



Edison Electric  
INSTITUTE

# Energy **Talk**

**Your Monthly Energy News Digest**

June 2023

EEI | **Electric Perspectives**  
PODCAST  Listen to the latest episode! 



*Outgoing EEI Chair Warner Baxter, Executive Chairman, Ameren Corporation, and Bill Gates, Founder, Breakthrough Energy.*

## Highlights from EEI 2023

EEI 2023—the industry’s leading thought leadership forum, held in Austin, Texas, from June 11-13—showcased the work of EEI’s member companies to deliver resilient clean energy and demonstrated the benefits that the electric power industry delivers to its customers, its communities, and the nation’s economy every day.

The conference featured a dynamic lineup of speakers and sessions covering top-of-mind topics. Following are a few highlights from EEI 2023—find more on the [EEI 2023 Highlights webpage](#) and in the upcoming issue of *Electric Perspectives*.

- Outgoing EEI Chair Warner Baxter, executive chairman of Ameren Corporation, led a conversation with Bill Gates, founder of Breakthrough Energy, about Gates’ focus on energy and on emerging innovative carbon-free technologies. “Massive electrification is daunting, but you can see that there is a path—a path that doesn’t involve saying customers have to pay a lot more for electricity,” said Gates. [Watch the full discussion.](#)



*Elon Musk and EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, President and CEO, Edison International.*

- EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO of Edison International, led a conversation with renowned technologist and engineer Elon Musk about the future of electrification and the acceleration of electric transportation. “Everything is going to be electric,” said Musk. “We’re trying to work to a sustainable energy future, and it’s going to take many technology solutions to get there.” [Watch the full discussion.](#)



*L to R: EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric; U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm; Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation John Podesta.*

- U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm and White House Senior Advisor for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation John Podesta joined EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, president and CEO of Portland General Electric, to discuss the industry-government partnerships underway to advance resilient clean energy. [Watch the full discussion.](#)



*L to R: Lynn Good, Chair, President, and CEO, Duke Energy; EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, President and CEO, Edison International; EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric; and outgoing EEI Chair Warner Baxter, Executive Chairman, Ameren Corporation.*

- Duke Energy Chair, President, and CEO Lynn Good moderated a CEO leadership panel on the key issues facing the electric power industry with EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, and outgoing EEI Chair Warner Baxter. [Watch the full discussion.](#)



*L to R: Rod West, President of Utility Operations, Entergy Group, and University of Colorado Head Football Coach Deion Sanders.*

- Two-time Super Bowl champion Deion “Coach Prime” Sanders shared his inspirational life story and offered a message of resilience and empowerment

when speaking with Entergy Group President of Utility Operations Rod West.  
[Watch the full discussion.](#)

In addition to these keynote speakers, EEI 2023 also included:

- EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn, who shared the future work of the Institute for the Energy Transition, noting that this is “an exciting time for the industry” to be seeing new clean energy technologies come online.
- Admiral William H. McRaven, U.S. Navy Retired, who shared lessons on leadership that he learned from his decades of service to the United States when speaking with LBJ Foundation President and CEO Mark Updegrave.
- 26 high-potential leaders, nominated by their member company CEOs, who participated in the inaugural Diverse and Emerging Leaders Cohort programming at EEI 2023. They also heard from EEI Board members and member company leaders on how to chart a path for growth in the industry.



*L to R: EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, President and CEO, Edison International; EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn; EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric; and Ameren Corporation Executive Chairman Warner Baxter, outgoing EEI Chair.*

## EEI Board Elects New Leadership

On June 12, EEI's Board of Directors elected Edison International President and CEO Pedro J. Pizarro as EEI chair for the 2023-2024 cycle. Pizarro succeeded Warner Baxter, executive chairman of Ameren Corporation. Portland General Electric President and CEO Maria Pope also was elected as EEI vice chair.

"On behalf of EEI and our member companies, I extend our sincerest thanks to Warner Baxter for his tremendous leadership as EEI chair this past year," said EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn. "Warner's sustained engagement and clear commitment to deliver resilient clean energy to customers were instrumental as we worked with leaders in Congress and the Administration to ensure that industry priorities were included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and in the robust clean energy tax package that was included in the Inflation Reduction Act. These historic laws are driving significant investments in critical energy infrastructure and represent an unprecedented commitment to addressing climate change and to deploying more clean energy affordably and in ways that directly benefit our customers."

