



**Region 3 2024 Meeting**  
**The Madren Conference Center at**  
**Clemson University**  
**March 5-6 – event dates**  
**March 4 – Utility only tour**  
**March 6 – exhibit date**

## Meeting Agenda

- UTC is looking forward to your attendance at the UTC Region 3 Meeting being held March 5-6 at the Madren Conference Center located at 230 Madren Center Drive, Clemson, SC 29634-5673.
- The registration desk, education sessions, meals, and exhibit hall are in the conference center which is connected to the James F. Martin Inn. [Click here for a full map of the conference center](#). The room assignments are listed below.
  - Registration Desk – Foyer space/Lobby
  - Meals – Meeting Rooms III/IV
  - Education Sessions – Auditorium
  - Exhibit Hall – Grand Ballroom
- Additional information may be found in the UTC Region 3 NetWorks 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](#).
- **Please note that the Broadband Workshop being held March 7-8 at the same location is a separate event and requires its own registration. For more information and to register please visit the Broadband Workshop event site at this link.**

## Monday, March 4th

2:00 PM

AFL Plant Tours

Utility attendees are invited to tour one of AFL's plants in Duncan, SC. RSVP is required and space is limited. For more information and to RSVP, click [here](#). ***Please note the tour is open to utility attendees only.***

## Tuesday, March 5th

7:30 AM

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST FOR ALL ATTENDEES

8:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER, OPENING REMARKS, Housekeeping notes, & Welcome Message

8:30 AM

UTC CEO Address and Advocacy Update

Speaker:

Rusty Williams, President & CEO, UTC



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**Cordell Briggs, Vice President, Advocacy and Cybersecurity, UTC**

**9:30 AM**

**BREAK**

**10:00 AM**

**Increasing Utility Revenue by Leveraging Existing Infrastructure for Wireless Colocation**

With vast physical infrastructure throughout their service territories, utilities have long been an ideal partner for colocation of wireless carrier antennas. As utility budgets continue to be constrained and are under more scrutiny from state regulators, more utilities are taking a closer look on how to better leverage excess space on communication towers, transmission towers, light poles and real estate holdings to bring in additional revenue that defrays escalating O&M costs. This session, lead by Keith Williams of Georgia Power, will provide insight into Georgia Power’s expansion of its wireless program – highlighting both successes and lessons learned on the road to enhancing customer affordability through use of utility infrastructure to house major wireless carrier installations.

**Speaker:**

**Keith Williams, Telecom (Colocation) Manager, Georgia Power  
Dan Turnpaugh, VP Strategic Partnerships, Diamond Communication**

**11:00 AM**

**Lunch**

**12:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**12:45 PM**

**UTC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1:15 PM**

**State of the Union Utility Presentations  
Justin Hardy, Telecom Engineer, Southern Company  
Casey Harris, Senior IT Telecom Analyst, Duke Energy  
Lee Ayers, VP Engineering, Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

**1:45 PM**

**Can Utilities Afford Not to Be A Part of the AI Wave?**

In the 2024 CEO Survey, 70% of respondents expect Generative AI to significantly change the way their company creates value in the next three years. So while it's clear that Generative AI will revolutionize industries and build entirely new markets and opportunities, what does this mean for the future of utility telecoms industry? Ever since its groundbreaking release in November 2022, ChatGPT has dominated headlines, igniting a frenzy among businesses eager to harness its potential. As the utility world seeks to harness AI's transformative potential, promising enhanced efficiency, enriched customer experiences, and network optimization, it confronts a maze of data complexities, business implementation hurdles, and regulatory roadblocks. Is AI an indispensable necessity or a discretionary luxury for utilities? Will AI be the



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game changer and can utilities stay on the sidelines during the AI boom? Join us for this session and unravel some potential and impact of AI in both technologies and services in utilities. Explore a view to the future of utility telecommunications and the pivotal role AI could play in shaping this dynamic landscape.

