

# The Current

June 7, 2011

Women's Council on Energy and the Environment

## The Current Team

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## Welcome to the WCEE Current

As this is only our second issue, I thought I would reintroduce the WCEE Current to you. The newsletter is put together by a small team of very talented volunteers who very generously donate their time. We expect The Current will appear every two months. However, if we have articles to share, you will see it monthly. We welcome feedback—let us know what works, what is missing, what you would like to see more often or less often.

I hope that the newsletter can become a resource for all members, with opinion pieces and articles on timely topics, information about WCEE members and sponsors, and updates on WCEE activities. We plan to highlight not only energy and environmental issues, but our members as well. We welcome suggestions and contributions on a variety of topics, as well as updates from our members about careers, publications, and awards and honors.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Lisa Hyland, Editor

## Sponsor Spotlight: PJM Interconnection

My name is Lynn Horning, and I am a senior professional with more than 20 years of experience in the evolving energy utility industry. At PJM, I have spent the last 10 years leading the implementation of market rule changes and interpreting existing tariff and rule provisions as a Senior Consultant in PJM's Market Development Department.

PJM Market Development provides oversight of PJM's markets and operations to ensure that the interaction between grid operations and market operations conforms efficiently to all rules and procedures. The department is also responsible for the development of highly technical computer systems to implement new PJM markets and processes.

### ***What is PJM Interconnection?***

PJM coordinates the movement of electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia. PJM collectively is the organization of approximately 700 member companies that work together to form the mid-Atlantic energy market. Our job is to ensure there is reliable electricity for the 54 million people in our region. We are a member driven organization.

### ***Why is PJM Interconnection a member of WCEE?***

As a Regional Transmission Operator (RTO) administering wholesale markets it's important for our employees to be well informed. PJM is a member of WCEE because WCEE's mission is consistent with efforts to develop the skills and knowledge of our workforce and within the larger energy industry.

### ***What's PJM's responsibility?***

PJM ensures the safety, reliability and security of the bulk electric power system. PJM also

## WCEE Needs You

Enjoy WCEE events? Wonder how you can get involved?

It's easy. Join a Section Committee.

There are openings for new members in several Sections.

Requirements for all positions:  
1) enthusiasm;

2) willingness to roll up your sleeves;

3) good spirit;

4) willingness to learn

What you get out of it?

1) new skills;

2) new friendships;

3) new opportunities

WCEE Sections and Committees:

Activities

Career Building

Development/Fundraising

Marketing/Communication

Membership

Special Interest Group

Technology Committee

WCEE works because of its volunteers. Join the team and help WCEE grow.

Contact Joyce Chandran if you are interested.

### Upcoming Events

**WCEE Brown Bag Lunch  
Co-hosted by Women in  
Nuclear (WIN)**

**June 15**

works to create and operate robust, competitive and non-discriminatory electric power markets. PJM also works to deliver valued service in a cost-efficient manner.

### ***Is PJM Interconnection a new company?***

No. PJM was founded in 1927 as the world's first continuing power pool. PJM Interconnection is an independent, federally regulated organization headquartered in Valley Forge, Pa.

### ***What does PJM have to do with energy and the environment?***

As a RTO, PJM administers competitive wholesale markets for large blocks of electricity. It works in the same way the stock market works. Utilities and other electricity suppliers make short or long term purchases of power for their customers from generators.

There is now a "fast growing member" segment of the generators sector that includes alternative power sources such as wind, solar and biomass. PJM is hosting alternative energy pilot programs at our campus to learn and provide insight as we develop market rules. This is what PJM does best - we provide the space for our members to develop the market rules that they need to conduct business.

PJM also has a long history of administering demand response (DR) programs, which allows customers to be paid for reducing their electricity usage during periods of higher power prices or system emergencies. The market is now seeing a change in demand response capabilities, with the introduction of dynamic retail rates and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). Those innovations permit consumers to respond to wholesale costs through their energy consumption choices.

PJM recognizes the potential for this mechanism to empower the consumer to exercise control over electricity costs. Through enabling technology and behavioral changes, consumers can achieve predictable response in electricity consumption to changing wholesale energy prices. Wholesale markets, in turn, will benefit when consumers' choices are incorporated in the market operations. Currently I am leading a team at PJM that is working with PJM stakeholders to develop new market rules that will integrate this new type of demand response, also known Price Responsive Demand.

## Clean Energy Standard White Paper

**By Rosemarie Calabro**

During the State of the Union speech this year, President Barack Obama put forward a goal to double the amount of electricity generated from "clean," low-emission sources by establishing a Clean Energy Standard (CES). The bipartisan staff of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has been working to develop such a CES. As part of this effort, Committee staff put forward a white paper in March requesting public input on several key design questions for the policy.

