

FAQs – NARUC-NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning

➤ **What is the Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning?**

The Task Force is a forum for participating states (representatives of a state’s utility regulatory commission and state energy office together) to develop tools and roadmaps to better align distribution system and resource planning processes through a series of creative, collaboration-based workshops.

The Task Force was launched in partnership by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) at the NARUC Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida in November 2018. It is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy.

➤ **Why is this important?**

Many states have identified the timely need to improve planning processes that serve as a foundation for maintaining affordable, reliable, and safe service while supporting investments to modernize the grid, integrate new technologies, and achieve state goals.

With growing customer installation of distributed energy resources (including distributed generation, energy efficiency, storage, demand response ,and load management capabilities) and evolving non-utility energy services, electricity resource planning needs to account for the quantity, location, and load shape impacts of DERs on the distribution system. With utilities making capital expenditures of over \$100 billion annually, ensuring distribution and resource system investments are right-sized and consider all cost-effective approaches, such as demand-management and non-wires solutions, can lower costs and may sometimes enhance reliability and resilience.

➤ **What will the Task Force accomplish?**

Participating states will develop new approaches to align distribution system and resource planning processes that can be used to strengthen and advance electricity system planning. To broaden the impacts of the Task Force’s innovations, NARUC and NASEO will publish tools and roadmaps pertinent to various regulatory, market, and policy contexts for use by interested non-participating states..

The Task Force anticipates developing additional technical reports and resources to support participants as they explore areas critical to their success in this initiative. These materials will also be published for other states to adapt and refine for their own use.

➤ **Who is involved?**

The Task Force was launched as a joint initiative with leadership from NARUC President Nick Wagner (Iowa Utilities Board) and NASEO Board Chair Andrew McAllister (California Energy Commission). Program staff of NASEO and the NARUC Center for Partnerships and Innovation will assist the Task Force on a day-to-day basis. Generous support for this initiative is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy. Task Force activities will be professionally facilitated and supported by subject matter experts.

Task Force leadership is composed of two NARUC and two NASEO members:

Co-Chairs

- Chairman Jeffrey Ackermann, Colorado Public Utilities Commission
- Dr. Laura Nelson, Governor’s Energy Advisor and Executive Director, Utah Office of Energy Development

FAQs – NARUC-NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning

Co-Vice-Chairs

- Commissioner Beth Trombold, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
- Commissioner Andrew McAllister, California Energy Commission

➤ **Who should participate?**

The Task Force will be useful for states taking or contemplating steps toward distribution system or grid modernization planning processes and wanting to connect the schedules, inputs/outputs and key assumptions of these new efforts with integrated resource plans (IRPs), clean energy portfolio standards (e.g., RPS, EERS) or other energy resource plans. States seeking to better coordinate across state energy office- and public utility commission-led energy planning will also find the Task Force valuable.

➤ **What is the structure of Task Force activities?**

- Four in-person workshops over two years, beginning in Spring 2019. Two of the workshops are planned to include stakeholders to ensure that state participants can incorporate input on draft process alignment approaches at key stages of development.
- Virtual meetings (webinars) between the workshops for deeper exploration of issues with subject matter experts.

➤ **What is required to participate?**

- Participation from **both** the commission and energy office (up to three individuals from a state). Participants can include commissioners, state energy officials, staff, or other key members of state government (e.g., department of environmental quality, governor's energy advisor), depending on how energy planning occurs in the state. Participants will be the members of the Task Force.
- Attending and constructively engaging in all four in-person Task Force workshops over two years (tentatively planned for April and October 2019 and April and October 2020).
- Creating a state-specific plan to apply insights, resources, and other Task Force results at the conclusion of the process (format TBD).
- Participating in a needs assessment call in early 2019, a midpoint check in 2020, and a post-Task Force follow up call at the conclusion of the initiative in early 2021.
- Optionally, participants will be invited to join a distribution systems and planning training on March 7-8, 2019 in Washington, DC and will be offered opportunities to join webinars throughout the Task Force period.

➤ **Are there any costs to participate?**

No. Travel stipends are available for up to three people per state for 12 to 15 states.

If any states do not need travel cost assistance, it would create space for additional states to participate.

➤ **If my state wants to joins the Task Force, what should I expect to happen over the next year?**

- December 2018: Identify individuals who will participate from the Commission and Energy Office.

FAQs – NARUC-NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning

- January 2019: Submit a letter of intent to NARUC/NASEO. Hear back from NARUC/NASEO about room for your state to join. Schedule a needs assessment call with NARUC/NASEO to share your state’s specific context and goals for joining the Task Force.
- February 2019: Prepare for a public announcement about participating states at the NASEO and NARUC winter meetings (e.g., work with NARUC to draft a press release from your state organization).
- March 2019: Optional distribution systems and planning training, March 7-8, 2019 in Washington, DC
- April 2019: Attend first in person workshop, likely to be within first two weeks of April in Denver, CO
- May-September: Participate in relevant monthly topical webinars
- October: Attend second in-person workshop, date/location TBD

➤ **I am interested in participating. What do I do now?**

Submit a letter of intent (a sample letter is provided) by January 18, 2019 to PlanningTaskForce@naruc.org.

➤ **I have more questions. Whom should I contact?**

Danielle Sass Byrnett, Director, NARUC Center for Partnerships & Innovation – dbyrnett@naruc.org, 202-898-2217

Rodney Sobin, Senior Program Manager, NASEO – rsobin@naseo.org, 703-299-8800 x112