

PARTICIPANT BROCHURE



ENERGY PROGRESS &
INNOVATION CONFERENCE

JAN. 27-29
2026



Energy Progress & Innovation Conference



ndepic.com

BISMARCK EVENT CENTER 315 S 5TH STREET BISMARCK, ND

WELCOME



Dear Participants,

Welcome to the 2026 Energy Progress and Innovation Conference! It is my honor to extend a warm welcome to you, whether you are joining us for the first time or returning as a valued participant. This conference continues to be a benchmark for collaboration, learning and innovation within the energy industry.

As we celebrate the 47th consecutive year, this conference promises to be our most dynamic one yet. It features a wide array of sessions that offers everything from the latest industry technologies and product innovations to opportunities for professional development and growth. The conference mission: to energize industry and individuals in a competitive market through education, technology, and networking!

We are excited to feature two outstanding keynote speakers whose messages will inspire and challenge us to think differently. For the opening keynote, Dan Meers will share his signature keynote with you, "Take Off the Mask: Is Your Story Worth Telling?" For more than 25 years, he's been the "KC Wolf" mascot for the Kansas City Chiefs. Now, he's truly pursuing his passion. That passion is sharing his life lessons and inspiring others to live each day to the fullest. Dr. Scott Tinker is the closing keynoter each day. A global energy visionary, educator and pragmatist,

he is working to solve major societal challenges in energy, environment and the economy. He leads the dialogue on balancing energy access for human flourishing with environmental protection in what he calls the "radical middle." You will find his message, "Seeking Energy Truth," both captivating and thought-provoking.

On behalf of the planning committee, I want to express our deepest gratitude for the many vendors who support the conference every year. Your participation and financial support make a huge difference. By showcasing products, services, solutions and innovations – you provide valuable resources and expertise to conference attendees. Thank you!

As you connect with your peers, attend sessions, and explore new technologies, please take advantage of the networking opportunities throughout the conference. Join us for Casino Night at the Bismarck Radisson Hotel. It is a fun event and a great way to make new connections and strengthen current ones.

We are so glad you're here! Let's continue to push boundaries and shape the future of energy together.

Pamela Clark-Stein

2026 Conference Chair

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives

2026 EPIC REGISTRATION DETAILS

CONFERENCE COST

The registration fees below include all breaks, lunches, social activities (Tuesday Exhibitor Showcase Social, daily ice cream socials, and Casino Night Wednesday), as well as the opportunity to participate in our Grand Prize Punch Card activity (with a \$2,000 travel package given away at the end of each day).

- Early Bird Registration:
 - 1 Day (Wed or Thur) \$100 through Wed. January 8, 2026
 - 2 Days (Wed & Thur) \$200 through Wed. January 8, 2026
- Beginning January 9, 2025 and Onsite:
 - 1 Day (Wed or Thur) \$200 January 9 - January 29 (at 4:00 pm CT)
 - 2 Days (Wed & Thur) \$400 January 9 - January 29 (at 4:00 pm CT)
- Additional Exhibit Booth Rep: \$200 (2 days) through January 8;
\$400 January 9 - 29 (at 4 pm CT)

CANCELLATION POLICY

There will be a 50% per person fee for cancellations received on or before Friday, January 16, 2026. Substitutions or name changes can also be made by emailing bsc.training@bismarckstate.edu through Friday, January 16, 2026.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday, January 27:

- Be sure to join us for the Exhibitor Showcase Social in the Event Center Exhibit Hall (B-D) from 4:30 to 6 pm. This event is free and open to the public!

Wednesday, January 28:

- Join us for the afternoon networking reception, after the closing keynotes. We will have appetizers and a cash bar in the Exhibit Hall, from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm.
- Casino Night returns! Our popular wheel and deal evening is back at the Radisson Hotel Bismarck. Festivities kick off at 6:30 pm and run until 10:00. Great door prizes and games make it a must attend event!

Bar vendors at both the Event Center and the Radisson will be accepting credit card payments for 2026!

BULK REGISTRATION

If your organization plans to register 5 or more participants, let us know! Group registration or "bulk" registration may be an option to help speed up your registration process.



If you have any questions, please call our office at **701-224-5600** or **877-846-9387**.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS ONLINE ONLY

Please note: We are part of the North Dakota University System, so many of the terms used on the registration site refer to "student." This term encompasses vendors, exhibitors, companies and participants as well.

You will be required to create a student account. You will use this account anytime you wish to register for a BSC coordinated event in the future. If you have registered with us before and cannot remember your username, call 701-224-5600 (1-877-846-9387) and our staff would be happy to help you! If you know your username but not your password, click "Forgot Your Password?"

Due to increased system security and PCI compliance, we are no longer able to access your passwords in our registration system. If you are not able to access your account, please reset your password through the "Forgot your Password" link on the profile sign-in page.

To guide you through this new process, step-by-step instructions will be available on the EPIC website ndepic.com/register or by scanning the QR code above.

Participants that do not register prior to arriving on site will also use the online system to complete this process when they arrive at the conference.

Don't wait to register!



ndepic.com/register

See page 4 for Professional Development Pre-Conference sessions and registration fees!

KEYNOTE SESSIONS: EXHIBIT HALL A

TAKE OFF THE MASK - IS YOUR LIFE
STORY WORTH TELLING?

Wednesday and Thursday, January 28-29, 2026
8:00 am - 9:30 am



Dan Meers

Dan Meers goes to work each day like many other men, dressed in a suit. The only difference is that instead of wearing a tie with his suit, Dan wears a tail. You see, Dan is a professional mascot. Dan began his career in 1986 at the University of Missouri – Columbia. Dressed as the school mascot, Truman Tiger, it didn't take long for Dan to establish himself as one of the top college mascots in the nation. After finishing

second in 1988, Dan was selected the nation's #1 college mascot at the 1989 National Collegiate Mascot Championships. As graduation approached, Dan began to receive offers to use his talents at the professional level. After graduating with honors, Dan decided to trade in his tiger stripes for bird feathers and

began his professional career as Fredbird, the mascot for the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. Although many thought Dan's "bird legs" were a perfect match for his costume in St. Louis, Dan stayed only a short time. He was offered a job in professional football and decided to exchange his bird suit to become a wolf.

Today Dan is widely known as KC Wolf, the official mascot of the Kansas City Chiefs. He travels throughout the United States and the world entertaining thousands of people both in and out of costume. Dan is in high demand not only as a mascot but also as a humorous and motivational speaker to audiences of all ages. His enthusiasm, optimism and love for life are contagious and makes Dan an inspiration to all those he meets.

After listening to Dan, you realize that what makes him so truly special is his genuine desire to motivate others to enjoy life as much as he does. The constant smile he wears comes from within. The humorous message he shares has encouraged thousands to strive for the best in life and enjoy it each and every step along the way.

