

ENERGY FORUM - SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026 | BURNS & MCDONNELL | KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

8:00AM – 9:00AM	CHECK IN & VENDOR NETWORKING Kick off the day with a light breakfast and an opportunity to network with fellow attendees and tabletop vendors.
9:00AM – 9:05AM	WELCOME <i>Carl Privitera III, President, Electric League of MO & KS; Ben Frerichs, Vice President, 1898 & Co.</i>
9:05AM – 9:30AM	MORNING KEYNOTE: STATE OF THE ELECTRICAL GRID <i>Jason Klindt, Senior Director of External Affairs, Evergy</i> Explore the current state of the electrical grid and the increasing demands placed on it by AI along with large data centers. Understand challenges and opportunities for ensuring grid reliability and meeting future energy needs.
9:35AM – 10:15AM	FROM INTERCONNECTION TO COOLING: MANAGING DATA CENTER DEMAND <i>Moderator: Babette Macy, Link; Mike Fernholz, JE Dunn; Brian File, Evergy, Sarah C. Tuite, P.E., Water One</i> This panel translates rapid data center growth into concrete local impacts on power, water, rates, and reliability. With focus on real numbers, timelines, and practical solutions that create win-wins for communities and operators alike.
10:15AM – 10:30AM	RAPID FIRE – PART ONE <i>Hear from each of our tabletop vendors and sponsors about the services and products they offer in two minutes or less!</i>
10:30AM – 10:45AM	BREAK – VENDOR NETWORKING
10:45AM – 11:15AM	BREAKTHROUGH: GRAVITY NUCLEAR REACTOR <i>Jason Pottorf, Director of Thermal Hydraulics, Deep Fission</i> This breakthrough is an underground nuclear reactor concept placing small modular reactors in boreholes, using natural hydrostatic pressure to replace much of traditional containment. The design draws on established drilling, geothermal, and pressurized water reactor technologies, using standard components and fuel. The result is a safer, faster, and dramatically more cost-efficient path to clean baseload power. This breakthrough allows us to rethink how and where nuclear energy is generated.
11:20AM – 11:50AM	NANO GRIDS: ENABLING GRID FLEXIBILITY, RESILIENCE, AND UTILITY TRANSFORMATION <i>Ed Peterson, Future Proof LLC</i> This presentation examines how nano-grids--- small, building-scale energy systems are reshaping grid operations, municipal resilience, and utility business models. It explores regulatory considerations, utility adoption strategies, and how nano-grids can support growing power demands from data centers, AI facilities, and critical infrastructure while enhancing national and community security.
11:50AM - 12:00PM	RAPID FIRE – PART TWO <i>Hear from each of our tabletop vendors and sponsors about the services and products they offer in two minutes or less!</i>
12:00PM – 1:00PM	LUNCH & VENDOR NETWORKING Continue the conversation and network with fellow attendees and tabletop vendors over lunch.
1:00PM – 1:30PM	AFTERNOON KEYNOTE POWERING HUMAN NEEDS: ENERGY, AI AND THE FUTURE OF SOCIETY <i>Jennifer Russell, EISE, CSEP, Director, NSI Advisory Services</i> A people-centered exploration of how energy systems, technology, and the built environment shape the future of modern life and community well-being.
1:35PM – 2:05PM	THE ROLE OF DISPATCHABLE DERs IN RESILIENT MICROGRIDS <i>AJ Lanre-Ladenegan, Technical Sales Leader-Americas, Cummins</i> This session delves into the crucial role of dispatchable distributed energy resources (DERs) in enhancing the resilience and sustainability of microgrids.
2:05PM – 2:30PM	BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS: TECHNOLOGY, APPLICATIONS, & MARKET TRENDS <i>Michael Sirard and Daniel Golov, MPI Energy</i> The presentation will cover key market trends, including the growing impact of AI, increasing power demand, and the need for reliable, scalable energy infrastructure. We will also discuss common BESS applications, typical system considerations, and the role of Lithium Iron Phosphate, (LFP), as a widely used battery chemistry due to its safety profile, reliability, and long-term performance characteristics.
2:35 PM – 3:00 PM	POWER FACTOR CORRECTION <i>Mark Cowart and Brian Branigan, P3</i> What is power correction and what can you implement in your next project to optimize industrial electrical systems and avoid utility penalties.
3:00PM – 3:30PM	AFTER HOUR NETWORKING

REGISTER:

