



UTC Region 5 2024 Meeting
Millenium Minneapolis Hotel
September 16-18 – event dates
September 17-18 – exhibit dates
Minneapolis, MN

Meeting Agenda

Monday, September 16th

- 4:00 pm **Registration**
- 4:30 – 6:30 pm **Welcome Reception**

Tuesday, September 17th

- 7:00 am **Breakfast**
- 8:00 – 8:15 am **Welcome**
- 8:15 – 10:00 am **State of the Union 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.

- 10:00 am **Break**
- 10:30 – 11:30 am **What is Utility OT Cloud and the Real Benefits vs Hype**

Speaker: **Hansen Chan, IP Enterprise Solution Marketing, Nokia**

Utility operational technology (OT) cloud is a private cloud that hosts your mission-critical OT applications and grid data in on-premises facilities such as your data center.

Applications such as SCADA and advanced distribution management system (ADMS) are increasingly being deployed in an OT cloud environment, and supporting a multi-vendor environment is a real need and benefit. These critical applications collect large amounts of data generated by intelligent electronic devices (IEDs) and other physical assets and process them for real-time grid monitoring, control and automation. AI is a real benefit that utilities can embrace to address the challenge to securely stream telemetry between OT and IT cloud.

- 11:30 am – 12:30 pm **UTC President & CEO Address**

Speaker: **Rusty Williams, President & CEO, UTC**



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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.

12:30 – 1:30 pm **Attendee Lunch**

1:30 – 3:00 pm **Utility Only Roundtable**

An open discussion for utilities only to discuss industry topics, products, workflow, and how we each accomplish common goals. A moderator will present topics, but this is planned to be an interactive session.

3:00 – 5:30 pm **Vendor Hall Happy Hour**

7:00 – 9:00 pm **Evening Activity & Dinner**

Wednesday, September 18th

7:00 am **Breakfast & Registration**

8:00 – 9:00 am **Advocacy Update**

Speaker: **Brett Kilbourne, Senior Vice President of Policy and General Counsel, Utilities Technology Council**

UTC continues to advocate at the FCC and Congress, as well as the states to promote the telecommunications and information technology interests of utilities. This session will provide an update on the latest developments in wireless, broadband, infrastructure and security policies. On the wireless front, there are emerging threats in terms of potential radiofrequency interference and there are new opportunities to access spectrum. Meanwhile, broadband funding presents opportunities for utilities and challenges from additional demands for access to utility pole, ducts, conduit and rights-of-way. Finally, additional security requirements are under consideration, including cyber incident reporting for critical infrastructure. Don't miss this important presentation from UTC, where you can ask your questions and provide your ideas on these emerging advocacy issues.

9:00 – 10:00 am **Mitigating GPS Vulnerabilities, Enhancing GPS Security, and Implementing Alternative Timing Solutions**

Speaker: **Rob Jodrie, Director Technical Support, Syncworks**

The reliable operation of our Nation's critical infrastructure is heavily dependent on GPS. Industries including finance, communication, power utilities, and transportation, to mention a few, all rely on accurate, resilient timing. Signals transmitted from GNSS/GPS satellites that are received on earth are at



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the heart of today’s synchronization network. Because GPS is so widely deployed, local or global GPS outages of an extended duration could have significant economic impact on our Nation. Additionally, GPS satellites orbit the earth at an altitude of over 12,000 miles. By the time the signal arrives at the antenna mounted on the roofs of our buildings, it is very low power and very easy to jam. The result is a service that represents a single point of failure to our timing networks. Fortunately, we can increase both the resiliency and security of our timing networks due to GPS outages and impairments. This presentation will provide a synchronization overview and also delve into some of the options available to address these concerns. Solutions such as GPS firewalls, creating area timing hubs, and deploying GPS backup using packet timing will all be discussed.

10:00 am **Break**

10:30 – 11:30 am **Overcoming the Drilled Shaft Challenges + Anchors 101**

Speakers: **Caleb Jergensen, Staff Structural Engineer, Burns & McDonnell
Logan Nesselth, Project Manager, Burns & McDonnell**

From the loose sands of Florida to the cold joints of Indiana, our presenters will walk the audience through several interesting, drilled pier challenges. The audience will gain exposure to design cases that require 8-foot diameter foundations that extend to depths more than 100 feet, situations including a rock core barrel stuck over 80 feet deep in a 108-foot-deep pier, and soil conditions so poor that helical pile installation becomes economically feasible. Additionally, our presenters plan to cover multiple in-field construction issues, including instances of poor concrete pouring practices and an early rock encounter that burned up 3 drilling bits. This presentation will cover the situations, the consequences, the immediate resolution, and the ongoing lessons learned from each challenge. The presenters will engage the audience with an inclusive discussion of engineering solutions and controls and provide insight into the construction and safety perspectives.

11:30 am – 1:30 pm **Vendor Hall and Lunch**

1:30 – 2:30 pm **Region 5 Business Meeting – Open to Utility Members Only**

2:30 – 3:30 pm **Lightning Resistant OPGW**

Speaker: **Nathan Winslow, Applications Engineer, AFL**

This session will highlight the safe grounding techniques for OPGW Splicing and lay out the findings in a panel-type discussion. The panel discussion will promote ways to safely ground and splice OPGW fiber and review the results from benchmarking the industry and OPGW fiber providers on best practices for safe grounding/bonding of OPGW fiber.



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3:30 – 4:30pm

Panel Discussion: Relaying over Ethernet

Speaker:

Michael Tate, Telecom Engineer II, Great River Energy
Pedro Choconta, Senior Application Engineer, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc.
Dylan Hanten, Network Engineer IV, Arvig

As telephone companies either discontinue or sharply increase the rates on TDM circuits, critical for reliable piloting communications in relaying, utilities must have a plan for when these circuits are finally phased out. Until relays become Ethernet native, one solution is to emulate TDM circuits over leased Ethernet circuits provided by telephone companies. However, Ethernet naturally suffers from fluctuating latency and jitter that can play havoc with the operation of the relays. This panel brings together utility experts, an equipment manufacturer, and a telephone company to explore how these challenges were addressed and to assess the performance of these new circuits.

4:30

Wrap-up and Adjourn