SEEKING ENERGY TRUTH

Wednesday, January 28 - 3:30 - 5:00 pm,
Thursday, January 29 - 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm



Dr. Scott Tinker
Switch Energy Alliance

Scott brings industry, government, academia, and nongovernmental organizations together to address major societal challenges in energy, the environment, and the economy. After 24 years as Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology and State Geologist of Texas, he became Director Emeritus in 2024. Scott is a professor holding the Allday Endowed Chair in the Jackson School

of Geosciences at the University of Texas at Austin, and CEO of Tinker Energy Associates. Scott is founder and Chairman of the

Switch Energy Alliance, whose educational materials appear from schools to board rooms globally, and with Director Harry Lynch co-produced the award-winning documentary films Switch and Switch On, which have been screened in over 50 countries. Scott is the executive producer and host of PBS Energy Switch, an energy and climate talk series appearing in over 100 million households nationwide, and host of Earth Date, featured weekly on over 460 public radio stations in all 50 states. In visits to some 60 countries, Scott has given over 1100 speeches and lectures, and presented a TEDx talk on The Dual Challenge: Energy and Environment. Dr. Tinker serves on public company boards and science councils, Trinity University's Board of Trustees, and is an angel investor. He's widely published, has served as president of several international professional associations, and is an AGI Campbell Medalist, AAPG Halbouty Medalist, GCAGS Boyd Medalist, AIPG Parker Medalist, and a Geological Society of America Fellow.

MISSION STATEMENT

Energize industry and individuals in a competitive market through education, technology, and networking.

2026 EPIC PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

RECENT REGULATORY UPDATES AND IMPACT ON EMISSIONS REPORTING

This interactive course will dive into key air emission reporting requirements, with practical guidance on complying with 40 CFR Parts 60, 63, and 75. Participants will gain valuable, real-world insights to strengthen their reporting accuracy and confidence. Explore the tentative agenda below and plan to kick off your EPIC experience with this focused, high-impact training opportunity.

Notification Requirements:

- Part 60 and 63 Excess Emission and CEMS Downtime Reporting
- Reason and Action Code Reporting Questions
- New Part 75 and MATS Reporting Requirements
- Performance Test and RATA Reporting
- CEDRI and ERT Reporting Requirements

Agora will provide a workshop manual for each attendee, including the handouts/slides for each of the presentations.

Speaker: Steve Norfleet and Lucas Schneider, Agora Environmental Consulting

Session Time: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Session Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Registration Fee: \$495

INCREASING YOUR IMPACT & INFLUENCE WITH TRUST

In today's world, trust is in a freefall. This actually leads to massive benefits for individuals who are trustworthy. How much do people trust you? Even unknowingly, we assign each person a "trust score," and they have likewise evaluated us. The funny thing is that many of the actions that lose trust points are actually praised and rewarded in America. In this session, we share the top ten factors that lose trust, then go into the Trust Transformation steps that can quickly gain and keep trust.

We want to be the people that others seek to do business with because they can trust us. It's time to stop losing trust points and develop habits that inspire rock-solid trust in our work relationships. We will dive into different areas where managers, leaders, salespeople, and people are losing trust, then cover ways to gain trust, some which are hidden in plain sight. We conclude with the most important part of any training or workshop, which is application. This training contains time-tested, practical action steps that you can start implementing today.

Speaker: Kevin Miiller, ITCB Consulting

Session Time: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Session Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Registration Fee: \$195

FUNDAMENTALS OF BALANCING ROTATING EQUIPMENT

In this one day pre-conference session attendees will learn the fundamentals of dynamic balancing of rotating equipment whether on a shop stand or in the field.

Course Objectives:

- Understand the difference between rigid and flexible rotors
- Be able to identify the characteristics of unbalance in rotating equipment
- Troubleshooting aggravating conditions which can affect field balancing
- Understand the different types of unbalance: static, couple, and dynamic
- Recognize when to apply single versus multi-plane balancing
- Understand basic balancing procedures and best practices
- Gain tips and tricks from the instructor's 20 plus years of experience
- Be able to determine balancing requirements based on rotor configuration

- Be able to calculate balance quality per ISO 21940-11 and ISO 21940-12
- Interpret balancing reports This course is an entry level course that can be attended by mechanics, operators, planners, engineers and planners. No previous rotating equipment or vibration analysis experience is required.

Speaker: Chad Wilcox, Red Wolf Reliability

Session Time: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Session Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Registration Fee: \$325

WORKPLACE SAFETY BY DESIGN

This hybrid program integrates Active Threat Preparedness, De-escalation Techniques, and Situational Awareness to provide participants with a comprehensive approach to personal and organizational safety. Designed to strengthen confidence and decision-making under pressure, the training blends practical strategies with real-world scenarios to enhance readiness in a variety of environments.

Speaker: Rich Webb and Drew Mouldenhauer, Blue Ethos Specialized Training LLC

Session Time: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Session Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Registration Fee: \$275

THE LEADERSHIP SHIFT: TRANSITIONING FROM MANAGING TASKS TO INSPIRING PEOPLE

Transitioning from a boss to a leader creates a powerful opportunity to support employees, build a positive company culture, and achieve meaningful long-term growth. Managers and supervisors who can become strong leaders will transform the performance and longevity of their team, generating greater ROI. This half-day session will explore the science behind good leadership, the difference between being a manager and a leader, and how to be successful in your leadership journey.

Speaker: Kristi Pfliger Keller, TrainND SW

Session Time: 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Session Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Registration Fee: \$195

100 IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE 2026 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE

This session will cover the most important 100 changes to the 2026 National Electrical Code. Residential, commercial and industrial changes will be included. Each change will be clearly explained with many graphics included for the changes. Electricians and engineers will be 'brought up to speed' on what they will need to be aware of when the North Dakota state electrical board adopts the 2026 National Electrical Code. *This course will be accepted by the ND, MN, and SD state electrical boards for 8 hours of CEUs.*

Speaker: Tim Pull, TJP Electrical Training

Session Time: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Session Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Registration Fee: \$195

Scan to visit our registration site for

Pre-Conference sessions!

Registration closes January 22, 2026.



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NWL Transformers, Inc.

