



SUMMER SEMINAR

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Discussion Guide

August 10-12
2025

Loews Coronado Bay Resort
CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 10-12
2025



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CALIFORNIA

— Closing Plenary —

James Danly, Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy
Chris Womack, Chairman, President and CEO, Southern Company

SUMMER SEMINAR

Summer Seminar is an opportunity to collaborate and engage in-person with more than 200 power company CEOs, and other industry leaders and decision makers, for discussions and insights on the future of the energy system at a time where resilience and reliability are at a critical crossroads.

CONFERENCE THEME

Powering Innovation: AI & the Future of the Energy Landscape will explore how AI is reshaping the power sector—boosting affordability, reliability, and grid efficiency. Join CEOs, top executives, and industry leaders to examine the energy demands of AI data centers, sustainable infrastructure solutions, and cutting-edge applications like predictive maintenance and optimized energy distribution. Expect expert panels, interactive sessions, and robust networking with global innovators and decision-makers.

AUDIENCE PROFILE

Summer Seminar audience consists primarily of senior executives and decision-makers from electric utilities—including vice presidents, directors, and C-suite leaders responsible for strategy, operations, planning, and regulatory affairs—as well as members of EPRI's [Board of Directors](#) and [Advisory Council](#). Attendees also include state and federal regulators, public utility commissioners, and key industry stakeholders such as researchers, consultants, and representatives from finance. With this year's theme, we are having record registration including key names from the hyperscalers, AI, and technology companies including AWS, Google, Meta, Microsoft, QTS, Quanta Services, and more.

YOUR SESSION

To close the Summer Seminar, this discussion will feature a candid conversation on how the energy sector must evolve to meet the transformative demands of AI. Building on the insights shared throughout the seminar, this session will weave together perspectives on how accelerating innovation and convening global collaboration to ensure AI becomes a force for grid resilience and affordability; the criticality of balancing operational readiness, investment priorities, and the urgency of aligning infrastructure with AI-driven load growth; and highlight how federal leadership can enable faster deployment, flexible market design, and secure energy systems. This closing conversation will connect threads across sessions and perspectives to illuminate leadership commitments and strategic priorities to transform insight into action and accelerate our path toward an AI-powered energy future.

SESSION LOGISTICS

Please refer to the last page for details on the speaker breakfast, mic'ing and other session logistics.



AI & the Future of the Energy Landscape



Time
25 min.

Scaling for AI: Generation, Flexibility, and Strategic Investment

Given FERC's projection that the U.S. may need up to 150 GW of new capacity by 2030 to meet surging AI and industrial load growth - and industrial load growth accelerating due to onshoring and electrification - what specific actions is DOE taking to accelerate energy infrastructure deployment at that scale and speed?

- **Additional follow-up:** What role do demand-side resources and flexible load management play in balancing AI-driven growth?
- **CW Added Perspective:** What is Southern Company thinking specifically in the world of build new v. flex load?

Permitting Reform as a Strategic Enabler

Permitting delays remain a shared constraint across both energy and digital infrastructure. What specific permitting reforms is the DOE advancing to meaningfully accelerate deployment across generation, transmission, and interconnection of load like data centers? And how can permitting become a competitive advantage rather than a bottleneck?

- **Additional follow-up:** How/can permitting reform be coordinated across federal, state, and local jurisdictions to avoid fragmentation?"
- **CW Added Perspective:** Could AI itself be part of the solution, modernizing permitting workflows and environmental assessments?

Nuclear's Role in a Digitally Powered Grid

As AI drives demand for 24/7, high-reliability power, what role do you see for nuclear—whether today's technologies or advanced reactors—in meeting this moment? How do you see the role of small modular reactors (SMRs) and microreactors evolving in the context of AI's distributed energy needs?

- **Additional follow-up:** What signals of progress have you seen since the White House's executive orders?
- **CW Added Perspective:** Southern Company's experience with Vogtle offers unique insight—what lessons from that journey could inform the path forward for nuclear in the AI era?

Global Collaboration in the AI-Energy Race

With an international audience here today, it's worth asking: as countries compete to lead in AI, how can U.S. utilities and tech firms collaborate globally—on supply chains, standards, and innovation—while still maintaining a competitive edge?

- **Additional follow-up:** What lessons can be drawn from international partnerships on AI and energy innovation?
- **CW Added Perspective:** Thoughts on 'coopetition,' and how do you see the DOE and Southern Company shaping global engagement?

Power for AI, AI for Power, and the Ecosystem in Between

You heard Morgan outline the themes we'll explore over the next day and a half. Where do you each see the greatest challenge—or the greatest opportunity? Is it in powering AI, applying AI to the power system, or building the enabling ecosystem around both?

Wrap-up: With that, let's turn it back to Morgan.

BIOGRAPHIES



James Danly, Deputy Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy

James P. Danly was sworn in as Deputy Secretary on June 9, 2025. Before arriving at the Department, Deputy Secretary Danly was a partner and the Energy Regulatory Group leader at Skadden in Washington, D.C. This followed his service at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, first as the Commission's general counsel then as the commissioner and chairman. Deputy Secretary Danly was an officer in the United States Army. He served two tours in Iraq, receiving a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. A graduate of Yale University, Deputy Secretary Danly earned his J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School. He clerked for Judge Danny J. Boggs of the Sixth Circuit.



Chris Womack, Chairman, President and CEO, Southern Company

Chris Womack is chairman, president, and CEO of Southern Company, a leading energy provider serving 9 million customers across the U.S. With over 35 years of experience, he is guiding the company through a pivotal era—advancing nuclear energy, renewables, and innovation while maintaining reliability and affordability. Previously, he led Georgia Power and has held multiple executive roles across the Southern Company system. A recognized national thought leader, Womack began his career on Capitol Hill and serves on several industry and civic boards. He holds degrees from Western Michigan and American University.

SESSION LOGISTICS (CONT.)

August 10

- **Optional Conference Walkthrough | 3:30 – 5:30 PM | Commodore Ballroom**

See conference space, mic check, slide review, and stage setup

August 12

- **Speaker Breakfast | 7:00 – 8:30 AM | Lenore Room**

Run-of-show review, team meet-and-greet, final Q&A

- **Check in for mic and stage prep | 10:00 AM | Commodore Foyer**

Please meet Katie Frederickson from the AV team at speaker registration in the foyer outside the ballroom during the morning break. She'll mic you up and walk you through the stage. Please be ready at 10:00 AM. You can call her at 253-334-0047 with any questions.

- **Your Panel | 11:30 AM | Commodore Ballroom**

For any questions about the event, please contact Jessica Parris at (b) (6) or Aguarin Iriarte at (b) (6)