



# 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**JUNE 10, 2025**

Crowne Plaza Harrisburg Hershey Hotel  
23 S. 2nd St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
717-234-5021

## Schedule:

- 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM – Technical Symposium & Keynotes
- 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM – Lunch, Keynote, & Trade Show
- 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM – Trade Show & Legislative Networking Reception

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM.

Our largest event each year, the Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association's (ARIPPA) annual conference includes technical presentations and an exhibit trade show that brings together vendors, plant personnel, and state lawmakers to network and learn about the coal refuse reclamation to energy industry. Featuring keynote addresses by:



Pennsylvania  
**Department of  
Environmental Protection**

&



Rachel Site, WV – Before



Rachel Site, WV – After



AN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS IN THE ANTHRACITE AND BITUMINOUS COAL REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

## **2025 ARIPPA Annual Conference Program**

Crowne Plaza Harrisburg Hershey Hotel

23 S. 2nd St.

Harrisburg, PA 17101

### **MONDAY, JUNE 9TH – EXHIBITOR SETUP**

#### 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM – Exhibitor Setup Inside Grand Ballroom:

Exhibitors may set up their booths the night before the conference. They may also set up the next morning.

### **TUESDAY, JUNE 10TH – TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM, TRADE SHOW & LEGISLATIVE NETWORKING RECEPTION**

#### 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM – Exhibitor Setup Inside Grand Ballroom:

Exhibitors may set up their booths the morning of the conference if they haven't done so already. Please be sure to pick up your attendee packet at the registration desk.

#### 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM – Registration Outside of Grand Ballroom:

Registered attendees will receive a packet of info needed for all events planned throughout the day, including a presentation schedule and list of exhibitors.

#### 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM – Technical Symposium & Keynote Addresses in Grand Ballroom:

Speaker times and topics enclosed, featuring ARIPPA grants presentation by EPCAMR and WPCAMR and keynote addresses by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and GT Power Group.

#### 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM – Trade Show & Lunch in Grand Ballroom:

Enjoy lunch while seeing all the latest products and services and share info with colleagues. The first keynote presentation will also be at approximately 11:30 AM or once attendees are about to finish their meals.

#### 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM – Trade Show & Legislative Networking Reception in Grand Ballroom:

Meet and greet with Pennsylvania state legislators and continuation of trade show. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM.

#### 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM – Exhibitor Tear Down in Grand Ballroom:

Exhibitors must clean up their entire exhibit space by 9:00 PM. Please note vendors are required to package the materials, affix the shipping label, and call for pickup following the trade show if shipping items. Neither the hotel nor ARIPPA is responsible for scheduling a pickup of shipments.



## Crowne Plaza Harrisburg Hershey Hotel Info

23 South 2nd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 234-5021

### Room Reservation [Link](#)

In order for the rates to show up, the dates must be entered in correctly.