IEM Energy Consultants, LLC

Relevant Industrial

Industrial Sales Solutions, LLC

Swanson Flo

Integrated Global Services

The Plum Company

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026	
OPENING KEYNOTE: DAN MEERS 8:00 AM–9:30 AM	
BREAK FOR EXHIBIT HALL: 9:30 AM–10:00 AM	
10:00 am–10:50 am	11:00 am–11:50 am
Variable Frequency Drive Installation: Field Proven Practices for Reliability <i>Carl Tolbert, Malloy Electric</i>	Using Chat GPT to Troubleshoot Electrical and Mechanical Issues <i>Carl Tolbert, Malloy Electric</i>
The Art of the P.A.U.S.E. Simple Tips for Managing Stress So You Can Live and Lead Well <i>Mandy Anderson, RAYMA Team®</i>	Healthy Teams and Two-Way Accountability: Establishing the Ground Rules <i>Mandy Anderson, RAYMA Team®</i>
Air Preheater 101 <i>David Bintz, LJÜNGSTRÖM</i>	
Mastering Team Dynamics with 5 Dysfunctions of a Team <i>Jeff Beck, University of Mary</i>	Communicating with Influence <i>Alycia Peter, University of Mary</i>
Building A Sustainable Domestic Steele Solution: North American Iron’s America First Iron Project <i>Jim Bougalis, North American Iron</i>	Situational Awareness <i>Rich Webb and Drew Moldenhauer, Blue Ethos Specialized Training LLC</i>
Transforming Power Plant Performance with Wireless Pervasive Sensing Technologies <i>Joel Lemke, Emerson</i>	ESP Revival: Maximum Performance, Minimal Outage <i>Paul Leanza, NWL Transformers, Inc.</i>
Panel - Emerging Technologies for the North Dakota Coal Industry <i>Mike Holmes, Lignite Energy Council (Moderator)</i>	
Starting Off on the Right Foot Considerations for Including Vibration Criteria in Purchasing Specifications of Rotating Equipment <i>Chad Wilcox, Red Wolf Reliability</i>	Trends in the Power Industry <i>Chuck Nordhausen, Kiewit Power</i>
Welding for the Non-Welder <i>Leland Vetter, Weld Inspection Services</i>	Machining 101 <i>Leland Vetter, Weld Inspection Services</i>
Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Process <i>Tom Ghidossi, Barr Engineering</i>	Arc Flash, The NFPA 70E Standard and Your Electrical Maintenance. ARE YOU PREPARED? <i>Joe Schommer, RESA POWER</i>
Lunch: 11:30 am–1:00 pm, Exhibit Halls B-D	

* Please note this schedule is subject to changes until conference time.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

1:00 pm–1:50 pm	2:00 pm–2:50 pm
<p>Understanding Belt Tracking and Self Aligning Idlers Garrett Ashburn, Rock Machinery Co.</p>	<p>Automated Control Valve Performance: Which Part is More Critical - the Valve or the Actuator? Bill Bensing, Kirst Process Equipment and Howard Williams, Bray Controls</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Plant Efficiency and Valving Ralph Stemme & Bernie Sapp, GESTRA USA</p>	
<p>Servant Leadership: Leading with Purpose, Humility, and Impact Dr. Karel Sovak, University of Mary</p>	<p>Water Resources Considerations for Data Centers Nangare Mandar, Barr Engineering Co.</p>
<p>Transform Your CX: Turning Community Trust into a Competitive Advantage Jesse Brock, TransformCX</p>	<p>State of the Market: Long Term Maintenance Agreements Jeff Fassett, IEM Energy Consultants, LLC</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Powering What's Next: Engineering Resilient Generation & Infrastructure Solutions Andrew Flajole & Bryan Brashear, HDR</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">SF6 and Beyond: Insulating Gases and What You Need to Know Regarding the Latest Regulations, Restrictions and Alternatives Neil Gwinnutt, Energy Maintenance Technologies, Ltd</p>	
<p>Unlocking the Potential of Produced Water - Direct Lithium Extraction from Low Concentration Oilfield Waste Water Mat Hirst, Well Spring Hydro</p>	<p>Building Resilient Teams for a Rapidly Changing Future Joe Camisa, Bismarck State College</p>
<p>Panel - The Potential Role of Enhanced Oil Recovery in North Dakota's Power Sector Jim Sorensen, Energy and Environmental Research Center, UND (Moderator)</p>	<p>Panel - Energy/Defense Nexus and Critical Materials in North Dakota Jason Laumb, Energy and Environmental Research Center, UND (Moderator)</p>
<p>An Introduction to Power Quality and Harmonics Sarah Woods, MTC Corp.</p>	
<p>Managing Bottom Ash Transport Water Chemistry Under the ELG Regulations David Donkin, UCC Environmental</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Ice Cream Social 3:00 pm–3:30 pm, Exhibit Hall A</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Grand Prize Drawing and Closing Keynote: Seeking Energy Truth, Dr. Scott Tinker, Switch Energy Alliance 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">After Hours Social 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Exhibit Halls B-D</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Casino Night 6:30p m–10:00 pm, Radisson Hotel</p>	

* Please note this schedule is subject to changes until conference time.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026	
OPENING KEYNOTE: DAN MEERS 8:00 AM–9:30 AM	
BREAK FOR EXHIBIT HALL: 9:30 AM–10:00 AM	
10:00 am–10:50 am	11:00 am–11:50 am
<p>Variable Frequency Drive Installation: Field Proven Practices for Reliability <i>Carl Tolbert, Malloy Electric</i></p>	<p>Using Chat GPT to Troubleshoot Electrical and Mechanical Issues <i>Carl Tolbert, Malloy Electric</i></p>
<p>The Art of the P.A.U.S.E. Simple Tips for Managing Stress So You Can Live and Lead Well <i>Mandy Anderson, RAYMA Team®</i></p>	<p>Healthy Teams and Two-Way Accountability: Establishing the Ground Rules <i>Mandy Anderson, RAYMA Team®</i></p>
<p>North Dakota Lignite to Critical Value-Added Carbon Products <i>Alexander Azenkeng, UND EERC</i></p>	<p>Lignite Derived Graphene and the Next Generation of Composite Materials <i>Eric Theisen, UND EERC</i></p>
<p>Mastering Team Dynamics with 5 Dysfunctions of a Team <i>Jeff Beck, University of Mary</i></p>	<p>Communicating with Influence <i>Alycia Peter, University of Mary</i></p>
<p>From Cylinder to Instrument: Gas Delivery Systems <i>Ethan Liebswager, Swagelock</i></p>	<p>Active Threat Preparedness <i>Rich Webb and Drew Moldenhauer, Blue Ethos Specialized Training LLC</i></p>
<p>Transforming Power Plant Performance with Wireless Pervasive Sensing Technologies <i>Joel Lemke, Emerson</i></p>	<p>Minerals to Molecules Coal's Future with Chemical Looping <i>Nick Vargo, The Babcock and Wilcox Company</i></p>
<p>Plant Efficiency and Valving <i>Ralph Stemme & Bernie Sapp, GESTRA USA</i></p>	
<p>Panel - Exploring the Water/Energy Nexus, Permitting 101 <i>Reice Haase, ND Dept. of Water Resources (Moderator)</i></p>	<p>Water Resources Considerations for Data Centers <i>Nangare Mandar, Barr Engineering Co.</i></p>
<p>Starting Off on the Right Foot Considerations for Including Vibration Criteria in Purchasing Specifications of Rotating Equipment <i>Chad Wilcox, Red Wolf Reliability</i></p>	<p>Building Resilient Teams for a Rapidly Changing Future <i>Joe Camisa, Bismarck State College</i></p>
<p>Welding for the Non-Welder <i>Leland Vetter, Weld Inspection Services</i></p>	<p>Gas Metal Arc Welding <i>Leland Vetter, Weld Inspection Services</i></p>
<p>Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Process <i>Tom Ghidossi, Barr Engineering</i></p>	<p>Arc Flash, The NFPA 70E Standard and Your Electrical Maintenance. ARE YOU PREPARED? <i>Joe Schommer, RESA POWER</i></p>
<p>Lunch: 11:30 am–1:00 pm, Exhibit Halls B-D</p>	

* Please note this schedule is subject to changes until conference time.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

1:00 pm–1:50 pm

Understanding Belt Tracking and Self Aligning Idlers

Garrett Ashburn, Rock Machinery Co.

