



# 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**JUNE 9, 2026**

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 Community  
& Economic Development**





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

## 2026 ARIPPA Annual Conference Program

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23 S. 2nd St.

Harrisburg, PA 17101

### MONDAY, JUNE 8TH – 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 9TH – 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. Coffee and a light breakfast will be provided in the morning. Refreshments and snacks will also be provided throughout the day.

#### 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

#### 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 all seated for lunch.

#### 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: \$136/night for 1 King Bed or \$152/night for 2 Queen Beds**

**Room Block Deadline: May 15, 2026**



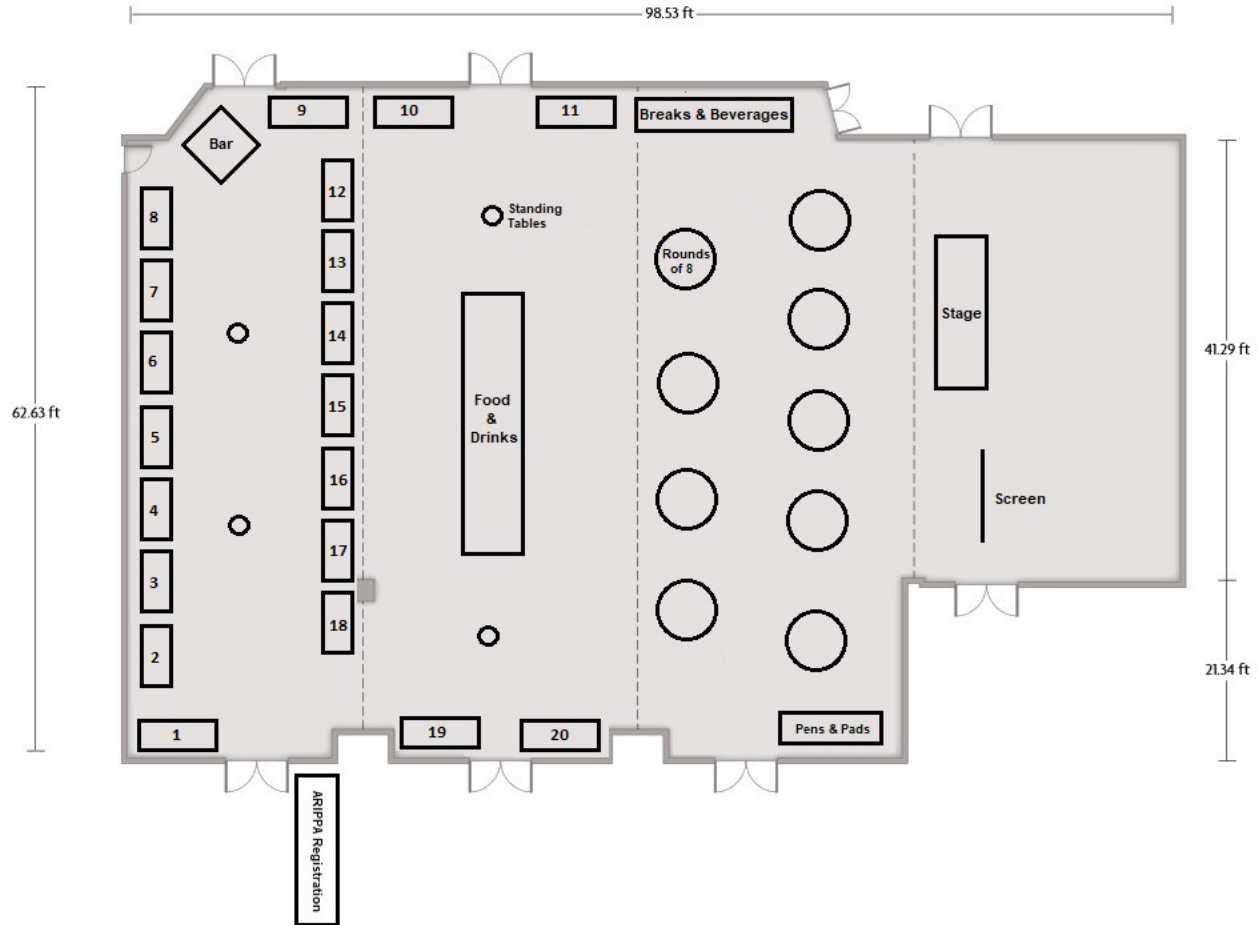
The Crowne Plaza Harrisburg Hershey Hotel provides guests with spacious rooms and suites and great amenities like complimentary wi-fi, a fitness center, and a heated indoor pool. Guests can also enjoy breakfast and dinner at the hotel's onsite restaurant, Restaurant23.