White papers have led to constructive legislation several times before in the Committee. In 2001, the Committee utilized this process to gather input that helped shape the electricity title included in the Energy Policy Act of 2002. Responses to Committee white papers were also an important part of developing the natural gas title of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and climate provisions in the Low Carbon Economy Act of 2007.

In order to maximize the number of thoughtful respondents and receive a broad range of input from a variety of interested parties, the white paper was posted to our bipartisan website, along with the instructions for submitting comments. The Committee has a diverse mix of Senators in this Congress, and the openness and transparency of this process is intended to set a framework for productive discussions with Members. Other purposes of

Where is the "Nuclear Renaissance"? The United States, Europe, and Beyond

Please join us for our second brown bag luncheon on the future of the nuclear power industry.

Speakers:

**Mary Alice Hayward**, Vice President Strategy, North America, AREVA Inc.;

**Cheri Collins**, General Manager, External Alliances, Southern Nuclear Operating Company, The Southern Company

Moderator:

John Fialka, Editor, ClimateWire, E&E Publishing

WCEE Members: No Charge

Non-members: \$15.00

Go to [www.wcee.org](http://www.wcee.org) for details and to register.

### June Happy Hour

**June 21**

When: Tuesday June 21  
Time: 6pm to 8pm

Where: Cure Bar & Bistro  
The Grand Hyatt  
1000 H Street NW

Go to [www.wcee.org](http://www.wcee.org) for details and to register.

### New Member Breakfast

this paper include articulating key questions moving forward, facilitating discussion among Committee Members, and deciding whether a decision on draft legislation is attainable.

There are six major elements addressed in the paper, including: (1) the threshold for inclusion, (2) determining what resources qualify as "clean energy," (3) how to design the crediting system and timetables, (4) the effects of a CES on the deployment of specific technologies, (5) Alternative Compliance Payments, regional costs and consumer protection, and (6) potential effects of a CES on existing policies.

The staff is currently sifting through the responses now, as we received more than 250 unique replies. We intend to post the responses to our website, once the staff has finished reviewing them. It will be interesting to see what results the papers will yield! After this review is complete, the Chairman and Ranking Republican will decide the appropriate next step.

*Rosemarie Calabro is the Press and Media Assistant for the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources.*

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## What Can We Do About High Gas Prices?

**By Margaret Ryan**

Oil prices appear to have peaked for now, but that mad march as gasoline soared over \$4 a gallon in the last couple of months has a lot of people asking what's driving those prices, and what we can do about it.

Oil market experts tackled both those questions at the Energy Information Administration's annual conference in Washington in late April.

The bottom line: prices go up because we don't have good alternatives, and because more people worldwide also want oil. But we could change that picture for the future.

Some big developing countries like China were less affected by the recession that walloped us. Their consumers are buying cars and clamoring for fuel from the world's crude supply. All oil in this country is pumped by private companies and sold on the world market – so we pay world prices, no matter where the oil comes from.

What can we do when the price goes up? Very little – because we have no ready substitute, said Adam Sieminski, chief energy economist here for Deutsche Bank.

Most of the oil consumed in the U.S. is used in transportation. Automakers substantially improved gasoline engine efficiency in recent decades, but they also added tonnage as consumers flocked to SUVs, keeping U.S. autos at a low average of 20-21 miles per gallon. And most Americans are locked into their gasoline consumption by their cars, homes and jobs. They can't quickly change, so as gas prices rise, consumers either drive less or pay more.

Ernest Moniz, director of MIT's Energy Initiative, told the conference that one "game changer" for the U.S. consumer would be installation of flex-fuel blender pumps at gas stations across the country, which let consumers choose their own mix of gasoline and biofuel.

Flex-fuel engines are available, and the federal government buys a lot of them. But the GAO

**July 15**

When: 7/15/2011  
Time: 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM

Where: 555, 12th St NW

Go to [www.wcee.org](http://www.wcee.org) for details and to register.

found most of those cars are run on gasoline, because there are so few pumps dispensing alternate fuels like ethanol.

The barrier is economics. Installing new tanks and pumps costs service station owners tens of thousands of dollars, a big risk for small businesses.

Similar barriers exist for other fueling options like natural gas. Electric vehicles are still relatively costly and their batteries, limited.

But experts say if we don't pursue alternatives, \$4 gasoline is just the beginning as oil demand grows worldwide.

*Margaret Ryan is a professional journalist who has covered energy issues for 30 years. She managed worldwide nuclear and coal coverage for Platts (McGraw-Hill) and recently served as Executive Editor for broadcast news at Clean Skies News/Energy Now. She writes for AOL Energy and iWatch, and blogs at: margaretryan.posterous.com.*

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## **GSA Administrator Johnson Shares Her Sense of Optimism**

### **at Women in Leadership Event**

#### **By Tenley Ann Dalstrom**

GSA Administrator Martha Johnson was the featured speaker at a reception on April 14th hosted by the Women in Leadership (WIL) Committee. The event was sponsored in part by the U.S. Green Building Council, and over 80 WCEE members and guests were in attendance at the Capitol Hill Club.

