



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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Arizona Corporation Commission to Conduct Technology Workshops Two-Day Program Will Address Technological Advances and Key Issues Impacting Utilities

Arizona Corporation Commissioner Bob Burns will conduct technology workshops on October 27th and October 29th. The workshops are a continuation of the Commission's efforts that began last year to stay apprised of emerging technologies in energy.

Representatives from companies from around the nation will present information on topics including distributed voltage optimization, renewable energy, and advances in energy storage.

"We can't be content with doing things the way they've always been done," said Commissioner Burns. "We need to be proactive in educating ourselves on the evolving utility landscape."

Burns said energy storage is the technology to watch.

"I've been told that the trajectory of energy storage may be similar to that of solar panels," said Burns. "That means energy storage could be viable and cost-effective sooner than we think. This could have a significant impact on our current utility model and is something we need to keep an eye on."

The workshops also provide some possible new considerations for Arizona's economy. Representatives from the Idaho National Laboratory will offer information about opportunities for Arizona, including grid modernization collaboration.

"These research and development projects are federally funded," said Burns. "There are millions of dollars in grant money available that could come to Arizona instead of other states to offset costs of the infrastructure improvements needed to modernize our electric grid."

There are 17 national labs around the country that research nuclear energy uses, fuel and environmental projects, and safety programs for the Department of Homeland Security.

"Several states near us have national energy research laboratories," said Burns. "Being able to create a lab satellite here could create jobs and boost the state's reputation as a technology rich environment for future business."

APS, TEP, Solar City, Invenergy, NuScale Power, and Dominion Resources are just a few of the companies that will be represented in the workshops.

The workshops will begin at 9:00 a.m. on October 27th. The Idaho National Laboratory presentation will begin at 9:00 a.m. on October 29th. The technology workshops will continue on the 29th at 1:00 p.m. at the Arizona Corporation Commission at 1200 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ.

The workshops will also be streamed live online at azcc.gov.

