

Piedmont States Wildfire Workshop

DRAFT AGENDA



The CODE Building, 225 W Water St.

Day 1 - August 12, 2026

TIME	SESSION
7:30-8:30 AM	Check-In
8:30-8:45 AM	Welcome - Andrés Clarens Associate Director University of Virginia Environmental Institute - Rebecca O'Neil Research Principal Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Opening Remarks - Victoria Tran Deputy Assistant Secretary U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity
8:45-9:15 AM	Keynote: Current State of Wildfire Risk and Coordination Efforts in the Region John Miller Chief of Fire and Emergency Response Virginia Department of Forestry
9:15-10:15 AM	Wildfire Data: What to know about Wildfire in the Piedmont Region <i>Wildfire occurrence baseline, history, and trends, and an overview of the hazard and weather landscape, including seasonal fire patterns.</i> - Jerry Tagestad Geospatial Data Scientist Pacific Northwest National Laboratory - Huilin Huang Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences University of Virginia - Seth Blair Research and Development Manager Eocene Environmental Group Research Committee Chair Utility Arborist Association <u>Moderator: Matt Kelly</u> Director of Energy Markets ICF
10:15-10:30 AM	Break
10:30-11:30 AM	How Does Wildfire Affect Energy Systems? <i>Impacts on infrastructure, reliability, and operations, including situational awareness technology in action and approaches to asset management.</i> - Payman Dehghanian Associate Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering George Washington University - Negin Alemazkoor Assistant Professor, Department of Engineering Systems and Environment University of Virginia

Piedmont States Wildfire Workshop

DRAFT AGENDA



The CODE Building, 225 W Water St.

	• Steve Parr Vice President, Business Development Gridware • <u>Moderator:</u> Shane Hester Regional Energy Advisor U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response
11:30 AM-12:15 PM	Western States and Wildfire <i>Western state agency strategy and formation for energy-wildfire management.</i> • Mark Wenzel Supervisor California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board • Johanna Hanson Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program Manager, Energy Resilience & Emergency Management Washington Department of Commerce • <u>Moderator:</u> Tom Allen Chief Technology Officer South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
12:15-1:30 PM	Lunch Keynote: Current Best Practices on Wildfire Risk Reduction for Electric Transmission and Distribution Systems & Executive Order 14308 • André Coleman Chief Scientist Pacific Northwest National Laboratory • Patrick Blake General Engineer U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity
1:30-2:30 PM	Utility Wildfire Mitigation Planning <i>How Piedmont utilities are building wildfire mitigation plans, and national perspectives on planning.</i> • Aggie Serrame Resilience Program Manager American Public Power Association • Adam Johnson Manager, Wildfire Management Duke Energy • Justin Cruise Director of Strategy Execution & Enterprise Risk Management Rappahannock Electric Cooperative • <u>Moderator:</u> André Coleman Chief Scientist Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
2:30-3:30 PM	Responding to Wildfire <i>Local wildfire response: partnership, cooperation with utilities, and evolving challenges.</i> • George Stephens Fire Chief North Garden (Virginia) Volunteer Fire Company • Michelle Rose Supervisory Emergency Management Specialist Federal Emergency Management Agency

Piedmont States Wildfire Workshop

DRAFT AGENDA



The CODE Building, 225 W Water St.

	• Alan Fitzpatrick Wildland Strategic Planning Manager Portland (Oregon) Fire & Rescue • Jason Romlein Operations Manager South Carolina Emergency Management Division • <u>Moderator: Michael Abraham</u> <i>Forensic Engineer and Technical Advisor Pacific Northwest National Laboratory</i>
3:30-3:45 PM	Break
3:45-4:45 PM	Next Steps: How Do We Work Together Going Forward <i>Technical and coordination priorities from representatives at local to state levels.</i> • Tyler Swearingen Electric Transmission Emergency Preparedness Program Manager Dominion Energy • Josephus Allmond Chief Energy Officer State of Virginia • Darryl Jones Forest Protection Chief South Carolina Forestry Commission • <u>Moderator: Ashton Raffety</u> <i>Senior Energy Policy & Strategy Analyst Argonne National Laboratory</i>
4:45-5:00 PM	Day 1 Closing Remarks and Group Photo Graphical Notetaking: Wade Forbes, RedTale Communications
5:00 PM	U.S. DOE and States Meeting (offsite)

Piedmont States Wildfire Workshop

DRAFT AGENDA



The CODE Building, 225 W Water St.

Day 2 - August 13, 2026

TIME	SESSION
7:30-8:30 AM	Check-In
8:30-9:00 AM	Welcome and Opening Discussion <i>The latest on California's experience with wildfire mitigation tools and strategies, what's on the horizon, and what's most relevant for the Piedmont region.</i> - Anne Egger Senior Project Manager U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity - Forest Kaser Director California Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
9:00-10:00 AM	State Energy Perspectives on Wildfire Trends <i>State leaders discuss how emerging risk and the evolving landscape reshape energy resilience, highlighting challenges and opportunities in modeling, decision-making, governance, and collaboration.</i> - Will Myers Natural Gas & Energy Security Analyst Virginia Department of Energy - Joel Porter Energy Security Manager and Program Analyst North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality - Tom Allen Chief Technology Officer South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff - Ben Bolton Assistant Director of Energy Security, Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation <u>Moderator: Jonah Fogel</u> Program Manager for Research Development and Education University of Virginia Environmental Institute
10:00 AM-10:45 AM	How Wildfire Affects Energy Affordability <i>Wildfire mitigation, liability, and cost recovery pressures on utilities, and a discussion on responsive policy.</i> - Anna Marie Will Insurance Program Manager Sacramento Municipal Utility District - Rebecca O'Neil Research Principal Pacific Northwest National Laboratory <u>Moderator: Campbell Delahoyde</u> Senior Program Director, Energy Security and Resilience National Association of State Energy Officials
10:45-11:00 AM	Break

Piedmont States Wildfire Workshop

DRAFT AGENDA



The CODE Building, 225 W Water St.

11:00-11:40 AM	Electrical Aspects of Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Investigations <i>A conversation on key takeaways from wildland fire origin and cause investigations involving electric utility infrastructure to inform East Coast response.</i> Michael Abraham Forensic Engineer and Technical Advisor Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
11:40 AM-1:00 PM	Afternoon Preview and Lunch
1:00-2:15PM	Wildfire Resilience Throughout Event Lifecycle (<i>Omni Hotel</i>) <i>An interactive session for a wildfire resiliency framework, including metrics and tools, for pre- peri- and post-wildfire event mitigation planning.</i> André Coleman Chief Scientist Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
2:15-2:30	Break
2:30-4:30 PM	Special Event: Tabletop Exercise: Mission FLARE (<i>Omni Hotel</i>) <i>An interactive, scenario-based discussion to identify resources and capabilities, facilitate pre-disaster relationship building, and foster operational coordination across public and private entities.</i> - Sunny Wescott Chief Meteorologist and Executive Director Geospatial Intelligence ISAC - Sarah Easton, "Seaston" Energy Risk Analysis Program Manager Project ARMOR - U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response - U.S. Department of War