**Speaker:** **Kenneth Rabedeau, Head of Energy Segment – North America and Bell Labs Distinguished Member of Technical Staff**

**2:45 PM** **Break**

**\*\*\*\*\* THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING IS FOR UTC UTILITY MEMBERS ONLY \*\*\*\*\***

**3:15 PM** **REGION 3 BUSINESS & MEMBERS MEETING**

**5:00 PM** **Networking Reception**

**Wednesday, March 6th**

**7:30 AM** **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST FOR ALL ATTENDEES**

**8:30 AM** **INTRODUCTION OF TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS**

**8:45 AM** **Welcome: Clemson University**

**Speaker:** **Dr. Barbara Speziale, Program Director, Creative Inquiry + Undergraduate Research, Clemson University**

**9:45 AM** **A Strategic Evolution to Packet-Based Timing: Leveraging Precision Time Protocol Across Your Network**

Southern Company faced the challenge of a SONET to packet network transition and together with Syncworks and Burns & McDonnell, designed and deployed a new MPLS system to provide system-wide transport for critical applications. This initiative introduced stringent new timing requirements and mandated a departure from the frequency BITS clocks traditionally used to synchronize TDM environments. To provide the necessary accuracy and traceability, Southern Company deployed Precision Time Protocol (IEEE 1588 PTP), Synchronous Ethernet (SyncE), and Network Time Protocol (NTP) synchronization sources to provide frequency and time of day for the MPLS, SouthernLinc LTE, and corporate IT networks. While the enablement of MPLS was the catalyst for IEEE-1588 PTP, it became clear that a highly accurate and reliable packet timing source could be broadly utilized across the network. This session will explore the various use cases and mutual benefits of packet-based timing, including next-gen transport, mitigation of GPS vulnerabilities and Grid timing backup from a secure telecom core. Learn how to fully leverage your timing investments, plan for emerging applications and navigate the various stakeholders that will come to rely on your clocks.



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**Speakers:**                **Justin Hardy, Telecom Engineer, Southern Company**  
                                  **Rob Jodrie, Technical Support Engineer, Syncworks**  
                                  **Matthew Kitchen, Senior Electrical Engineer, Burns & McDonnell**

**10:45 AM**                **BREAK**

**11:15 AM**                **Fiber: The Path to the Future and the Tools to Get You There**

There are various drivers for why additional bandwidth is needed in our infrastructure today and those drivers are helping to shape our future. Fiber is the vehicle that enables these new technologies to be feasible, whether it connects to equipment capable of communicating with, or directly to an end device. AFL will present tools available today to aid in achieving the future as well as highlight strategic decisions to consider during the development of your system.

**Speaker:**                **Steven Kranz, Commercial Manager, AFL**

**12:15 PM**                **LUNCH**

**1:30 PM**                **Navigating AI in Utilities: Identifying and Mitigating Key Risks**

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into utilities has the potential to revolutionize operations, enhance efficiency, and improve decision-making. However, with these advancements come inherent cybersecurity risks that demand careful consideration. This presentation aims to illuminate the key risks associated with the adoption of AI in the utilities sector, offering insights into potential vulnerabilities and outlining strategies to mitigate these threats effectively, such as:

- **Automated Attacks:** AI can automate the execution of attacks, such as phishing campaigns, brute-force attacks, or malware propagation. This allows attackers to scale their operations and target a larger number of individuals or systems.
- **Adversarial Machine Learning:** Hackers may use AI to generate adversarial examples that can bypass machine learning-based security mechanisms. This involves manipulating input data to deceive AI systems, making them less effective in detecting malicious activities.
- **Enhanced Social Engineering:** AI can be used to analyze large datasets and social media profiles to create more convincing and targeted social engineering attacks. This could involve creating more realistic phishing emails or impersonating individuals with greater accuracy.
- **Automated Exploitation of Vulnerabilities:** AI-driven tools can scan and identify vulnerabilities in systems more quickly than traditional methods. Hackers can use AI to automate the discovery and exploitation of vulnerabilities, leading to faster and more efficient attacks.



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This presentation aims to provide utilities professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the risks associated with AI adoption and empower them with practical strategies to enhance cybersecurity resilience. By fostering awareness and facilitating proactive risk mitigation measures, utilities can harness the benefits of AI while safeguarding critical infrastructure against emerging threats.

**Speaker:**                    **Simon Hill, Head of Legal and Compliance, Certes Networks  
Ken Campbell, MBA, President, Highlander Associates**

**2:30 PM**                    **ROUND TABLE, CLOSING STATEMENTS & ADJOURN**

**Speaker:**                    **Michael Silvas, Florida Power & Light / Region 3 Chair**

**3:00 – 6:00 PM**            **ADJOURN TO EXHIBIT HALL**

Please visit the Exhibit Hall hosted by our vendors between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM. This is an outstanding opportunity to see the latest technology in our industry, plus network with peers and vendor partners.

**UTC's Broadband Workshop will take place at the Madren Conference Center beginning with the shared exhibit hall above and sessions taking place March 7 – 8. For more information please [visit the Broadband Workshop event website by clicking here.](#)**