CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Over the last decade, energy markets have experienced a period of extreme volatility. The growth in unconventional oil production in the United States, and the retreat of OPEC from stabilizing the market, have both contributed to the recent sharp decline in oil prices. World events, including Nigerian militant attacks and the return of Iranian crude to the world market, will continue to create uncertainty about world oil supply. Events arising in the US, from first LNG export cargos to the prerogatives of a new presidential administration will also have far-reaching effects for oil & gas markets. At the same time, the US economy’s reliance upon electricity continues to grow as demand for the nation’s number one fuel for dispatchable generation, coal, is dwindling. The 35th USAEE/IAEE Conference will provide a forum for informed and collegial discussion of how the highs and lows of the current and future energy markets will impact all stakeholders—from populations to companies to governments—in North America and around the world.

What better location to discuss the past and possible future of the energy industry than Houston? It has been known as the “Energy Capital of the World” since Spindletop erupted in 1901, and has remained the home for global oil and gas companies since the early 20th century. Today it is home to offices of most major oil and gas companies.

Houston has seen many oil market booms and busts, but, partly in response to these cycles, it has also developed diverse energy sector industries beyond oil and gas. In particular, Houston serves as the renewable energy innovation headquarters for the state of Texas, which is home to more than 12,000 MW of wind capacity with several thousand more megawatts still under development. Houston also hosts engineering firms focused on energy construction projects, major banks operating in energy trading and energy project finance, major law firms specializing in energy issues, a vibrant software industry focused on energy applications, and a large diplomatic community with analysts focused on energy industry developments.

As the world looks to smooth the ride in oil & gas prices, resolve the dilemmas of energy affordability and environmental responsibility, and cultivate disruptive leaps forward in technology, this conference can provide the perfect setting for discussions around policy approaches, economic indicators and technological drivers. The 35th USAEE/IAEE Conference is sure to contribute to the analysis of these critical issues. Speakers will include key figures from industry, academia and government. The conference also will provide networking opportunities for participants through informal receptions, breaks between sessions, public outreach, and student recruitment. There also will be offsite tours to provide closer insight into why Houston will continue its role as the global energy hub in the years and decades to come.

TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

The general topics below are indicative of the types of subject matter to be considered at the conference. A more detailed listing of topics and subtopics can be found by clicking here: www.usaee.org/usaee2017/topics.html

- How to Survive, Adapt & Evolve in Oil & Gas
- Energy Finance and Commerce
- Lifecycle Costs of Energy Technologies
- LNG Markets
- Community Impacts of the Energy Industry
- Energy Risk & Uncertainty
- Electricity Market Outlook: Supply & Demand
- Midstream/Downstream Oil & Gas Trends
- Electricity Grids
- The Future of the Energy Sector & Geopolitical Impact
- Energy in The Age of Volatility
- Other topics of interest including new hydrocarbon projects, transportation innovation, generation, transmission and distribution issues in electricity markets, etc.

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CONCURRENT SESSIONS

There are two categories of concurrent sessions: 1) current academic-type energy economics research, and 2) practical case studies involving applied energy economics or commentary on current energy-related issues. This latter category aims to encourage participation not only from industry but also from the financial, analyst and media/commentator communities. In either instance, papers should be based on completed or near-completed work that has not been previously presented at or published by USAEE/IAEE or elsewhere. Presentations are intended to facilitate the sharing of both academic and professional experiences and lessons learned. It is unacceptable for a presentation to overtly advertise or promote proprietary products and/or services. Those who wish to distribute promotional literature and/or have exhibit space at the Conference are cordially invited to take advantage of sponsorship opportunities – please see www.usaee.org/usaee2017/sponsors.html. Those interested in organizing a concurrent session should propose a topic and possible speakers to Professor Peter Hartley. Concurrent Session Chair (hartley@rice.edu) Please note that all speakers in organized concurrent sessions must pay speaker registration fees and submit abstracts.

CONCURRENT SESSION ABSTRACT FORMAT

Authors wishing to make concurrent session presentations must submit an abstract that briefly describes the research or case study to be presented. The abstract must be no more than two pages in length and must include the following sections:

a. Overview of the topic including its background and potential significance
b. Methodology: how the matter was addressed, what techniques were used
c. Results: Key and ancillary findings
d. Conclusions: Lessons learned, implications, next steps
e. References (if any)

Please visit www.usaee.org/usaee2017/PaperAbstractTemplate.doc to download an abstract template. All abstracts must conform to the format structure outlined in the template. Abstracts must be submitted online by visiting www.usaee.org/usaee2017/submissions.aspx. Abstracts submitted by e-mail or in hard copy will not be processed.

Student Poster Session

The Student Poster Session is designed to enable students to present their current research or case studies directly to interested conference delegates in a specially designed open networking environment. Abstracts for the poster session must be submitted by the regular abstract deadline and must be relevant to the conference theme. The abstract format for the Student Session is identical to that for papers; please visit www.usaee.org/USAEE2017/PaperAbstractTemplate.doc to download an abstract template. Such an abstract should clearly indicate that it is intended for the Student Session—alternatively that the author has no preference between a poster or regular concurrent session presentation. Abstracts must be submitted online by visiting www.usaee.org/USAEE2017/submissions.aspx. Abstracts submitted by e-mail or in hard copy will not be processed.

Presenter Attendance at the Conference

At least one author of an accepted paper or poster must pay the registration fees and attend the conference to present the paper or poster. The corresponding author submitting the abstract must provide complete contact details—mailing address, phone, fax, e-mail, etc. Authors will be notified by July 21, 2017, of the status of their presentation or poster. Authors whose abstracts are accepted will have until September 4, 2017, to submit their final papers or posters for publication in the online conference proceedings. While multiple submissions by individuals or groups of authors are welcome, the abstract selection process will seek to ensure as broad participation as possible: each author may present only one paper or one poster in the conference. No author should submit more than one abstract as its single author. If multiple submissions are accepted, then a different author will be required to pay the registration fee and present each paper or poster. Otherwise, authors will be contacted and asked to drop one or more paper(s) or poster(s) for presentation.

STUDENTS

In addition to the above opportunities, students may submit a paper for consideration in the Dennis J. O’Brien USAEE/IAEE Best Student Paper Award Competition (cash prizes plus waiver of conference registration fees). The paper submission has different requirements and a different deadline. The deadline for submitting a paper for the Student Paper Awards is July 7, 2017. Visit www.usaee.org/usaee2017/bestpapers.html for full details.

Students are especially encouraged to participate in the Student Poster Session. Posters and their presentations will be judged by an academic panel and a single cash prize of $1,000 will be awarded to the student with the best poster and presentation. For more details including the judging criteria visit www.usaee.org/usaee2017/postersession.html

Students may also inquire about scholarships covering conference registration fees. Please visit www.usaee.org/usaee2017/scholarships.html for full details.

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