



Event Notice

WIRES University – Electric Transmission Infrastructure: Economic, Policy & Technology Challenges

Thursday, May 25, 2017

8:45 AM – 3:00 PM

Breakfast and lunch will be provided

**Reserve Officers Association – 5th Floor
One Constitution Ave NE**

*Registration is free but space is limited to 150 attendees
Please note you are able to attend only some of the sessions*

Register at: www.eesi.org/052517wires

Live webcast (connection permitting) will be streamed at: www.eesi.org/livecast

This year's second WIRES University explores an oft-neglected but fundamental aspect of North American INFRASTRUCTURE—the high voltage electric transmission grid. This whole-day session explains the grid's importance as an enabler of markets and new technology as the economy becomes more thoroughly electrified. Our grid must also adapt to a distributed energy future which calls for a smarter and more flexible network.

This session delves into the details of why modernizing our high-voltage grid infrastructure is more critical than ever, given the age of the nation's transmission facilities, the fundamental changes occurring in electric generation, and the demands on the system. Expansion and upgrade of the grid will make it more resilient and deliver increased economic, environmental, and consumer benefits in the range of \$50 billion annually.

The largest machine in the world—the U.S. electric grid—is struggling to meet the needs of our modern, energy-intensive economy, with demand expected to rise by more than 30 percent over the next two decades. Even after substantial investment in this privately-owned asset over the last decade, the American Society of Civil Engineers still rates the transmission grid a mere D+, just like many other U.S. infrastructure assets.

Speakers, including leaders from Congress, regulatory agencies, industry, and think tanks, will examine what challenges need to be overcome to upgrade our transmission system. Policymakers and regulators play a critical role in our nation's energy infrastructure, and there is much room for improved coordination and planning.

A full agenda is forthcoming. Panels will address grid modernization, transmission's **role as a strategic asset and an enabler, regulatory and financial challenges**, and the role that **the wired network plays in the distributed energy environment, clean energy, and in tech innovation environments**.

*This event is sponsored by **WIRES** in conjunction with the **House Grid Innovation Caucus**, the **National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)**, the **GridWise Alliance**, and **EESI**.*

**This event is free and open to the public, but space is limited to 150 attendees.
For more information, contact Amaury Laporte at alaporte@eesi.org or (202) 662-1884.**