Building A Sustainable Domestic Steele Solution: North American Iron's America First Iron Project

Jim Bougalis, North American Iron

Servant Leadership: Leading with Purpose, Humility, and Impact

Dr. Karel Sovak, University of Mary

Transform Your CX: Turning Community Trust into a Competitive Advantage

Jesse Brock, TransformCX

Trends in the Power Industry

Chuck Nordhausen, Kiewit Power

Power Quality and Motor Protection

Sarah Woods, MTC Corp

Understanding Phased Capital Cost Estimating

Kelly Newman, Kestrel Engineering Group

Managing Bottom Ash Transport Water Chemistry Under the ELG Regulations

David Donkin, UCC Environmental

Ice Cream Social

2:00 pm–2:30 pm, Exhibit Hall A

**Grand Prize Drawing and
Closing Keynote: Seeking Energy Truth, Dr. Scott Tinker, Switch Energy Alliance
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm**

** Please note this schedule is subject to changes until conference time.*

2026 SESSION DETAILS: JANUARY 28-29, 2026

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

ACTIVE THREAT PREPAREDNESS

This course covers essential survival strategies through a multi-option response framework, empowering you to make quick, informed decisions in the face of danger.

Speakers: Rich Webb & Drew Moldenhauer, Blue Ethos Specialized Training LLC

Session Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am

Session Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026

AIR PREHEATER 101

Although a Ljungström regenerative air preheater may appear to be a simple, long-lasting component, understanding its basic terminology, operation, and maintenance is essential to avoiding performance issues and unexpected outages. This session provides a foundational overview to help attendees recognize key areas that require attention and routine monitoring. Topics include seal and leakage management, bearings, heat transfer elements, structural integrity, and overall performance. The content is valuable for everyone, from planners to plant managers, seeking to ensure reliable, efficient operation

Speaker: David W. Bintz, P.E., LJUNGSTRÖM

Session Time: 10:00 am - 11:50 am

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

AN INTRODUCTION TO POWER QUALITY AND HARMONICS

Explore the fundamentals of harmonics, what they are, where they originate, and why they pose serious risks to electrical systems. This session will break down the key requirements of the IEEE-519 standard and explain what compliance looks like in real-world applications. Attendees will also learn about industry-proven mitigation solutions, from line reactors to passive and active harmonic filters, to help ensure long-term system reliability and performance.

Speaker: Sarah Woods, MTC Corp.

Session Time: 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

ARC FLASH, THE NFPA 70E STANDARD AND YOUR ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE. ARE YOU PREPARED?

The world of electrical hazards, protection and accident prevention can be a confusing place. Hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries can be avoided each year by following the NFPA 70E: Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace. Be prepared by arming yourself with the knowledge of the types of electrical hazards and the effects of electrical shock and flash. This session will identify the need for electrical safety as well as electrical maintenance and safety programs. Attendees will learn about arc flash hazard risk assessment, personal protective equipment (PPE) and shock and arc flash approach boundaries. Reduce your liability concerns while establishing a culture of safe work practices among employees after attending this session.

Speaker: Joe Schommer, RESA POWER

Session Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

AUTOMATED CONTROL VALVE PERFORMANCE: WHICH PART IS MORE CRITICAL - THE VALVE OR THE ACTUATOR?

There are many linear and rotary control valve manufacturers out there, including some who offer a range of pneumatic and electric powered valve actuators. However, there are many independent valve actuator companies who serve the Control Valve OEMs who are not always familiar with inner workings of every type of Control Valve on the market. With valve actuators there has been significant technological growth with the introduction of electronics including smart positioners for pneumatic actuators and servo controls for electric actuators. What the end users need is a package that provides them with the best flow control for their process. Matching the best valve and actuator combination is the key and we will explore how best to approach this.

Speaker: Bill Bensing, Kirst Process Equipment, and Howard Williams, Bray Controls

Session Time: 2:00 pm - 2:50 pm

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE DOMESTIC STEEL SOLUTION: NORTH AMERICAN IRON'S AMERICA FIRST IRON PROJECT

North American Iron (NAI) is closing a critical gap in the U.S. steel supply chain by developing the nation's first fully domestic pig iron production. With more than 20 years of secured iron ore resources in Minnesota, NAI will reclaim and process these legacy stockpiles and transport them by rail to North Dakota, where state-of-the-art, low-emission technology will convert the ore into high-purity pig iron. This clean, end-to-end domestic supply solution will provide U.S. steelmakers with a reliable, long-term feedstock essential for electric arc furnaces-- boosting efficiency, lowering impurities, and enabling lower-emission steelmaking. By reducing reliance on foreign sources,



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strengthening national security, and supporting regional job creation, NAI is advancing an “America First” project that delivers generational benefits. Together with its sister company, Calumet Reclamation Company (CRC), NAI is building a sustainable steel solution that powers American industry for decades to come.

Speaker: Jim Bougalis, North American Iron
Session Time: 10:00 pm - 10:50 am
Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

BUILDING RESILIENT TEAMS FOR A RAPIDLY CHANGING FUTURE

Industries everywhere are undergoing rapid transformation driven by technology, shifting demographics, and evolving market demands. By 2030, organizations will need to anticipate critical skill changes, conduct future-focused gap analyses, and design training that prepares employees for shifting or emerging roles. This session will explore steps to prepare your organization now for success in 2030.

Speaker: Joseph Camisa, Bismarck State College, TrainND SW
Session Time: 2:00 pm - 2:50 pm (Day 1); 11:00 am - 11:50 am (Day 2)
Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

COMMUNICATING WITH INFLUENCE

“Communicating with Influence” is designed to help individuals understand their own communication style, recognize the styles of others, and adapt their approach to enhance clarity, collaboration, and connection. This training is ideal for professionals at all levels who want to improve interpersonal communication, strengthen relationships, and lead with emotional intelligence.

Speaker: Alycia Peter, University of Mary
Session Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am
Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES – INTERCONNECTION PROCESS

This session will provide an overview of the standard interconnection process for distributed energy resources connecting to subtransmission and distribution systems. We will cover key steps in the process, including:

- Submitting initial interconnection applications
- Conducting feasibility and system impact studies
- Reviewing interconnection agreements
- Understanding power purchase agreements

Speaker: Tom Ghidossi, Barr Engineering Co.
Session Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am
Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

PANEL – EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE NORTH DAKOTA COAL INDUSTRY

Explore the future of lignite innovation and energy strategy in this forward-looking session. Hear updates on cutting-edge technology development, including advancements toward the “Plant of the Future,” ongoing research in rare earth elements and critical minerals, evolving gasification opportunities, and new applications for carbon products and construction materials. This session offers a concise, high-value overview of the major projects and innovations shaping the next generation of lignite and energy solutions.