"We also are pleased to welcome Pedro as EEI chair for the 2023-2024 cycle," added Kuhn. "Pedro previously served as an EEI vice chair and is a key leader in our efforts to address climate change and to transform our economy using resilient clean electricity. I look forward to continuing our work together to advance public policies that benefit the customers and communities we so proudly serve."

"There is incredible work underway to implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the new clean energy tax credits in ways that enable deep carbon emissions reductions across our economy," said Pizarro. "It is an exciting time to be in energy, and I am confident that America's electric companies are well-positioned to drive the innovation and investments that are needed to deliver an affordable and resilient clean energy future to customers."

Kuhn also applauded Pope's election as vice chair.

"Maria is a champion for innovation in the energy sector where she is balancing investments in renewable energy, improving grid resilience, and ensuring customer prices remain affordable. She also provides exceptional leadership collaborating with our federal agencies on resiliency and wildfire mitigation. We are extremely fortunate for her continued service on the EEI leadership team."

Read more in [EEI's press release](#).



*L to R: Stephanie Raymond, President, PPL Electric Utilities; Joseph Lookup, Director of Asset Management, PPL Corporation; and EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn.*

## DELIVERING INNOVATION

# **PPL Electric Utilities Wins 95th Edison Award; Terna S.p.A. Wins International Edison Award**

During EEI 2023, EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn proudly presented the 95th Edison Award to PPL Electric Utilities (PPL Electric) and the International Edison Award to Terna S.p.A. (Terna).

Presented annually and selected by a panel of former energy industry executives, the Edison Award is the electric power industry's highest honor, recognizing distinguished leadership, innovation, and contributions to the advancement of the electric power industry. You can read about all the finalists [in \*Electric Perspectives\*](#) and [watch videos](#) showcasing the finalists' projects.

In October 2022, PPL Electric became the first electric company in the United States to install and integrate a dynamic line rating (DLR) system within its transmission management system into market operations. This has allowed the company to optimize the operation of its transmission lines by using accurate real-time ratings. Today, PPL

Electric is sending hourly day-ahead ratings forecasts to PJM Interconnection's market operations to help coordinate more efficient generation and ensure reliability. The functionalities and methodologies the company developed and implemented while integrating DLR into real-time and day-ahead market operations with PJM are novel for the U.S. electric power industry.

"EEI and our member companies are committed to delivering affordable and resilient clean energy to the customers and communities we serve," said Kuhn. "PPL Electric is leading by example with this dynamic line ratings project. By demonstrating the accuracy and effectiveness of this innovative technology, other energy grid operators now are able to evaluate how this solution might enhance their systems. PPL Electric is very deserving of this prestigious recognition, and I congratulate them for winning this year's Edison Award."

Terna received the International Edison Award for its Italy-France Electrical Interconnection. Terna and RTE, the Italian and French electricity transmission system operators, partnered on a project for a DC transmission line that is the world's longest electrical infrastructure completely integrated in a highway, spanning 190 kilometers (approximately 118 miles) between the two countries. The line is fully integrated into existing road infrastructures with zero impact on the surrounding environment. It crosses the Alps through the Frejus Tunnel and 28 highway viaducts. The line will increase the transmission capacity between the two countries by 1,200 megawatts, enabling the integration of more renewable energy and increasing the interconnectedness of Europe's electricity system.

"EEI's international members are building the reliable, resilient, and sustainable power systems of the future," said Kuhn. "This interconnection between Italy and France represents a strategic project for all of Europe and will enhance their energy grids without disrupting the natural splendor of the Alps. I applaud Terna for its leadership and congratulate them for winning this prestigious award for this engineering and construction modern marvel."





## SPONSORED CONTENT

### Integrate Wildfire Consequence Into Your Planning

See how Technosylva's [suite of wildfire risk analysis products](#) are specifically tailored to meet your electric company needs. Integrate proactive risk forecasting and on-demand fire spread simulations to prioritize your asset mitigation, PSPS decision-making, and, most importantly, exceed regulatory compliance and reporting, while improving public safety.



## INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

### 2022 Financial Review Details Industry Performance

EEI's [2022 Financial Review](#) offers a comprehensive look at the U.S. investor-owned

electric power industry's strategic direction and its financial performance last year. Among the highlights of this year's Financial Review:

- In 2022, EEI's member companies continued to make substantial progress on our commitment to provide America's resilient clean energy. The industry reached another record, for the eleventh straight year, with \$147.7 billion of capital expenditures.
- The industry's average credit rating remained at BBB+ for the ninth consecutive year.
- The industry also extended its long-term trend of widespread and consistent dividend increases, as 87 percent of the EEI Index companies increased their dividend in 2022.

Download the 2022 Financial Review and find additional industry statistical and financial data on [EEI's website](#).

## *president's message*



**“When I first started, people said we were not a very exciting industry. We certainly are now.”**

Tom Kuhn, EEI President and CEO

**EEI**

**CELEBRATING 90 YEARS**

## **A Conversation With EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn**

For more than 30 years, Tom Kuhn has served as EEI's president and CEO. In March, Kuhn announced plans to step down from his current role at the end of this year. The *Electric Perspectives* magazine recently spoke with Kuhn to learn more about his

decades of service, his sources of pride and inspiration, and his expectations for EEI's member companies and the industry moving forward.

“Partnerships that are powered by association are an incredible force,” Kuhn said. “I have a tremendous amount of pride—not personal pride: pride in the industry; pride in the people in this industry who make things happen; pride in our CEOs. They are who make our association so strong.”

[Read the full interview.](#)



TUNE IN

## Electric Perspectives: The Podcast

The *Electric Perspectives* podcast discusses the latest trends and issues shaping the electric power industry.

### Episode 65: Investing to Enhance Grid Reliability

EEI's member companies make significant investments to enhance the energy grid every year. One of many grid modernization and improvement projects that is underway to ensure reliable and resilient clean energy can be delivered to customers now and in

the years to come is Georgia Power's Grid Improvement Plan.

On this episode, Georgia Power Vice President of Strategy and Support Cleve Fann and Pike Electric President Matt Fisher dive into the details of Georgia Power's Grid Improvement Plan. They discuss specific projects underway as part of the plan and how they are benefitting customers.

This episode is sponsored by Pike Electric, the company that is providing engineering and construction services to help make Georgia Power's Grid Improvement Plan a reality.

[Listen to the episode here](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.



## DRIVING DIVERSITY

### Calvin Butler on Keeping DEI at the Forefront

As EEI's member companies aim to deliver a resilient clean energy future to our customers, we know that our success depends on us creating new pathways for diverse candidates to enter the energy workforce and creating new economic opportunities in the communities we serve.

Recently, Exelon President and CEO Calvin Butler spoke with Courtney Peterson, EEI vice president, chief diversity officer, and chief human resources officer, about his career journey and Exelon's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs and initiatives, including its efforts to diversify its workforce. Their conversation was

recorded for the *Electric Perspectives* podcast and transcribed for the *Electric Perspectives* magazine.

“We express diversity, equity, and inclusion as our core values,” said Butler in *Electric Perspectives*. “By core values, I mean that they’re key components of our business, not just something nice to do or an afterthought in that process. Our efforts around DEI don’t sit on the sidelines. When you see us doing it well, it’s because it’s interwoven in all aspects of our business.”

Read the full interview in [Electric Perspectives](#) or listen to the [podcast episode](#).

GET SOCIAL

## Industry-Government Partnerships



Secretary Jennifer Granholm

@SecGranholm



Thrilled to join @Edison\_Electric and @POTUS Senior Advisor John Podesta to discuss the impacts of the Investing in America agenda on our clean energy future.

We're building a clean energy workforce to WIN. 🤖 🇺🇸



1:06 PM · Jun 12, 2023 · 2,062 Views



701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. | Washington D.C. 20004-2696  
202-508-5000 | [www.eei.org](http://www.eei.org)



Unsubscribe from these messages.