**ARIPPA Room Rate: \$132/night for 1 King Bed or \$149/night for 2 Queen Beds**

**Room Block Deadline: May 23, 2025**



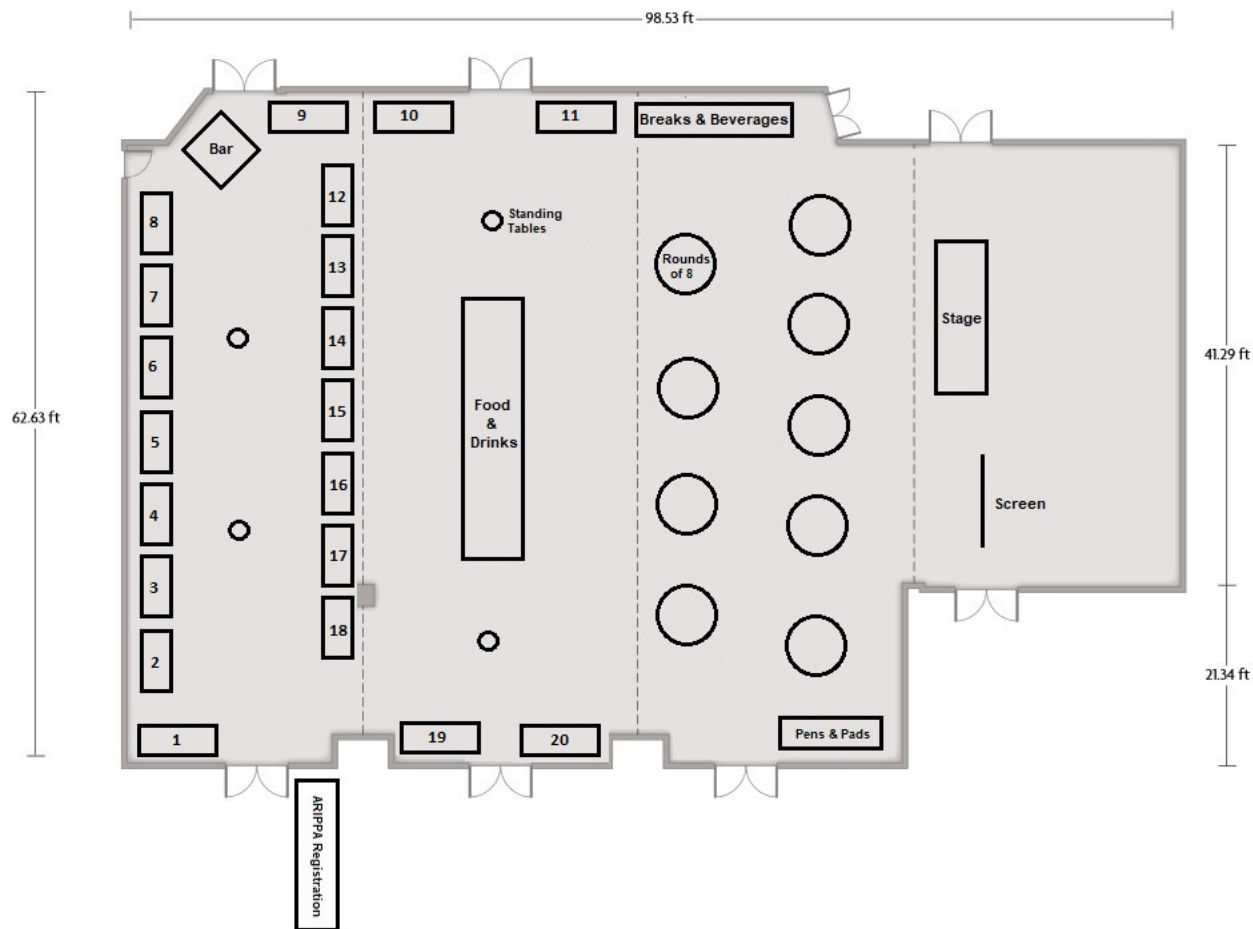
The Crowne Plaza Harrisburg Hershey Hotel provides guests with spacious rooms and suites and great amenities like complimentary wi-fi, a fitness center, and a heated indoor pool. Guests can also enjoy breakfast, lunch, or dinner at the hotel's onsite restaurant, Restaurant23.

The hotel is located in the heart of downtown Harrisburg and is within walking distance of local restaurants, bars, and attractions. Its location offers easy access to Interstates 81 and 83, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and is approximately 12 miles from Harrisburg International Airport (MDT).

Individual guest reservations can be made by **calling 717-234-5021 and referencing the room block code ARI** or [online](#). The ARIPPA room rate is **\$132/night for 1 King Bed or \$149/night for 2 Queen Beds**. These rates will be offered by the Crowne Plaza for Monday, June 9th and Tuesday, June 10th. Valet parking is available for overnight guests at the rate of \$25/day per vehicle. Attendees not staying overnight will also be charged \$25/day per vehicle.

# Crowne Plaza® Harrisburg - Hershey - Grand Ballroom A,B,C & D

\*Layout subject to change depending on the number of attendees and exhibitors.





## Annual Conference Schedule

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Crowne Plaza Harrisburg Hershey Hotel – Grand Ballroom

### TIMES

9:00 AM

### PANELISTS

#### OPENING REMARKS

Jaret Gibbons, ARIPPA

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Ash Handling Upgrade and Retrofit Options

Caleb Thornburg, UCC Environmental

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Roll Starting a CFB

Jeff Campbell, Scrubgrass Reclamation Company

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

#### BREAK

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM

Electric Market Volatility – Causes, Concerns, and Opportunity

Mark Perman, American Rural Cooperative Power

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM

Generators – You Asked, Let's Answer!

