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1. Non-discriminatory, fully equal access to transportation or transmission services a pipeline utility offers.
2. A monthly newsletter from the NWGA for Pacific NW natural gas industry stakeholders and observers.



NWGA Blog

National Influence, Regional Impact: Ann Rendahl and the Next Chapter of Northwest Energy Policy

Commissioner Ann Rendahl's national leadership highlights the Pacific Northwest's growing influence in energy policy amid rising demand and reliability risks. As president of NARUC, she is advancing a coordinated approach to infrastructure, gas-electric alignment, and system resilience that directly reflects the region's challenges. Her leadership reinforces the importance of pragmatic, reliability-focused regulation as the Northwest navigates rapid load growth, electrification, and evolving energy needs.



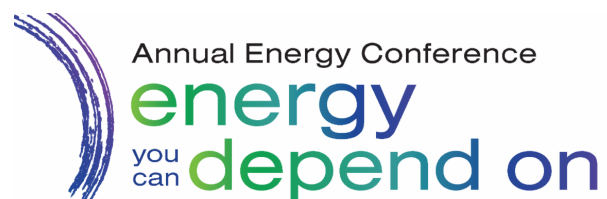
Read the full blog: [here](#).

Registration is now open for the 2026 Annual Energy Conference (AEC 26)!

Join us June 2–4 at the incredible Sunriver Resort in Bend, Oregon. This two-day event brings together legislators, regulators, energy executives, and industry experts to address the most pressing challenges facing our region and the nation: ensuring reliable, affordable energy amid rapid demand growth and system transformation.

AEC 26 will focus on practical strategies to strengthen energy reliability, address growing electricity demand, improve coordination across the energy system, and support the infrastructure investments needed to serve customers and communities. To register, [click here](#).

In addition to registering to attend, organizations are invited to participate as conference sponsors. Sponsorship offers a unique opportunity to connect with decision-makers across the energy sector while supporting an important forum for collaboration and problem-solving.



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Early sponsorship commitments receive the greatest visibility across conference communications and events. Learn about sponsorships [here](#) or download a sponsorship packet [here](#).

We encourage you to secure your seat and explore sponsorship opportunities today. We look forward to welcoming you to Bend for this important conversation on the future of energy.

Newsbits

FERC Approves ComEd Data Center Transmission Agreements

A recent decision by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved service agreements between Commonwealth Edison and data-center developers that require large new electricity users to commit to minimum payments and financial assurances for grid infrastructure. The ruling is intended to ensure that the costs of connecting high-demand facilities are not shifted to existing customers. The decision reflects growing regulatory attention to managing the rapid increase in electricity demand driven by data centers and other large loads. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

Last Northwest Alcoa Smelter Shuttters – Ending Washington Aluminum Era

The closure of Alcoa's Wenatchee Works aluminum smelter marks the end of an era for Washington's once-thriving aluminum industry. The facility, which had been idle since 2015 and was permanently closed in 2021, was part of a regional industry that once relied on abundant hydropower but struggled in recent decades with rising electricity costs and global competition. As cleanup and redevelopment plans move forward at former smelter sites across the state, the closures highlight the broader economic transition facing communities that once depended on energy-intensive manufacturing. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

Court Upholds FERC Approval of GTN Xpress Pipeline Expansion in PNW

A federal appeals court has upheld FERC's approval of the GTN XPress pipeline expansion in the Pacific Northwest, rejecting challenges to the agency's environmental review and permitting process. The ruling clears the way for the project to move forward, providing increased natural gas capacity to support growing energy demand, enhance system reliability, and offer more supply options for utilities and consumers. The decision underscores federal deference to FERC in managing complex energy infrastructure projects. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

Oregon Economic Growth Left Behind

Oregon promised private-sector job growth—but the 2026 legislative session fell short. Despite new initiatives and a Prosperity Roadmap, lawmakers missed the mark, leaving the state's economy struggling. [Click here](#) to read more.



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