Moderator: Mike Holmes, Lignite Energy Council
Panelists: Josh Stanislawski, UND EERC; Dan Ludal, UND, College of Engineering and Mines Research Institute; Trinity Turnbow, Great Plains Synfuels Plant; David Straley, North American Coal
Session Time: 10:00 am - 11:50 am
Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

PANEL – ENERGY/DEFENSE NEXUS AND CRITICAL MATERIALS IN NORTH DAKOTA

Discover how North Dakota businesses are powering the future of the energy and defense sectors through their growing need for critical materials. This dynamic panel will explore current and emerging supply chain demands, the challenges and opportunities shaping the industry, and the innovative ways companies are positioning themselves for long-term success in the state. Attendees will gain insider perspectives on market growth, resource needs, and the strategic role North Dakota plays in meeting national and global demands.

Moderator: Jason Laumb, UND EERC
Session Time: 2:00 pm - 2:50 pm
Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

ESP REVIVAL: MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE, MINIMAL OUTAGE

With rising electricity demand extending the life of aging coal plants, years of deferred ESP maintenance have created significant performance challenges. Operators need clear performance indicators and troubleshooting guidance, engineers require reliable assessment methods to prioritize repairs, and managers need data-driven strategies to justify maintenance investments and manage regulatory risk. Drawing on 37 years of ESP field experience and NWL’s Tier Program methodology, this session offers practical, role-specific approaches for maximizing ESP performance with limited resources. Attendees will learn systematic techniques for performance evaluation, strategic maintenance planning, and cost-effective compliance solutions to support reliable, long-term plant operation.

Speaker: Paul Leanza, NWL Transformers
Session Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am
Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

EXPLORING THE WATER/ENERGY NEXUS, PERMITTING 101

Water resources and energy production are deeply interconnected, creating what is often referred to as the water-energy nexus. Energy generation depends heavily on the availability of water for cooling, processing, or direct power generation. At the same time, the extraction, treatment, and distribution of water require significant amounts of energy, especially in regions reliant on pumping, desalination, or advanced treatment technologies. Understanding and managing this nexus is crucial for sustainable development, as it highlights the need for integrated policies that balance resource use, minimize competition, and promote efficiency across both sectors.

Moderator: Reice Haase, ND Dept. of Water Resources

Session Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am

Session Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026

FROM CYLINDER TO INSTRUMENT: GAS DELIVERY SYSTEMS

This presentation explores the variety of gas distribution and control panels available, each of which can be tailored to meet the demanding requirements of analytical instruments used in the power, oil, and gas industries. Attendees will gain insights into the critical roles gas distribution systems play, including delivering high-purity gases to instruments, maintaining consistent pressure, preventing contamination, and ensuring operator safety. Emphasis will be placed on how modular, configurable systems support precise gas delivery, enhance system reliability, minimize downtime, and reduce gas consumption. The presentation will also highlight the essential roles analytical instruments serve in these industries, from emissions monitoring and process control in power generation, to quality assurance, hydrocarbon analysis, and environmental compliance in oil and gas operations. Design considerations such as pressure control, material compatibility, and leak-tight performance will be explored in detail. These solutions ultimately support safer operations, improved efficiency, and stricter regulatory compliance across energy sectors.

Speaker: Ethan Liebswager, Swagelok

Session Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am

Session Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026

GAS METAL ARC WELDING

This session will cover what every welder should know about GMAW. This will include machine set-up, metal transfer modes, welding techniques, electrode selection, gas types, causes of weld defects, trouble shooting equipment, and safety. This session is a must for anyone doing fabrication or maintenance and repair.

Speaker: Leland Vetter, Weld Inspection Services

Session Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

HEALTHY TEAMS AND TWO-WAY ACCOUNTABILITY:

ESTABLISHING THE GROUND RULES

This training session focuses on establishing ground rules for healthy communication, conflict resolution, and two-way accountability. Using the concept of a successful harvest, participants will examine behaviors that undermine team dynamics and learn approaches to cultivate practices that strengthen collaboration and build effective teams.

Key Takeaways:

- Identifying the root cause of two-way accountability issues.
- Taking personal responsibility for your own actions and habits so you can be a strong team player.
- An active listening technique that builds trust and common ground, diffusing the behavior and emotions that fan the flames of conflict.

Speaker: Mandy Anderson, RAYMA Team®

Session Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

LIGNITE DERIVED GRAPHENE AND THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMPOSITE MATERIALS

Lignite has been successfully converted to high-quality graphite and then processed into single-layer graphene sheets with novel properties. Forming composite materials with embedded graphene has been shown to greatly increase mechanical strength, increase electrical and thermal conductivity, and enhance corrosion resistance. The material functionality of metal/graphene composites and resin/graphene coatings, along with their target applications, will be discussed.

Speaker: Eric Theisen, UND EERC

Session Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am

Session Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026

MACHINING 101

This session will cover the fundamentals of machining including the basic machine tools, and the cutting tools used for turning, facing, threading, milling, grinding, and sawing. Learn what makes a tool cut like clearance and feeds and speeds.

Speaker: Leland Vetter, Weld Inspection Services

Session Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

MANAGING BOTTOM ASH TRANSPORT WATER CHEMISTRY UNDER THE ELG REGULATIONS

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has affirmed that Bottom Ash (BA) Transport Systems in the coal-fired utilities that convey ash hydraulically will achieve compliance through High Recycle Rate systems, with no provisions for untreated water purge to discharge. Ostensibly the EPA has signaled a goal of Zero Liquid Discharge for BA transport systems, which will require the industry

to operate these systems as closed loop systems. In any closed loop system, the evolution of the water chemistry, especially with respect to scaling and corrosion tendencies, is of heightened concern. While a large variety of options exist for the treatment and control of these risks, they have only recently been studied and applied to BA transport systems. A number of utilities have progressed down an interventive chemical management path for these systems using strategic flow management, chemical treatment additives, and comprehensive monitoring of key parameters in the water.

Speaker: David Donkin, UCC Environmental

Session Time: 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

MASTERING TEAM DYNAMICS WITH 5 DYSFUNCTIONS OF A TEAM

Based on Patrick Lencioni's best-selling book, *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*, this dynamic training experience helps teams identify and overcome the common barriers to effective collaboration and high performance.

By recognizing the 5 common dysfunctions and learning strategies to address them, teams will develop stronger relationships, enhance communication, and create a culture of accountability and alignment. Whether you're a leadership team, project group, or cross-functional unit, this training will equip you with the tools to build a cohesive, resilient, and high-performing team.

Speaker: Jeff Beck, University of Mary

Session Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

MINERALS TO MOLECULES - COAL'S FUTURE WITH CHEMICAL LOOPING

This presentation highlights Babcock & Wilcox's BrightLoop™ chemical looping technology, a platform designed to produce low-carbon steam, hydrogen, or syngas from diverse feedstocks, including coal. BrightLoop uses engineered particles to convert feedstocks into concentrated CO₂ while generating high-temperature energy for steam production. Attendees will learn how the process works and explore two key projects—a first-of-its-kind Ohio plant and a coal-to-hydrogen initiative in Wyoming—demonstrating new industrial pathways for coal and CO₂ management.