Jamie Clark, AGT Services

11:15 AM – 1:00 PM

#### LUNCH, KEYNOTE, & TRADE SHOW

Keynote Address: Environmental Benefits of Industry Partnerships and Mine Reclamation

Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

A Technology Platform to Recycle Waste Coal Ash into Construction Lightweight Aggregate

Robin Deb, SusMaX

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

The Future of Power Generation: AI, Robotics, and the Connected Worker

Dave Kahan, Gecko Robotics

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

#### INDUSTRY PANEL – OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Adam Rexroad, American Bituminous Power Partners

Fred Farabaugh, Colver Green Energy

Alex Brush, Gilberton Power Company

Hank Zielinski, Northampton Generating Company

Jeff Campbell, Scrubgrass Reclamation Company

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM

#### BREAK

3:15 PM – 4:00 PM

#### KEYNOTES

ARIPPA AMD/AML Reclamation Grants Presentation by EPCAMR and WPCAMR

Keynote Address: Federal Energy Policy and PJM Update

Glen Thomas, GT Power Group

4:00 PM

#### CLOSING REMARKS

Jaret Gibbons, ARIPPA

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

#### ARIPPA TRADE SHOW & LEGISLATIVE NETWORKING RECEPTION

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres served from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM



## 2025 ARIPPA Conference

### Keynote Addresses

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

#### **Environmental Benefits of Industry Partnerships and Mine Reclamation**

##### **Jessica Shirley, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection**



Currently serving as the Acting Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), Jessica Shirley plays a pivotal role in the guidance of the department in its mission to protect and preserve Pennsylvania's environment while fostering sustainable and equitable practices. Jessica arrives to the role of Acting Secretary with extensive experience within the agency. Most recently, Jessica served as the Executive Deputy Secretary overseeing all programs.

As the first appointed Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator at the PA DEP, Jessica oversaw the influx of federal funding supported by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). She ensured that the Department used all available funds for the betterment of Pennsylvania's environment, economy, residents, and communities. In this role, she also placed strong emphasis on consideration of the impact of programs in historically underinvested communities.

Jessica's previous role as Policy Director from May 2016 to April 2022 was marked by her dedication to shaping the environmental and energy policy agenda. In this position, Jessica helped to develop groundbreaking executive orders related to PFAS, climate change, energy conservation and sustainability in Commonwealth operations, and environmental justice. These executive orders established the first greenhouse gas reduction goal for the Commonwealth, set performance goals for state agencies, established the PFAS Action Team to remove silos and address emerging contaminants, and memorialized various processes and opportunities to meaningfully engage and address underserved communities in Pennsylvania. She coordinated the DEP Policy Office's efforts, while overseeing the finalization of numerous rulemakings and promoting meaningful dialogue with stakeholders. Jessica and her counterpart at PennDOT lead the effort to develop Pennsylvania's first ever Litter Action Plan which received several awards and national recognition. Jessica also served on the agency steering committee of DiversEP, the agency's DEI committee with a mission of actively cultivating a culture of equity and inclusion and establishing a more diverse workforce representative of the population we serve.

In her earlier role as Executive Policy Specialist, Jessica was a trusted advisor in various policy areas, including oil and gas development, air quality, climate change, energy, waste, clean water, and environmental cleanup. She also demonstrated leadership in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, and her representation of the Administration in discussions with key organizations showcased her influence and expertise. She built extensive relationships by serving as the Policy Office liaison to the Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board, Air Quality Technical Advisory Board, Climate Change Advisory Committee, Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee, Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board, Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, Recycling Fund Advisory Committee, Radiation Protection Advisory Committee, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Sewage Advisory Committee and Storage Tank Advisory Committee.

Jessica's educational background includes a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Pennsylvania State University and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Political Science from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

## 2025 ARIPPA Conference

### Keynote Addresses

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM

#### **ARIPPA AMD/AML Reclamation Grants Presentation**

**Robert Hughes, EPCAMR and Anne Daymut, WPCAMR**



Since 2010, ARIPPA has partnered with the Eastern and Western Pennsylvania Coalitions for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, EPCAMR and WPCAMR respectively, to offer competitive awards to watershed and conservancy organizations facilitating abandoned mine drainage (AMD) and/or abandoned mine land (AML) remediation projects in Pennsylvania. Awards are granted under the guidance and administration of EPCAMR and WPCAMR.

To date, ARIPPA has collectively donated \$102,000 to various deserving volunteer watershed and conservancy groups actively battling Pennsylvania's mine legacy problem. ARIPPA is contributing to this remediation initiative again this year.

Recipients of the 2025 grants will be announced during the annual conference. Robert Hughes, Executive Director of EPCAMR, and Anne Daymut, Watershed Coordinator at WPCAMR, will present the recipients and associated projects.



3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

#### **Federal Energy Policy and PJM Update**

**Glen Thomas, GT Power Group**



Glen Thomas is the former chairman of the Pennsylvania Utility Commission (PUC), where he oversaw the restructuring of Pennsylvania's electricity, natural gas, and local telephone markets. Before his appointment to the PUC, Mr. Thomas served as deputy director of Governor Ridge's Policy Office, where he advised the governor on energy and environmental issues. In addition, Mr. Thomas was appointed by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to serve on the governor's transition team for energy related issues in 2003. Mr. Thomas is also a former partner at the law firm of Blank Rome. Mr.

