

## The USAEE Government Track

This is the second year that the USAEE is offering a Government Track. The Government Track is designed to serve members who are employed by or are affected by actions of Federal, state, and local governments and to appeal to a wider audience as well. We seek to provide topics of interest as well as opportunities for collaboration and professional development.

The Inaugural Government Track was offered two weeks before the U.S. Presidential election in 2016 and focused on lessons learned in previous Presidential and other government transitions. In the U.S., the election of a new President is followed by many months of transition usually overseen by caretaker officials, with uncertainty as to who will be in charge of what areas; how policies, spending, and contracting might change; and what expectations for those already working in government agencies will be. The three Government Track sessions featured panels of former high-level players representing

- the political party (or individual during an Administration) coming into power or a position;
- the acting incumbent and his/her staff and reporting offices; and
- the stakeholders affected by the first two.

Among the questions these speakers addressed were what to expect and how to establish constructive relationships between career executives who served the previous administration and appointed officials who come in with sometimes very different ideas about what should be done and how.

This year, the USAEE Government Committee has arranged the opening plenary session and a panel discussion on the need for electricity system flexibility in the face of variable generation sources and changing use patterns.

While the plenary session is not technically in the Government Track, it was proposed and organized by the Government Committee to reflect interests of many government energy economists. As such it will address the interactions among the Administration's energy policies, geopolitics, and energy markets as they relate to the re-emergence of U.S. oil and gas production as a dominant force in total world supply.

The official Government Track for the 2017 conference will consist of one session: **Electricity System Flexibility** (Tuesday, November 14, 2:00 - 3:45pm). The panel of speakers will bring together experts from the Department of Energy headquarters offices, DOE's National Laboratories, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. They will discuss recent analytical work to help inform operations, planning, policy, and other decisions in this space as well as to describe market design efforts underway at FERC to enable economically efficient deployment and utilization of the myriad of flexibility resources available.

Although Government Track sessions will tend to be discussions regarding policy, rather than presentations of individual research projects, in future conferences these sessions are likely to vary considerably and are expected to include plenary-level talks and discussions, panel discussions of policies, laws, and regulations, skill-based workshops, and other events. Often, these will be developed in collaboration with other parts of the USAEE organization, as was the case of the post-conference energy risk workshop in 2016. Please include any suggestions for future topics with your conference evaluation or submit them directly to [usaee@usaee.org](mailto:usaee@usaee.org).

Click [here](#) for registration information.