Speaker: Nick Vargo, The Babcock and Wilcox Company

Session Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am

Session Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026

NORTH DAKOTA LIGNITE TO CRITICAL VALUE-ADDED CARBON PRODUCTS

North Dakota has the single largest lignite reserve in the world. To maximize the value of this abundant domestic coal resource, the University of North Dakota (UND) Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) has been developing upgraded carbon ore to products

(UCOP) technology to directly transform lignite coal to critical value-added carbon products such as graphite and graphene. To conduct this research, the EERC has leveraged federal dollars through grant awards from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), state support through the state energy research center, North Dakota Industrial Commission's (NDIC) Lignite Research Program (LRP), and private industry partners. Achievements to date include demonstrated feasibility to produce critical minerals and materials such as graphite, graphene, and graphene quantum dots (GQDs) from North Dakota lignite. This presentation will provide a summary of the journey from lignite to critical value-added carbon products.

Speaker: Alex Azenkeng, UND EERC

Session Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am

Session Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026

PLANT EFFICIENCY AND VALVING

This technical session will provide an in-depth exploration of critical valve applications and troubleshooting in steam and boiler systems. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of high pressure drop valves, drain valves, boiler feed pump recirculation, and tempering valves. The session will cover the operational principles, common challenges, and best practices for troubleshooting and corrective actions. Attendees will learn how to identify issues, analyze root causes, and implement effective solutions to optimize system reliability and performance.

Speaker: Bernie Sapp and Ralph Stemme, GESTRA

Session Time: 1:00 pm - 2:50 pm (Day 1) and 10:00 am - 11:50 am (Day 2)

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

POWERING WHAT'S NEXT: ENGINEERING RESILIENT GENERATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

Energy demand in the Upper Midwest is rapidly shifting due to industrial growth, advanced manufacturing, electrification, and expanding digital infrastructure. At the same time, utilities across the region, and within SPP and MISO, face shrinking reserve margins, aging baseload plants, interconnection delays, and growing resiliency challenges. This session offers practical, solutions-focused insights on how generation and delivery systems can adapt. Presenters will explore flexible generation options, renewable and storage integration, replacement and surplus generation projects, and strategies for resilient transmission planning. Attendees will gain real-world guidance to help utilities maintain reliability, meet regulatory expectations, and prepare for future load growth.

Speaker: Andrew Flajole & Bryan Brashear, HDR

Session Time: 1:00 pm - 2:50 pm

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

POWER QUALITY AND MOTOR PROTECTION

Learn about VFDs and their impact on power quality, how differential mode and common mode affect motors and cables, including the signs of motor damage. Discover the one solution that combats silent motor issues and keeps operations running smoothly – essential for maintaining uptime!

Speaker: Sarah Woods, MTC Corp.

Session Time: 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm

Session Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026

SF6 AND BEYOND: INSULATING GASES AND WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW REGARDING THE LATEST REGULATIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

This presentation explores legislative changes and obligations utilities face as SF6 bans accelerate the transition toward alternative insulating gas technologies. With SF6 phase-out policies advancing, utilities must navigate evolving standards and regulatory requirements that increasingly shape daily operations. The adoption of new insulating gases presents opportunities but also introduces significant technical and operational challenges. Around the world, utilities are learning to adapt, often through trial and error, as they balance compliance, reliability, and cost. This session will highlight practical challenges encountered in the field and examine how leading utilities have addressed and overcome them during the transition.

Speaker: Neil Gwinnutt, Energy Maintenance Technologies Ltd

Session Time: 1:00 pm - 2:50 pm

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

SERVANT LEADERSHIP: LEADING WITH PURPOSE, HUMILITY, AND IMPACT

About the training: "Servant Leadership: Leading with Purpose, Humility, and Impact," is sure to inspire meaningful reflection and practical takeaways for leaders at all levels. Whether you're an executive, emerging leader, educator, or simply someone who wants to lead more intentionally, this session will explore how servant leadership fosters trust, collaboration, and a people-first culture. Dr. Sovak will share insights rooted in real-world experience and timeless principles that challenge the traditional leadership model and focus instead on serving others as the foundation of true leadership.

Speaker: Dr. Karel Sovak, University of Mary

Session Time: 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

This course covers essential survival strategies through a multi-option response framework, empowering you to make quick, informed decisions in the face of danger. You'll learn how to assess evolving situations, choose the safest course of action, and respond with confidence. Practical guidance and real-world scenarios help reinforce these skills, ensuring you are better prepared to protect yourself and others.

Speakers: Rich Webb and Drew Moldenhauer, Blue Ethos Specialized Training LLC

Session Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

STARTING OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT CONSIDERATIONS FOR INCLUDING VIBRATION CRITERIA IN PURCHASING SPECIFICATIONS OF ROTATING EQUIPMENT

Infant mortality of new and rebuilt rotating equipment is one of the most prevalent failure patterns. A great way to ensure return on your investment starts when you create purchasing specifications and then utilize acceptance testing during the initial commissioning of the equipment. This session will cover the role of purchasing specifications and acceptance testing using vibration analysis of rotating equipment. Industry standards and case studies will be used to illustrate best practices for incorporating vibration acceptance criteria into purchasing specifications.

Speaker: Chad Wilcox, Red Wolf Reliability

Session Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

STATE OF THE MARKET - LONG TERM MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS

Long Term Service Agreements (LTSAs) have evolved significantly since their introduction in the mid-1990s, growing from simple support contracts into highly technical and complex commercial documents. Once associated primarily with advanced F-class gas turbines, LTSAs are now widely used for E-class units, aero-derivatives, steam turbines, and even reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE). Historically contractor-centric, these agreements often placed disproportionate risk on plant owners and operators. Drawing on decades of experience, this session highlights how more owner-focused provisions are reshaping the market, reducing risk, and improving long-term value. Attendees will gain insights into current LTSA trends, the expanding role of non-OEM providers, and what to expect in the next generation of service agreements.

Speaker: Jeff Fassett, IEM Energy Consultants, (CEIS Power)

Session Time: 2:00 pm - 2:50 pm

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

THE ART OF THE P.A.U.S.E. - SIMPLE TIPS FOR MANAGING STRESS SO YOU CAN LIVE AND LEAD WELL

One of the leading causes of leadership failure and employee burnout is stress. It's time to learn simple, proven steps to overcome the trap of stress when it shows up. This training session is our MOST REQUESTED training session! Key Takeaways: How to move past the three myths of pausing to rest. What stress really looks like, feels like, and sounds like in your body. The 5 steps of P.A.U.S.E so managing stress becomes a life-long practice. We do have a professionally printed workbook available that can be purchased for each attendee if you so desire.

Speaker: Mandy B. Anderson, RAYMA Team®

Session Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

PANEL - THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY IN NORTH DAKOTA'S POWER SECTOR

The panel will discuss opportunities for anthropogenic CO2 in enhanced oil recovery (EOR) in North Dakota. Discussions will include legacy oil fields as well as current demonstrations in the Bakken. The panel will also provide guidance on potential revenue generation at the state and partner levels.