Administrator Johnson discussed her vision for the GSA and the role the agency can play as a change agent in the area of green buildings and energy efficiency. She also offered candid advice to women in the fields of energy and environment, saying that no one should limit themselves by being tied to just one goal - otherwise they may miss opportunities. Ms. Johnson also advised that one should have many mentors, stating that "it takes a village": the more advocates one has, the better chance one will have at success. She suggested that we adopt an attitude of serendipity and optimism, seeing the many opportunities that arise in our professional lives and having the bravery to make a change if needed. Ms. Johnson then graciously interacted with the audience in a lively Q&A session.

As GSA Administrator, Ms. Johnson works on the front lines of President Obama's agenda to build a more sustainable and effective government. The GSA is responsible for improving the government's workplace by managing assets, preserving historic property, delivering maximum value in acquisitions, and implementing technology solutions. She previously served as Assistant Deputy Secretary at the Department of Commerce and then as Chief of Staff at the GSA.

Ms. Johnson's strategic vision and management expertise helped GSA successfully maneuver through changes, taking the agency from a mandatory supplier of goods and services to a competitive, market-oriented, supplier-of-choice for federal agencies.

The WIL committee once again had the pleasure to work with the non-profit group Dress for Success and financial and clothing donations were collected at the reception. Please watch for announcements about three more Women in Leadership Committee events planned for later this year.

*Tenley Ann Dalstrom is an Energy Analyst with Energetics, Inc.*

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## **Nuclear Power – What Next after Fukushima?**

***(WCEE/WIN Brown Bag)***

WCEE and WIN (Woman in Nuclear) hosted a brown bag lunch entitled "The Future of Nuclear Power: Fukushima Daiichi - Where Do We Go from Here?" for members on May 12. About 30 women attended. Three panelists presented various professional points of view on the impact of the recent nuclear accident in Japan. The panelists, in order of their presentations, were Leslie Kass, Director, Business Policy and Programs, Nuclear Energy Institute; Annie Caputo, Professional Staff at the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; and Edwin Lyman, Senior Scientist, Global Security, Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). Quinn Gillespie and Associates hosted the event.

The speakers discussed reaction to the nuclear accident in Japan in the United States and around the world. Leslie Kass told the group that the US nuclear industry is highly responsive to safety issues; she said that a US industry team went to Japan as soon as possible after the accident to assist and to find out as much as was known about the event. Annie Caputo said "we learned three lessons in the first week after the accident: opposition to nuclear power waits for no man; if it's about nuclear it leads (the news cycle); and – surprisingly - that public support for nuclear power is stronger than expected." Edwin Lyman said that UCS was not against nuclear power, but rather, eager to keep it safe. He cautioned that the industry could sabotage itself without more attention to regulations. "Even some of the NRC commissioners don't know what the regulations are" he said. Lyman also discussed what UCS sees as the importance of moving spent fuel from pools to dry casks.

In the Q and A session that followed the speakers' remarks, members asked about reaction to the accident in the international nuclear community. France is conducting a review of its nuclear industry; Germany has temporarily shut down its nuclear facilities. China, with a big nuclear program, is taking a step back. Reprocessing was mentioned; Kass said "we need a national policy for used fuel; it's a big political problem, but physically it's manageable - not a big problem." Caputo answered a specific question about Yucca Mountain, the government's original storage site that's not going to be utilized. She said industry is pushing for a centralized facility, but added that this is not an issue that's easy to resolve politically. Another question concerned new nuclear plants under construction in the US; Kass said there are four plants with significant preconstruction activities underway right now that should receive their combined operating licenses from the NRC in late 2011 or early 2012.

*This brown-bag luncheon is the first meeting of a planned WCEE/WIN three-part series on the future of nuclear power. The next event will be held on June 15.*

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**Members in the News**

To contact the Current Team or to submit suggestions or ideas, contact Joyce Chandran at [executive.director@wcee.org](mailto:executive.director@wcee.org)

**Sophie Guiny** received her MBA with a concentration in finance from the George Washington University School of Business on Sunday, May 15th. Sophie is a financial analyst specializing in large infrastructure projects and works for Booz Allen Hamilton. She coordinated WCEE's monthly Happy Hours for two years and assisted with logistics for Woman of the Year.

**Jennifer Taylor** received her M.A. in Writing from Johns Hopkins University this May. Jennifer is an Environmental Policy Representative with National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and serves on the WCEE Current newsletter team.

Congratulations to all of our members who completed academic programs this spring!

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