Opening Plenary Speakers

Lindsay Baxter is Manager of Regulatory and Clean Energy Strategy for Duquesne Light Company (DLC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Prior to joining DLC in 2018, she was a Program Manager with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, where she worked with diverse stakeholders to advance clean energy policy and programs. She has also worked in local government, as the Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Pittsburgh. She holds Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees in environmental science.

Rich Fitzgerald is in his third and final term as Allegheny County Executive. Widely recognized for his work ethic, Rich is one of the county’s biggest champions and is well known for bringing together people and organizations on regional issues. Under his leadership, the county has concentrated on economic development and job creation and boasts high-quality jobs, a diverse and growing economy, low cost of living, and an excellent quality of life.

Under his leadership, sustainability is an important component. The has reduced its reliance on fossil fuels and continues moving towards using 100% renewable energy sources. It has also committed to building capacity by investing in locally generated, clean energy by partnering with a company to build a 17.8 MW low-impact hydropower facility on the Ohio River. When it comes to air quality, the county has planted over 8,000 trees in the last decade, enacted a clean construction ordinance, continues to invest in alternative fuel vehicles, and reduced building energy use. For the second year in a row, all air quality monitors in the county have met federal air quality standards and the county is in the midst of the process to be designated as an attainment county. Born and raised in the City of Pittsburgh, Rich graduated from Carnegie Mellon University.

John Walliser oversees the Pennsylvania Environmental Council’s policy work, and helps manage legal and governance issues for the organization.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Citizens Advisory Council, the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board, and the Department of Environmental Protection Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee. He has served in numerous stakeholder initiatives for PEC.

He received his B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh, and J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. John has been published on the subjects of conservation and resource protection law.
Day 2 Plenary Speakers

Peter C. Balash, Ph.D., is Associate Director of the Strategic Systems Analysis and Engineering Directorate at the United States Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has followed energy markets, energy security, and technology issues since 2002, focusing on market and technology interactions across the entire energy value chain. Recent activities include studying reliability and resilience of the electricity system. Current duties include managing an interdisciplinary team of engineers, economists, and scientists that performs economic, systems, optimization, regulatory, environmental life cycle, and infrastructure reliability analyses to inform strategic planning. In the recent past he has directed studies of the economic impacts of energy and climate change mitigation policy and assessed energy security options in a carbon-constrained world, inclusive of fossil-energy based solutions. He serves in the leadership of the DOE Grid Modernization Laboratory Consortium. For 2021, he is President-Elect of the U.S. Association for Energy Economics. Previously Mr. Balash worked for the Internal Revenue Service in Houston, TX, engaged in multinational corporate audits and transfer pricing issues. Mr. Balash earned his doctorate in economics in 1992 from the University of Texas at Austin. He received a bachelor’s in economics from Xavier University, Cincinnati, in 1987.

Asim Z. Haque oversees State Government Policy, State Policy Solutions and Member Services at PJM Interconnection, which includes Stakeholder Affairs, Client Management, Knowledge Management and State & Member Training. He leads PJM’s policy development and interaction with state government, which includes state commissions, governor’s offices, state legislatures and state security agencies. Haque also oversees PJM’s member interactions, which includes the PJM stakeholder process.

Prior to joining PJM, Haque was the chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). As the state’s chief regulator, he guided Ohio through some of the most relevant energy policy issues facing the nation, including Clean Power Plan compliance, cases related to the future of baseload power plants in competitive markets and distribution grid modernization.

Haque, an attorney, began his career at a large general practice firm and went on to work as in-house counsel at a global auto manufacturer prior to his appointment to the PUCO. He also serves on the board of the Philadelphia Education Fund, which works to create equitable opportunities for all students to succeed in college and career. Haque holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and political science from Case Western Reserve University and a Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.
**Stephanie Grumet** is a senior policy advisor in the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS). Stephanie is part of the rule writing team for the Carbon Pollution Standards for Power Plant proposal, leads multiple hydrogen-related efforts for her office, works to bolster collaboration across agencies on industrial decarbonization strategies and leads the OAQPS team to integrate the Office’s IRA-related provisions. This is Stephanie’s second tour at USEPA; previously she worked on market-based mechanisms including leading a bilateral partnership with the People’s Republic of China in EPA’s Clean Air Markets Division.

Stephanie spent 6 years working at a leading financial services firm, Capstone LLC, developing regulatory due diligence for private equity transactions in the energy sector, including new and legacy renewables, fossil-assets, utility-scale solar plants and battery storage acquisitions. She led capital markets and distressed debt research in nuclear energy assets and state support programs, wholesale market price formation, and covered the emerging market for hydrogen and electrolyzer development. As a result of her leadership, the firm was among the first financial services companies to become carbon neutral. Stephanie previously worked as a consultant for prominent DC think tanks, law firms and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. She holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin and a master’s degree in environmental science from the University of Virginia.

**M. Granger Morgan** is the Hamerschlag University Professor of Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. He holds appointments in three academic units: the Department of Engineering and Public Policy; the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; and the H. John Heinz III College. His research addresses problems in science, technology and public policy with a particular focus on energy, electric power, environmental systems, climate change, the adoption of new technologies, and risk analysis. Much of his work has involved the development and demonstration of methods to characterize and treat uncertainty in quantitative policy analysis. At Carnegie Mellon, Morgan co-directs (with Inês Azevedo) the NSF Center for Climate and Energy Decision Making and (with Jay Apt) the university’s Electricity Industry Center.

Morgan is a Member of the National Academy of Sciences and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. At the National Academies, he serves as the NAS co-chair of the Report Review Committee and has chaired a variety of consensus studies. Morgan is a member of the board for the International Risk Governance Council Foundation and of the Advisory Board for the E.ON Energy Research Center, RWTH Aachen. He is a member of the DOE’s Electricity Advisory Committee and of the Energy Advisory Committee of PNNL. In the past, he served as Chair of the Science Advisory Board of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and as Chair of the Advisory Council of the Electric Power Research Institute. He is a Fellow of the AAAS, the IEEE, and the Society for Risk Analysis. He holds a BA from Harvard College (1963) where he concentrated in Physics, an MS in Astronomy and Space Science from Cornell (1965) and a Ph.D. from the Department of Applied Physics and Information Sciences at the University of California at San Diego (1969).