Session Moderator: Jim Sorensen, UND EERC

Session Time: 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm

Session Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026

TRANSFORM YOUR CX: TURNING COMMUNITY TRUST INTO A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

In energy, the moments that matter most, outages, field visits, service starts, and right-of-way work, make or break community trust. In this fast-paced session, CX strategist Jesse Brock shows leaders and frontline teams how to communicate clearly, set believable ETAs, and turn tough situations into lasting advocacy. You will leave with a simple energy-specific journey map, practical outage and field-visit scripts, and a 30-day "quick win" plan to align contractors, dispatch, and the contact center. If you own reliability, safety, or customer communications, this talk gives you the tools to reduce call volume, boost first-visit completion, and increase satisfaction, without massive new systems.

Speaker: Jesse Brock, TransformCX

Session Time: 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

TRANSFORMING POWER PLANT PERFORMANCE WITH WIRELESS PERVASIVE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES

Modern power plants face rising expectations for reliability, efficiency, and safety—often with fewer staff and aging equipment. Traditional wired instrumentation is costly and slow to install, limiting insight

into critical assets. Wireless Pervasive Sensing Technologies offer a scalable, non-intrusive way to monitor plant health in real time. Using WirelessHART® and the Plantweb™ digital ecosystem, these sensors support predictive maintenance, energy optimization, and safety compliance. Applications include steam traps, HRSG leaks, pumps, cooling towers, and transformers. Case studies from coal, combined cycle, and nuclear plants show significant annual savings and improved uptime through fast deployment and enhanced operational visibility.

Speaker: Joel Lemke, Emerson

Session Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

TRENDS IN THE POWER INDUSTRY

Since the pandemic, the power industry has faced longer lead times, rising costs, and increased bid response durations—prompting owners to rethink traditional bid/build approaches. Utilities are also navigating labor shortages, growing demand for the first time in over a decade, and reliability challenges from extreme weather. Adding to the complexity, data centers are emerging as major power consumers.

This session explores how these trends are reshaping project execution for renewable, fossil, retrofit, and emerging technologies. Learn strategies for adapting to market dynamics, managing material and equipment challenges, and collaborating with contractors to enhance and extend existing infrastructure.

Speaker: Chuck Nordhausen, Kiewit Power

Session Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am (Day 1) 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm (Day 2)

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

UNDERSTANDING BELT TRACKING AND SELF ALIGNING IDLERS

This session will cover the fundamentals of tension and take-up systems in conveyor operations, focusing on best practices for maintaining belt performance and reliability. Participants will learn how to train a belt using the "Handlebar" Principle, ensuring proper tracking and reducing wear. The session will also explore when and where to use Self-Aligning Idlers to improve system efficiency and minimize downtime. Practical insights and real-world examples will help attendees optimize conveyor alignment and extend equipment life.

Speaker: Garrett Ashburn, Rock Machinery

Session Time: 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

UNDERSTANDING PHASED CAPITAL COST ESTIMATING

Accurate cost estimating is essential for setting realistic expectations and ensuring project success. This session provides project managers with a clear understanding of how capital cost estimates are developed, classified, and refined through project phases. Attendees will gain practical insight into estimate components, contingency, and common pitfalls, as well as how to use estimating data to support decision-making and manage uncertainty.

Speaker: Kelly Newman, Kestrel Engineering Group Inc.

Session Time: 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm

Session Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF PRODUCED WATER - DIRECT LITHIUM EXTRACTION FROM LOW CONCENTRATION OILFIELD WASTE WATER

Wellspring Hydro and LibertyStream present a transformative opportunity to strengthen the U.S. economy by unlocking a scalable, domestic supply of lithium, a critical mineral essential to the clean energy expansion, electric vehicle (EV) growth, and battery storage infrastructure. Lithium demand in the U.S. is projected to increase by over 500% by 2035, yet the country remains heavily reliant on foreign sources, particularly from regions subject to geopolitical instability, trade restrictions, and environmental challenges. The result is a structural supply vulnerability that threatens the pace and security of U.S. electrification goals. Wellspring Hydro's vision, relationships and execution paired with LibertyStream's technology address this gap through a modular, field-deployable Direct Lithium Extraction (DLE) platform that enables:

- Rapid deployment at brownfield oil and gas sites across U.S. basins.
- Lower capital intensity and permitting complexity than traditional hard rock ore mining or solution mined salar-based lithium production.

- Stepwise scale-up, allowing initial production within 6-12 months and expansion over time to meet growing demand.

Speaker: Mat Hirst, Well Spring Hydro

Session Time: 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

USING CHAT GPT TO TROUBLESHOOT ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ISSUES

This class introduces technicians, engineers, and maintenance professionals to practical, real-world uses of ChatGPT for diagnosing and solving electrical and mechanical problems. Through examples such as NEC conductor sizing, gear oil compatibility checks, and drive and motor troubleshooting, participants learn how to turn AI into a fast, reliable assistant for fieldwork and technical decision making. The course emphasizes clarity, context, and safety when using AI, ensuring learners understand both its strengths and its limitations as outlined in the guide Using ChatGPT for Troubleshooting Electrical & Mechanical Issues .

Learners will also develop the ability to craft precise prompts, refine responses, and verify AI-generated insights against codes, standards, and OEM requirements. By the end of the course, participants will know how to integrate ChatGPT into their daily workflow to accelerate research, improve troubleshooting accuracy, and enhance documentation without replacing engineering judgment or established procedures.

Speaker: Carl Tolbert, Malloy Electric

Session Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am

Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026



North Dakota lignite powers:

- 2 million homes and businesses
- 12,000 high-paying careers
- \$5.5 billion in business activity
- \$100 million in state tax revenue

 **Lignite**
Energy Council

www.lignite.com

VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVE INSTALLATION: FIELD-PROVEN PRACTICES FOR RELIABILITY

Proper installation is the foundation of long-term reliability for variable frequency drives (VFDs). While drives are often selected and programmed with care, many failures and performance issues can be traced back to preventable installation errors. This session, Variable Frequency Drive Installation: Field-Proven Practices for Reliability, provides a practical framework drawn from real-world applications and decades of field experience. Dr. Carl Lee Tolbert will highlight the most common installation pitfalls and the proven methods that ensure reliability, from grounding and cabling practices to cooling, harmonics, and environmental considerations. Participants will learn how installation decisions directly affect drive lifespan, motor protection, and predictive maintenance strategies. Attendees will leave with actionable insights that can be applied immediately in the field, helping reduce downtime, extend equipment life, and increase operational safety. This session is designed for engineers, technicians, and maintenance leaders committed to building reliability into their systems from day one.

Speaker: Carl Tolbert, Malloy Electric
Session Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am
Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

WATER RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS FOR DATA CENTERS

This presentation will broadly discuss water resources considerations essential in planning and developing data centers.

Speaker: Mandar Nangare, Barr Engineering Co.
Session Time: 2:00 pm - 2:50 pm (Day 1); 11:00 am - 11:50 am (Day 2)
Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026

WELDING FOR THE NON-WELDER

Gain an understanding of the most common welding processes and an overview of the welding industry. Topics include safety, welding processes, filler metals, and communication of welding information. This session is for purchasing agents, supervisors, sales, QA, and anyone interested in welding.

