

2018 CERAWeek Recap: Strategies for a New Energy Future

The 2018 CERAWeek conference gave ITC the opportunity to lead discussions about how ITC is contributing to building the future of transmission infrastructure.

CERAWeek is the premier annual international gathering of energy industry leaders including innovators, business executives, government officials and policymakers as well as leaders from the technology, financial and industrial communities.

ITC executives were positioned among industry leaders and executives from major international organizations who used CERA Week to underscore the importance of aligning business and industry with the energy industry's vision. For example, keynote speakers, like Mary Barra, chairman and CEO of General Motors and Diane Greene, CEO of Google Cloud talked about how the energy industry and infrastructure needs to evolve to support technology and new ways of using energy in the future.

Changing Energy Landscape

Other panel discussions talked about the changing energy landscape and need for energy infrastructure. Notable panelists included: Honorable Rick Perry, U.S. Secretary of Energy, Honorable James Gordon Carr, Minister of Natural Resources in Canada, and Honorable Pedro Joaquin Coldwell, Secretary of Energy in Mexico; Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Energy and National Resources Committee, Honorable Daniel Sullivan, U.S. Senator from Alaska; Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senate Majority Whip, Texas; Honorable Ryan Zinke, U.S. Secretary of the Interior; and FERC Commissioner Robert Powelson.

Also joining the event were major domestic and international energy companies (oil, gas and power sectors); international, U.S. state and federal elected officials; local and federal regulators; representatives of energy producing nations, such as representatives and/or prime ministers of OPC, United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, Norway, Kuwait, Brazil, Canada, and more.

Increased Focus on Power Industry

Traditionally known as an oil and gas conference, as COO Jon Jipping noted in the employee meeting: "This year, the conference centered more around the power industry than ever before – because of the focused need to integrate the energy industry with technology and advanced manufacturing in order to bring forth a 21st century digital economy."

The event was held March 5-9, 2018 in Houston and included speeches, panel discussions and opportunities to network to examine the changing dynamics of the energy markets, the impact of technology, government policies, the environment and the global economy and explore strategies to navigate the opportunities and challenges ahead for energy.



ITC's Jon Jipping discusses the Electrification of Everything: The Transformation of Energy Systems

ITC's Jon Jipping: Microgrids and Electrification of Everything

Jon Jipping was asked to speak on two panels. The first was a panel on Building the Resilient Grid of the Future: Microgrids and beyond. Jon 'stole the conversation' by underscoring that the electric transmission grid needs to be part of the conversation when talking about Microgrids, resiliency and adding new technologies. The standing room only crowd provided great feedback on this session and those focused in on Microgrid solutions walked away with a much better understanding of the need for an integrated electric transmission grid.

Jon's second panel discussion was titled the "Electrification of Everything: The Transformation of Energy Systems." The conversation examined the challenge this presents for the global energy system, what it will take to realize this vision, how it will impact existing energy infrastructure, what it will mean for intermittent power sources like wind and solar and how they will be integrated into a new energy system. Jon discussed ITC's expertise in developing resilient transmission systems and how these systems will evolve and adapt to changing energy technology.

Other panelists included: Roger Kranenburg, vice president, Energy Strategy and Policy, Eversource; Claudio Facchin, president, Power Grids Division & Member of the Group Executive Committee, ABB Ltd.; Lee Mazzocchi, senior vice president, Grid Solutions, Duke Energy

ITC's Nina Plaushin: Evolving Power Markets

Nina Plaushin, vice president, federal affairs, regulatory, and marketing and communications, and [president of WIRES](#), participated in a panel discussion about, "Wholesale Power Markets: How Are They Evolving?" where she provided her expertise both as the President of the WIRES industry group and as ITC's federal and regulatory affairs lead.

Speaking to another standing room only crowd, Nina was able to engage the panel and the audience in a robust discussion around the need for more to be done to ensure we are planning now for the electric transmission grid needed in the future. Conversations centered around the fact that U.S. wholesale power markets are being pulled in multiple and sometimes opposite directions by a variety of economic and regulatory forces. State policies—ranging from renewable portfolio standards, to zero emission credits, to integrated resource planning regulations—are having a growing influence on the operation of existing generation assets and the choices for new generation. Nina spoke to the need to focus on the electric transmission grid as part of the infrastructure conversation, the need for more to be done to streamline regulatory reform and the importance of acting now to address inter-regional planning challenges that exist across the RTO footprints.

Other panelists included: Mark Griffith, senior research director, IHS Markit; Bill Magness, president and CEO, ERCOT; Gordon van Welie, president and CEO, ISO New England.

ITC's Terry Harvill: Big Chino Valley Pumped Storage Project Preview

Additionally, Terry Harvill, vice president, grid development, provided a preview of the Big Chino Valley project at the Innovation Agora Studio. He discussed the opportunities for development projects in North America and highlighted technology solutions for energy issues in the southwest region of the United States.



ITC's Nina Plaushin on the panel, Wholesale Power Markets: How Are They Evolving?