Thomas currently serves as President of the PJM Power Providers Group, a non-profit organization dedicated to properly designed and well-functioning markets in the PJM region.

Mr. Thomas has served as president of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners; chairman of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Washington Action Committee; and a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Board, the National Regulatory Research Institute's Board of Directors, the Keystone Center Energy Board, the Organization of MISO States Board of Directors, and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Committee on International Relations, Telecommunications and Critical Infrastructure.

Mr. Thomas received his J.D. from Dickinson School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts in philosophy/religion and political science from Colgate University. He attended the Governors Center of the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University, the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University. He was one of the 60 civilians chosen by the Secretary of Defense to participate in the U.S. Department of Defense Joint Civilian Orientation Conference.

Mr. Thomas has been honored by the Philadelphia Business Journal and the Central Pennsylvania Business Journal as recipient of the "40 Under 40" Award. He is also a member of the Wilson High School Academic Hall of Fame.

## 2025 ARIPPA Conference Presentation Abstracts

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

### **Ash Handling Upgrade and Retrofit Options**

**Caleb Thornburg, UCC Environmental**

An overview of UCC Environmental capabilities and offerings for ash handling systems, focusing on engineered solutions and retrofits aimed at improving reliability and performance. Specific case studies and examples of recent projects at ARIPPA sites and other coal fired utility plants across the US will be shared and discussed.

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

### **Roll Starting a CFB**

**Jeff Campbell, Scrubgrass Reclamation Company**

Overview of the technique Scrubgrass Reclamation Company has been using to hot start boilers without using startup fuel oil.

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM

### **Electric Market Volatility – Causes, Concerns, and Opportunity**

**Mark Perman, American Rural Cooperative Power**

The current electric markets are undergoing rapid changes. These changes might lead to increased volatility.

We will discuss some causes that make us think swings in market prices are here to stay for a while. We will share some concerns we see and some that might be overblown.

Also, volatility isn't always bad, it can present opportunities if you have a risk management plan with tools to take advantage of price movements.

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM

### **Generators – You Asked, Let's Answer!**

**Jamie Clark, AGT Services**

Doing it a bit differently this year. Rather than "in the weeds" technical details on generator testing, failures, or repairs, this year ARIPPA sent out a quick survey to members to see what YOU wanted to hear about or discuss. So, that's what we'll cover!

- "To Hi Pot, or Not to Hi Pot?? That is the question!"
- Robotic inspections - the pros and cons.
- Stocked spares, critical parts to reduce your downtime.
- Monitoring updates - any new tech? Online and offline testing options and benefits.



## 2025 ARIPPA Conference Presentation Abstracts

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

### **A Technology Platform to Recycle Waste Coal Ash into Construction Lightweight Aggregate**

**Robin Deb, SusMaX**

As the focus shifts towards legacy coal ash landfills for benefaction processes to supply fly ash to concrete market, it's important to note that not all landfills and ponds have the suitable material for such recycling. SusMaX offers a new technology platform that can recycle landfilled or ponded off-spec coal ash products such as fly ash, bottom ash, slag, or their mixture into safe-to-use "construction lightweight aggregate." This engineered lightweight aggregate has superior engineering performance compared to commercially available products in the market, which are typically produced from natural materials. The lightweight aggregate is highly suitable for applications such as lightweight concrete, lightweight precast concrete, concrete cinder blocks, and geotechnical applications.

Through this technology, SusMaX increases the local availability of this crucial construction material while monetizing the hard-to-recycle coal ash. Recent pilot production by SusMaX and customer testing have proven the technical and commercial viability of this technology, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from the construction industry.

The presentation will address critical questions:

- How differentiated is this technology in its ability to reuse coal combustion products?
- What are the associated costs and production capacity levels?
- What are the key performance indicators of the final product?
- What implications could this technology have for increasing sustainability in construction industry?

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

### **The Future of Power Generation: AI, Robotics, and the Connected Worker**

**Dave Kahan, Gecko Robotics**

As energy demand increases, plant reliability is paramount to meet demand. The power growth is being used to power data centers aimed at harnessing AI. The power of AI is ultimately trying to solve huge problems the world faces. Gecko has tapped into AI, machine learning, and large language models to gather data layers in new ways, evaluate, and produce actionable outcomes to improve plant reliability. This presentation will highlight how AI is being implemented and the outcomes it has generated.