Speaker: Leland Vetter, Weld Inspection Services
Session Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am
Session Date: Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2026



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2026 CONFIRMED EXHIBITORS (Early Registrations)

1st Call Explosive Solutions, Inc.
Action Battery Wholesalers, Inc.
American Efficiency Services, LLC
American Pulverizer Company
Babcock Power Inc.-MA
Beabout Brock Easley-CO
C.L. Smith Industrial Company
Corval Group
Curtiss-Wright EST Group
Dowco Valve Company
Duechting Pumps North America
Duncan Company
DustMASTER Enviro Systems
EAPC Industrial Services
EnerSys Battery
Engineered Pump Services, Inc.
Environmental Services, Ltd.
Extreme Precision Industrial Contractors LLC
FCX Performance-MN
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Gestra USA
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Hydro, Inc.
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Industrial Sales Solutions, LLC

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Integrated Global Services
JMC Industrial Sales
KC Harvey Environmental LLC
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Kennametal
KSB SupremeServ
L&S Electric, Inc.
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Maertens-Brenny Construction Co.
Martin Engineering
Mechanical Dynamics & Analysis, LLC
Mellema Engineering
Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories, Inc.
NorMinn Industrial, LLC
North Dakota State University
North Point Financial Planners
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Potts Welding & Boiler Repair
Power Services Group
Pro-Tech Power Sales, Inc.
Pullman Power, LLC
RESA POWER
R-S Matco LLC
Southern Environmental, Inc.
Specialized Fabrication Equipment Group
Spider
SPX Hydraulic Technologies
Starflex America Inc.
Team Torque Inc
TeamPro Engineering & Equipment, Inc.
Toshiba America Energy Systems

Premier Exhibitors:

Abrasives Incorporated
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Blome International
C. Emery Nelson, Inc.
Dakota Supply Group
EGC Enterprises Inc
Emerson Automation Solutions
Enpro, Inc.
ESCO Tool Company (Millhog)
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.
GPM, Inc.
Interep, Inc.
IRISNDT
Ironworks Welding
Kalenborn Abresist Corporation
Kirst Process Equipment
MAP General Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
Mechanical and Ceramic Solutions, Inc.
Miron Construction Co., Inc
Molecular Repair Concepts, Inc.
National Electric Coil
Novaspect-IL
NWL Transformers, Inc.
Ovation Holdings LLC
PS Industries Incorporated
Quality Conveyor Solutions
Rachel Contracting
Rain for Rent
Rapat Corporation
Relevant Industrial
Richwood
Swagelok Minnesota | North Dakota | Appleton
Swanson Flo
Tnemec Company, Inc.
Vic's Crane & Heavy Haul Inc
Winn-Marion Barber, LLC
ZEPCO-SC

LEC Member Confirmed Exhibitors:

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AZCO, Inc.
Babcock & Wilcox
Barr Engineering Co.
Border States Electric
Bud Reiner Enterprises
Central Machining & Pump Repair, Inc.
Diamond Power International
Edelmann & Associates, Inc.
Hotsy Equipment Company
IBEW Local 1593
IEM Energy Consultants, LLC
InDemand Industrial Services, LLC
Lindberg Process Equipment Corp.
Liquidmetal Coatings & Mechanical Solutions
Malloy Electric-Sioux Falls
Metals-RS
Motion Industries
Northern Dewatering, Inc.
Philadelphia Gear
RPM & Associates, Inc.
Saulsbury Industries
Siemens Energy
The Plum Company
U.S. Sitework, Inc
Universal Blastco
UCC Environmental

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Americas Best Value Inn & Suites

1505 Interchange Ave, Bismarck, ND
(701) 223-8060

Baymont Inn & Suites

2611 Old Red Trail, Mandan, ND
(701) 663-7401

Best Western Roosevelt Place Hotel

1405 Skyline Way, Bismarck, ND
(701) 751-2550

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center

800 S 3rd Street - Bismarck, ND
(701) 660-8063

Candlewood Suites

4400 Skyline Crossing, Bismarck, ND
(701) 751-8900

Comfort Inn & Suites Mandan

1516 - 27th Street NW, Mandan, ND
(701) 751-7484

Courtyard by Marriott

3319 N. 14th Street, Bismarck, ND
(701) 223-6667

Days Inn - Mandan

2630 Old Red Trail - Mandan, ND
(701) 663-8686

EverSpring Inn & Suites

200 Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND
(701) 222-2900

Fairfield Inn & Suites North

1120 E. Century, Bismarck, ND
(701) 222-2900 (701) 222-3311

Fairfield Inn & Suites South

135 Ivy Ave, Bismarck, ND
(701) 223-9293

Hampton Inn & Suites

2020 Schafer St, Bismarck ND
(701) 751-8900

Holiday Inn of Bismarck

3903 State Street, Bismarck, ND
(701) 751-8240

Radisson Hotel Bismarck

605 E Broadway Ave, Bismarck, ND
(701) 712-6475

Quality Inn

1030 E Interstate Ave. - Bismarck, ND
(701) 223-1911

Ramada Bismarck Hotel

1400 E Interchange Ave, Bismarck, ND
(701) 258-7000

Residence Inn Bismarck North

3421 N. 14th Street, Bismarck, ND
(701) 258-6088

Sleep Inn & Suites

1510 East Century Ave, Bismarck, ND
(701) 751-4860

Staybridge Suites

2801 Gateway Ave, Bismarck, ND
(701) 223-1499



Hotel Booking

2026 EPIC SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE *All times are CST*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

8:00 am - 4:30 pm Pre-Conference Sessions
9:00 am - 4:30 pm Exhibitor Registration and Setup
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Exhibitor Social (open to the public)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 *(registered participants only)*

7:00 am - 8:00 am Registration/Check-in/Breakfast
7:00 am - 8:00 am Exhibitor Showcase Open
8:00 am - 9:30 am General Session & Opening Keynote
9:30 am - 4:30 pm Exhibitor Showcase Open
10:00 am - 11:50 am Breakout Sessions 1 & 2
11:30 am - 1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm - 2:50 pm Breakout Sessions 3 & 4
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Sponsor Ice Cream Social
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm General Session & Closing Keynote followed by Grand Prize Drawings *(Must be Present to Win)*
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Appetizer Social (Exhibit Hall)
6:30 pm - 10:00 pm Casino Night
Radisson Hotel, Bismarck

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 *(registered participants only)*

7:00 am - 8:00 am Registration/Check-in/Breakfast
7:00 am - 8:00 am Exhibitor Showcase Open
8:00 am - 9:30 am General Session & Opening Keynote
9:30 am - 2:30 pm Exhibitor Showcase Open
10:00 am - 11:50 am Breakout Sessions 1 & 2
11:30 am - 1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm - 1:50 pm Breakout Session 3
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Sponsor Ice Cream Social
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm General Session & Closing Keynote followed by Grand Prize Drawings *(Must be Present to Win)*
2:30 pm Exhibitor Tear Down





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