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 the 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 **\$136/night for 1 King Bed or \$152/night for 2 Queen Beds**. These rates will be offered by the Crowne Plaza for Monday, June 8th and Tuesday, June 9th. 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 Presentations Schedule

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Crowne Plaza Harrisburg Hershey Hotel – Grand Ballroom

<b>TIMES</b>	<b>PANELISTS</b>
9:00 AM	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> Jaret Gibbons, ARIPPA
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	<u>Cure for the Baghouse Blues</u> Dennis Todd and Shane Reickard, Wear-Concepts
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	<u>Gamifying Plant Reliability: How a Single Plant Health Index Turns Data into Action</u> Alistair Moodie, Asset Performance Partners Inc.
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM	<u>Seat Replacement at Callaway NPS</u> Charlie Watkins and Chad Dupill, DG Services LLC
10:45 AM – 11:15 AM	<u>NERC Compliance – Elevated Risk Areas and Recommended Generator Compliance Strategies</u> Ryan Odom, Acumen
11:15 AM – 1:00 PM	<b>LUNCH, KEYNOTE, &amp; TRADE SHOW</b> Keynote Address: <u>Regulatory Reform and Environmental Protection: A Path Forward for Appalachian Coal Refuse</u> Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	<u>High-Performance Wear Solutions</u> Joseph Gaither, UCC Environmental
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	<u>Research and Development for Non-energy Use of Coal and its Derivatives</u> Zheng Yao, Lehigh University Energy Research Center
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	<b>INDUSTRY PANEL – OPEN DISCUSSIONS</b> Adam Rexroad, American Bituminous Power Partners Carl Yusko, Colver Green Energy Alex Brush, Gilberton Power Company Hank Zielinski, Northampton Generating Company Jeff Campbell, Scrubgrass Reclamation Company
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
3:15 PM – 4:00 PM	<b>KEYNOTES</b> ARIPPA AMD/AML Reclamation Grants Presentation by EPCAMR and WPCAMR Keynote Address: <u>Pennsylvania’s Energy and Economic Development Outlook</u> Adam Walters, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
4:00 PM	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> Jaret Gibbons, ARIPPA
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>ARIPPA TRADE SHOW &amp; LEGISLATIVE NETWORKING RECEPTION</b> Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres served from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

## 2026 ARIPPA Conference Keynote Addresses

11:30 AM – 11:45 AM

### **Regulatory Reform and Environmental Protection: A Path Forward for Appalachian Coal Refuse**

**Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**



Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey serves as EPA's Mid-Atlantic (Region 3) Regional Administrator, tasked with overseeing the implementation of federal environmental laws in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C., and West Virginia. She is the first woman appointed to lead the EPA Mid-Atlantic Region in the agency's history.

Amy's commitment to sustainability began over 30 years ago when she founded a county-wide environmental group focused on watershed management and agricultural best practices. She also served as the first Agricultural Ombudsman in the state of Pennsylvania, where she was as a crucial link to agriculture communities, addressing conflicts related to agriculture, land use, and environmental planning.

She brings more than a decade of experience as a lobbyist for both state and federal agricultural interests and over 20 years of experience in finance and business management.

A lifelong conservationist, Van Blarcom-Lackey was raised in rural Pennsylvania and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed on her family's dairy farm. Her successful tenure managing her own family enterprises, along with her work in the financial industry, equipped her with a keen understanding of the intersection between business, environmental, and community needs.

Amy has a Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University and a Master's in Governmental Affairs from the University of Pennsylvania and resides in Philadelphia with her family.

## 2026 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 \$108,000 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 2026 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

### Pennsylvania’s Energy and Economic Development Outlook



#### **Adam Walters, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development**

Adam is Senior Energy Advisor for the Department of Community and Economic Development. Adam works across public, private, and non-profit sectors to bring energy-related economic development opportunities to the commonwealth. Previously, he was a William Penn Fellow with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development where he supported the agency’s goals of developing business investment and recruitment strategies for the commonwealth in the energy sector. Adam earned his Master of Public Administration from Penn State University and holds a bachelor’s degree in International Relations.

