



Meeting Agenda

- All the conference events (apart from the Eversource Facility Tour) will be held at the [Mohegan Sun](#) located at 1 Mohegan Sun Blvd, Uncasville, CT 06382.
 - The Welcome Reception on Monday, September 30 will be held in the Abenaki Room in the Sky Convention Center on the Lobby Level
 - The registration desk, meals, education sessions, and exhibits will be held in the Uncas Ballroom in the Sky Convention Center on the Ballroom level.
 - Signs will direct you to the meeting space
 - [Click here to view a map of the Mohegan Sun.](#)
- Additional information may be found on the Meeting Community on [UTC's NetWorks site at this link](#) and on [the event website at this link](#).
- The NetWorks community is only open to registered attendees of the meeting. [Click here to register now.](#)
- For assistance, please contact support@utc.org

Monday, September 30th

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Eversource Facility Tour

Join Eversource to explore:

- **TELECOM/SCADA LAB:** Tests and configures equipment before deployment.
- **Connecticut System Operation Center (SOC):** See how we ensure safe and efficient electrical system operation.
- **Eversource MRCs:** Tour mobile offices supporting field crews during storms.
- **The bus will leave from the Mohegan Sun promptly at 12:50 and will return after completion of the tour to the Mohegan Sun.** Please meet in the lobby of the Mohegan Sun at 12:45pm to board the bus.
- For those driving themselves to the tour site the address is 107 Selden St, Berlin, CT 06037. **Please note you must arrive at the facility promptly at 2pm for the start of the tour. Late arrivals will be unable to be accommodated and unable to join the tour after it has already started.**

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Welcome Reception

Tuesday, October 1st

7:00 am Registration & Breakfast

8:00 am Welcome Remarks



UTC Regions 1,2, & 4 Combined Meeting
Mohegan Sun
September 30 – October 2, 2024
Uncasville, CT

Speakers: Jason Wang, Eversource, Region 1 Chair, Interim
Marwan Madi, NYPA, Region 2 Chair
Paul Zawada, AEP, Region 4 Chair
Gary Vondrasek, JEA, UTC Board Chair
Tony Suppa, Public Service Enterprise Group, UTC Board Vice Chair
Rusty Williams, President & CEO, UTC

8:15 am – 9:15 am AMI 2.0: New Technology

Speakers: Ron Beck, Business Development Strategist, Burns & McDonnell
Benjamin Berry, Engineering Manager, Burns & McDonnell

Many utilities have been operating the first generation of smart meters for 10-15 years now. While these advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) deployments have been tremendously successful, as the equipment reaches its end of life, utilities need to consider the new features and functionality they wish to see in their metering platforms. The next generation of AMI will support operational functions in addition to their traditional billing function, and new meters will incorporate new computing and communications capabilities. This session will explain these new capabilities and how they will address the challenges facing utilities today.

9:15 am – 9:45 am Networking Break

9:45 am – 10:45 am Tele-protection Over IP/MPLS

Speakers: Greg Coherd, Telecom Engineer, Dayton Power & Light
Dan Frein, Director, West Monroe Partners
Rob Wright, Network Infrastructure Consultant, Nokia

As AES Ohio completed their microwave-focused Nokia IP/MPLS deployment in 2012, they expanded into their metro fiber network, adding Ethernet capability to complement the existing SONET system that was supporting RTU and teleprotection circuits. By mid-2016, these were upgraded to units with T1 ports to cross-connect TDM traffic physically terminated on SONET. The SONET network could not yet be decommissioned due to one major collection of circuits that remained there: teleprotection. Teleprotection requires low-latency, highly reliable communication to avoid damage to power delivery equipment; SONET not only met these requirements, but also provided assured delivery with active-active path protection, something MPLS could not do. However, the utility's converged MPLS network was supporting all other communication needs across fiber and microwave assets, a strong case for consolidation. Surely a solution existed that enabled SONET-like protection within IP/MPLS that would enable migrating teleprotection circuits and decommissioning SONET? Come hear AES Ohio share their story and lessons learned from migrating teleprotection to IP/MPLS.

10:45 am – 11:45 am UTC President & CEO Address



**UTC Regions 1,2, & 4 Combined Meeting
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Speaker: Rusty Williams, President & CEO, UTC

Join UTC President and CEO Rusty Williams as he discusses the latest things going on across the UTC association. The topics he plans to discuss include the development of the latest UTC Strategic Plan, the latest advocacy issues, the 2025 annual conference and many other topics. There will also be time for the members that are present to ask questions of Rusty and the other UTC staff at the meeting.

