



REGIONAL ENERGY SUMMIT

In Coordination With Consumer Energy Alliance

CSG SOUTH REGIONAL ENERGY SUMMIT

JULY 11, 2026 | LEXINGTON, KY

7:30 AM **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST BUFFET OPENS**

8:00-8:15 AM **WELCOME WITH BREAKFAST**

8:15-9:00 AM **OPENING PLENARY (KEYNOTE) WITH BREAKFAST**

Theme: "Powering the South's Next Phase of Growth"

This breakfast keynote highlights the South's role as a leading driver of national population and industrial growth, and the energy demands fueling it. The address will underscore the importance of balancing reliability, affordability, and economic competitiveness as demand rises due to AI, reshoring, and electrification. It also offers a forward-looking perspective on how states can lead in meeting these challenges while navigating evolving federal dynamics and sustaining long-term economic growth.

9:15-10:15AM **BREAKOUT SESSION 1 & BREAKOUT SESSION 2** **Breakout Session 1: Workforce Development for the Energy Economy**

This breakout session examines the growing need for a highly skilled workforce to support the South's expanding energy economy. Panelists will highlight workforce challenges across generation, transmission, and construction, along with strategies to strengthen talent pipelines through apprenticeships, hands-on technical training, and partnerships with community colleges and industry organizations. The session also addresses increasing competition for labor from sectors such as data centers, advanced manufacturing, and large-scale infrastructure projects, and the implications for meeting the region's energy needs.

Breakout Session 2: The Energy Supply Chain—Securing Materials & Infrastructure

This breakout session explores challenges facing the energy supply chain as demand for infrastructure continues to grow. Panelists will discuss persistent constraints, including shortages of transformers and gas turbines, interconnection delays, and broader bottlenecks affecting critical components. The session also examines the balance between expanding domestic manufacturing capacity and managing global dependencies, along with

state-level strategies to reduce risk, enhance coordination, and strengthen supply chain resilience.

10:30-11:30 AM **BREAKOUT SESSION 3 & BREAKOUT SESSION 4** **Breakout Session 3: Energy Reliability in a High-Growth Region**

This breakout session focuses on maintaining energy reliability as the South experiences sustained population and economic growth. Panelists will examine how states can manage increasing peak demand while addressing transmission constraints and enhancing coordination across grid operators and neighboring states. The session will also draw on lessons learned from recent extreme weather events, including winter storms, hurricanes, and prolonged heat waves, and how those experiences are shaping more resilient energy systems.

Breakout Session 4: Permitting & Siting Reform

This breakout session explores the evolving landscape of permitting and siting for energy infrastructure across the South. Panelists will discuss how states can balance the need to accelerate project timelines with meaningful community engagement and community impacts. The session also addresses the complexities of transmission siting across state lines and highlights best practices for advancing critical infrastructure while maintaining public trust and transparency.

11:30 AM **LUNCH BUFFET OPENS**

NOON-1:00 PM **LUNCH PLENARY (KEYNOTE)** **Theme: "The South's Role in America's Energy Dominance"**

This lunch keynote highlights the South's growing influence in advancing America's global energy leadership. The address will explore the region's role in LNG exports, natural gas production, and downstream development, as well as its position as a hub for industrial reshoring and export infrastructure. It also examines how state policy decisions can align with broader national energy security priorities while supporting sustained economic growth and global competitiveness.



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1:15-2:15 PM

BREAKOUT SESSION 5 & BREAKOUT SESSION 6

Breakout Session 5: Nuclear Energy - From Large-Scale to SMRs

This panel session examines the evolving role of nuclear energy in meeting the South's growing demand for reliable, dispatchable power. Panelists will explore how both large-scale nuclear facilities and emerging Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) can support long-term energy needs and grid stability. The session also addresses state readiness and policy frameworks, along with key considerations related to financing, project timelines, and regulatory pathways shaping nuclear development.

Breakout Session 6: Offshore Energy's Role in Powering America

This breakout session explores the role of offshore energy in supporting domestic production and national energy priorities. Panelists will discuss new opportunities for oil and gas leasing across key regions, including the Gulf of America, the Pacific, and Alaska, as well as the importance of coastal resiliency programs such as GOMESA and revenue sharing. The session also highlights emerging offshore opportunities, including carbon capture and wind, and their potential to contribute to a diverse and resilient energy portfolio.

2:30-3:15 PM

BREAKOUT SESSION 7 & BREAKOUT SESSION 8

Breakout Session 7: Energy Demand from Data Centers & Advanced Manufacturing

This panel session focuses on the growing energy demands driven by data centers and advanced manufacturing and the implications for grid planning and integration. Panelists will examine strategies such as co-location, dedicated generation, and improved load forecasting to manage large-scale demand effectively. The session also explores the balance between state incentive programs and fair and transparent grid cost allocation as states work to attract investment while maintaining system reliability and affordability.

Breakout Session 8: Pipeline Infrastructure Expansion in North America

This breakout session explores the role of pipeline infrastructure in supporting energy reliability and economic development across North America. Panelists will examine ongoing constraints, including permitting barriers and capacity limitations, as well as the continued importance of natural gas in meeting regional demand. The session also

highlights cross-border dynamics between the United States, Mexico, and Canada, and opportunities for greater regional coordination.

3:30-4:00 PM

BOURBONS AND BEERS RECEPTION