circuit health, equipment, trees/vegetation. American Transmission Company (ATC) discussed the creation of a data analytics environment based on leveraging an operational data store type structure that will provide capabilities to move toward predictive analytical modeling and improved customer reliability. CenterPoint Energy (CNP) provided an update on the successful progress of its Designer Trainer program; Oncor demonstrated a smart app that allows emergency first responders and the public to safely transmit digital images of wire-down events, and reported its positive impact on the company's ability to dispatch the right resources in timely manner. The Committee also presented EUCG T&D Industry Leadership awards to the following members for their professional expertise and exceptional service to the T&D Committee: Jeannine Beran, Exelon Utilities (EXC); Martin Narendorf, CenterPoint Energy; Scott Clemons, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVE); and Jesse Medlock, Oncor Electric Delivery.
- **Hydroelectric Committee:** The Hydroelectric Productivity Committee, led by Chris Utracki of Ontario Power Generation, discussed its Annual Report, released in the Spring, which provides a general overview of current industry status and trends. Discussion of Asset Management ranged from a review of requirements for an effective asset management program, Condition Monitoring

programs, and effectively utilizing the Industry 4.0 revolution. Financial efficiency was also a key topic, as many utilities are currently undergoing Operating, Maintenance & Administration cuts. An Employee Safety Survey, run jointly with the National Hydropower Association, reflected positive progress in recordable and lost time incident rates. 23 Hydro organizations participated in the survey, providing data on over 15 million labor hours corresponding to about 8,400 employees.

- **Fossil Committee:** Led by Fossil Committee Chair Steve Royall of Pacific Gas & Electric Company, committee member discussions focused on three key areas: safety, combined cycle facility flexibility, and coal unit retirement strategies. The Fossil Committee also announced the creation of best practice awards for all EUCG members. The first awards will be announced at the Fall Workshop. Participants also received a compilation Best Practices - Key Learnings report drawn from a daily summary at the conclusion of the workshop.
- **Nuclear Committee:** Led by Nuclear Committee Chair David Ward, Jr. of Duke Energy (DUK), committee members focused on key industry topics with a common theme of innovation. The Committee developed an innovation database by which member companies can easily share initiatives that have resulted in savings for their companies, and discussed the nuclear industry performance indicator central database scheduled for implementation in 2019. Some key presentations included the following: "South Texas Zero Based Budgeting Process" focused on a new method implemented within the last three years that allowed South Texas Electric Cooperative (STEC) to create a more efficient and effective budget development process; the presentation of Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI) Top Industry Performer, PE PRO, developed by Duke Energy, a Procurement Engineering application that interfaces with fleet data and assigns real-time priorities to all Fleet Procurement Engineering teams' work items (including obsolescence and critical spares), based on plant needs and equipment reliability classifications. Workshop attendee Kimberly Julius from Entergy (ETR) stated, "The EUCG Workshop provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the challenges, innovations, and opportunities that our peer Nuclear plants are undertaking. In addition, the Workshop provided a phenomenal platform to benchmark, and network with peer utilities."
- **Solar Committee:** The Solar Committee, led by committee chair Ruben Soto of Southern California Edison, hosted its inaugural Workshop sessions. In depth discussions and knowledge sharing among utility representatives focused on the need for standardized Operations & Maintenance business practices among utilities, leveraging Battery and Energy Storage technology to improve system reliability, as well as improving system flexibility in the energy market. The Workshop also served as an opportunity for networking among attendees, providing an unrivaled platform for idea sharing and collaboration.

Like all the previous workshops, the EUCG Spring 2018 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.

The next EUCG Workshop will be in Denver, Colorado from September 9-12, 2018 at the Grand Hyatt Denver. 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 forty-four 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.

MEDIA CONTACT: Stephanie Maggard, EUCG President, 415/973-2812, sam6@pge.com