11:45 am – 1:00 pm Networking Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm RF Network Design

Speaker: Ramin Hafezi, Director of Engineering, Tait Americas

This session will be a high-level discussion of RF system design. The course material will be based on *Designing RF Combining Systems for Shared Radio Sites* by Tait Communications Principal Engineer Ian Graham, published by Artech House in 2023

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Distribution Operation Concept: DSO, ADMF, Distribution SCADA

Speaker: Paul Zawada, Engineer, America Electric Power

Traditionally, an electric utility's distribution system moved energy in one direction – from the substation to the customer. However, now that customers are introducing systems like rooftop solar that backfeed power into the distribution system, power may flow in multiple directions. This means as Distributed Energy Resource (DER) penetration increases, operation of the distribution system will become much more complex, often posing challenges only previously seen in transmission. Utilities are beginning to deploy Advanced Distribution Management systems to perform this function, and they will rely on increasingly complex systems to gather and process information to provide situational awareness to their distribution system operators.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Networking Break

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm OT Network: IoT Tech Devices

Speaker: Bill Pugh, Co-Founder, Smart Connections Consulting LLC

It seems that so many devices are now "Internet enabled" that the Internet of Things (IoT) has become almost impossible to avoid, including in industrial settings like utilities. However, the IoT enablement of devices can be challenging in a critical infrastructure environment, and IoT vendors that are new to the space don't always understand the operational and cyber concerns of utilities. Utility telecommunications and cybersecurity professionals need to maintain awareness of the devices being deployed in critical infrastructure roles, and be prepared with policies and procedures to mitigate IoT threats to reliability.



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4:30 pm – 5:00 pm State of the Union Utility Presentations

The State of the Union Presentation is an opportunity to give an update on staff, projects, and plans taking place at each utility. The presentations are generally more specific to the telecom and IT areas, but interesting and major projects in other departments will often be discussed as well. The presentations are a good way to promote discussion between utilities about ongoing projects, lessons learned, etc.

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Reception with Exhibitors

Wednesday, October 2nd

7:00 am Breakfast & Registration

8:00 am – 9:00 am NYPA & AI: Leveraging Technology that is Responsible, Dependable and Built with Purpose

Speaker: Marwan Madi, Director, Digital Innovation & Transformation Office, New York Power Authority

The enormous potential business value of AI is not going to materialize spontaneously. NYPA is leveraging AI to drive disruptive innovation, growth and productivity. NYPA is also exploring how to communicate AI’s opportunities and risks; strategize, pilot, and scale; and manage AI’s impact on enterprise software, talent and skills, risk, trust and governance.

9:00 am – 10:00 am Utility Case Study: The Installation of Surveillance Cameras and Automated License Plate Readers on Utility Distribution Poles

Speaker: Tony Suppa, Project Manager, Public Service Enterprise Group

This presentation will be a case study that will detail the processes and procedures followed by PSE&G to allow for the installation of surveillance cameras and automated license plate readers (ALPRs) on utility distribution poles. Topics covered will include the following: * NDA/Contract with customer (municipalities/law enforcement agencies) * legal issues * design standards * application processes and procedures * review and approval steps * construction processes and procedures * Is labor buy-in required? * metered or non-metered service * operation and maintenance of equipment and utility poles * work force safety among cameras and ALPRs * using utility approved contractors * setting up a user-friendly database * as-built photos/sketches sign/off. Many utilities across the nation are having to deal with the growing requests from law enforcement to use their infrastructure for the installation of surveillance cameras and ALPRs at key locations throughout their municipalities. As more grant money becomes available to municipal and law enforcement agencies, this will be a growing request/responsibility for the utility to address in the coming years.

10:00 am – 10:30 am Break



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10:30 am – 11:30 am PLTE Technical and Utility Case Study

Speaker: Cristine Korowajczuk, CCO, CelPlan Technologies

This session offers crucial insights for PLTE deployments. It covers PLTE-specific features, the "Reuse 1" concept, and adaptive modulation techniques. The presentation explores the intricate relationship between interference and traffic, addressing considerations for both fixed and mobile use cases. It concludes with strategies for planning based on anticipated applications, providing attendees with a comprehensive understanding of key LTE deployment factors.

11:30 am – 1:30 pm Lunch with exhibitors

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Utility Only Business Meeting

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm MPLS: Packet Network Transition

**Speaker: Travis Phifer, Senior Network Systems Engineer, Tri-State Generation & Transmission
Gage Bickler, UGP Regional Telecommunications Engineer, Western Area Power Administration**

The packet transition process is critical to the success of updating critical infrastructure before legacy systems are no longer sustainable for repair and operational needs. This presentation will discuss challenges from different utilities that are at different points along the packet transition process, what others are facing, and what others have learned from lessons along the journey

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Leveraging Low Earth Orbit Satellite Networks for Utility Applications

Speaker: Wesley Robb, Account Manager, Network Innovations (NI)

The satellite industry has undergone rapid transformation driven by the growth of Low Earth Orbit satellite network operators. Providers such as Starlink and OneWeb are already delivering high bandwidth internet, low latency communications and expanded data services virtually anywhere. What do these new services mean for Utilities and what opportunities are they presenting?

4:30 pm Wrap up and adjourn