## 2026 ARIPPA Conference Presentation Abstracts

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

### **Cure for the Baghouse Blues**

**Dennis Todd and Shane Reickard, Wear-Concepts**

A plant faced severe corrosion and leakage in its 30-year-old baghouse due to chemicals and other gases introduced for environmental reasons. This situation led to pH fluctuations, rust, and significant operational issues that traditional linings failed to resolve. Wear-Concepts offered our proprietary solution, a moisture-impervious and heat-resistant material applied to the baghouse walls. This solution, costing significantly less than alternatives, successfully eliminated leaks, stopped rusting, and drastically reduced maintenance downtime.

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

### **Gamifying Plant Reliability: How a Single Plant Health Index Turns Data into Action**

**Alistair Moodie, Asset Performance Partners Inc.**

For Operations and Maintenance (O&M) teams, the daily reality often feels like a cycle of "Reactive Firefighting" – chasing the latest alarm or breakdown rather than preventing the next one. This presentation introduces a practical tool to break that cycle: a dynamic, site-wide Plant Health Index (PHI). This presentation will demonstrate how to synthesize the two critical data streams you already possess — offline Inspection reports (NDT, oil analysis) and real-time SCADA feeds (vibration, temperature) — into a single trackable metric that "gamifies" reliability. By combining this Asset Health data with Human Behavior metrics (such as the timeliness of closing maintenance actions and closeout of trip reports), this approach gives plant staff immediate visibility into their performance. Attendees will see how this score helps teams prioritize their limited resources, driving them to address defects before they evolve into forced outages.

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM

### **Seat Replacement at Callaway NPS**

**Charlie Watkins and Chad Dupill, DG Services LLC**

This 30-minute presentation will walk through a recent emergent repair at Callaway Nuclear Power Station, detailing a complete gate valve seat replacement performed using an automated welding process. The discussion will cover the project from initial issue identification through final execution, highlighting the technical challenges, decision-making process, and execution strategy used to meet an aggressive schedule. The presentation will include a brief two-minute video provided by the Callaway project management team illustrating the conditions and constraints driving the emergent repair. Emphasis will be placed on planning, tooling selection, welding process control, and coordination required to complete the scope safely and successfully. From mobilization to completion, the entire project was executed in approximately two weeks, demonstrating the effectiveness of automated welding solutions for time-critical nuclear valve repairs.

## 2026 ARIPPA Conference Presentation Abstracts

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM

### **NERC Compliance – Elevated Risk Areas and Recommended Generator Compliance Strategies**

**Ryan Odom, Acumen**

A walk through of critical NERC standards where a known increased risk of non-compliance exists for conventional generation units, providing technical rationale and specific violation events. Lessons learned and best practice strategies to avoid compliance issues in these areas will also be discussed. A special focus will be placed on the new requirements for Cold Weather Operations and the existing requirements for Facility Ratings, Protection System Maintenance, and Capacity/Capability Verifications.

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

### **High-Performance Wear Solutions**

**Joseph Gaither, UCC Environmental**

An overview of UCC Environmental and Trimay (a UCC Environmental Company) capabilities and offerings for high-wear applications, focusing on engineered solutions that provide high-performance and the lowest overall cost of ownership. Specific case studies at ARIPPA sites and other coal-fired utility plants throughout North America will be shared and discussed.

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

### **Research and Development for Non-energy Use of Coal and its Derivatives**

**Zheng Yao, Lehigh University Energy Research Center**

Lehigh University Energy Research Center is a multi-disciplinary unit involving professional staff, faculty, and students with a mission to develop innovative solutions to national and global energy challenges while driving technological advancements that enhance energy efficiency, promote sustainability, address environmental concerns, and provide energy independence. This presentation will outline three R&D thrusts for the non-energy use of coal and its derivatives: 1) Anthracite-Based Activated Carbon for Air Pollution Control; 2) Anthracite-Based Activated Carbon as an Electrode Material for High-Performance Supercapacitors; and 3) Critical Materials and Minerals Recovery from Unconventional and Waste Feedstocks.