

2020 Operations Conference

Speaker Information

Submit to your WEI contact or planning session lead:

- **Biography** This will be used in the Operations Conference App as well as for your introductions before your presentation. It should be 3-5 sentences summarizing your current role and relevant experience.
- **Headshot** Minimum resolution is 72 dpi and image size needs to be at least 300 x 300 pixels. This will be used in the Operations Conference App.
- **Contact Information** Name, job title, company name, and city, state/province as you would like it to appear in the Operations Conference App and the WEI website. Please also provide preferred email and phone number – these will not be shared.

Speaker Registration Options

- **Option 1:** Full conference agenda access. Create a [WEI account](#) if this is your first WEI event. Register via the [Operations Conference Page](#). The price for a full registration is \$299 USD.
- **Option 2:** Register as a Session-only Speaker for limited access. Email your WEI contact listed above letting them know you plan to only attend the session you are speaking in. There is no cost for a session-only registration.

Presentations

- Company logos and branding on slides is allowed.
- PowerPoint is the preferred format for your presentation. PDFs are also accepted. Please ensure that font size is at least 24 size. WEI has an optional template [available here](#).
- To make your presentation available in the Conference App, provide a version to WEI by April 3, 2020.
- Confirm whether WEI has permission to share your slides with conference attendees. WEI will not redistribute any presentations without overt permission.

Audio/Visual

- WEI will use the GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar virtual conference platforms for the 2020 Operations Conference.
- Speakers are encouraged connect with the WEI Liaison to test their capability in advance of the Conference.

Your WEI Contact varies by the track you are speaking in. If you are unsure of the track, contact Eric Christenson at christenson@westernenergy.org or 971-303-2118.

Damage Prevention	Kristen Paul, paul@westernenergy.org , + 971-334-4250
Operational Leadership	Traci Pepper, pepper@westernenergy.org + 971-303-1004
Workforce Development	Traci Pepper, pepper@westernenergy.org + 971-303-1004
Safety + Health	Beverly Jones Woolf, joneswoolf@westernenergy.org , + 971-303-2294
Safety Management Systems (SMS)	Kristen Paul, paul@westernenergy.org , + 971-334-4250
Asset Management	Jessica Grant grant@westernenergy.org , + 971-930-2032
NG D&T Construction + Maintenance	Kristen Paul, paul@westernenergy.org , + 971-334-4250
NG D&T Emergency Response + Restoration	Beverly Jones Woolf, joneswoolf@westernenergy.org , + 971-303-2294
NG D&T Integrity Management	Traci Pepper, pepper@westernenergy.org + 971-303-1004
NG Green Future	Jessica Grant grant@westernenergy.org , + 971-930-2032
NG Operational Excellence	Kristen Paul, paul@westernenergy.org , + 971-334-4250
Evolving Grid Operations	Traci Pepper, pepper@westernenergy.org + 971-303-1004
Electric Distribution	Kris Taylor, taylor@westernenergy.org + 971-255-4969
Electric Substation	Kris Taylor, taylor@westernenergy.org + 971-255-4969
Electric Transmission	Kris Taylor, taylor@westernenergy.org + 971-255-4969
Wildfire	Diana Zoren, zoren@westernenergy.org + 971-255-4965

Virtual Conference Speaker FAQ

Q: As many employees have been asked to work from home, we may find some unexpected connectivity issues. Will Session Teams be able to set up a “dress rehearsal” to ensure we don’t have any technical issues or user issues to resolve?

A: Absolutely. All Session Teams should plan a dress rehearsal. WEI Track Liaisons will work with each Session Team to schedule these with you.

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Q: Has the cost for speaker registrations changed?

A: Yes. The conference registration fee has been reduced to \$299. Additionally, WEI always provides Speakers the option for a complimentary Session-Only registration. Please connect with your WEI Liaison for more information.

Q: What do I need to do to update my registration?

A: Nothing. WEI will automatically update your registration and refund the difference. You only need to contact WEI if cancelling or changing a Speaker registration to Session-Only.

Q: How will the Q & A portion be handled, and will the speaker be able to view them?

A: Participants may ask questions through chat or through hand up feature in GoToMeetings/Webinars. There will also be time for open dialogue. Questions can be open to everyone or sent directly to the presenter or moderator.

Q: There is a demonstration element of our presentation. Will we be able to use a webcam for that?

A: Yes. You will be able to use webcams. Please plan to set up a practice session with your WEI Liaison.

Q: I would like to run a video. Will the technology provide that functionality?

A: Currently, we are advising against videos. Employees working remotely may have limited bandwidth available.

Q: How has the change impacted the schedule?

A: WEI has implemented a staggered schedule with two unique time slots for each morning and each afternoon on 4/15 and 4/16. Each time slot will support 8 tracks.

Q: How will these changes specifically impact my scheduled Session?

A: Nearly all Session times have shifted by less than an hour. Below is a table with each track session time. All times are for the Pacific time zone. The table below provides the new schedule.

Date	Start	End	Schedule Item Name
Asset Management			
4/15/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Roadmap for AI-Enabled Asset Management Decision-Making
4/15/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Risk-Based Asset Management
4/16/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Battle of the X's
4/16/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Utilizing Innovation and Technology to Manage Infrastructure
Damage Prevention			
4/15/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Using Predictive Analytics to Identify High Risk Excavations and Prevent Damage
4/15/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	How GPS and Process Improvements are Improving Map Accuracy and Reducing Damages
4/16/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Partnering with Excavators to Reduce Damages
4/16/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	When Persuasion Fails: Strategies for Changing Unsafe Digging Behavior.
Electric Distribution			
4/15/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Cool Tools
4/15/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Service Provider Alignment: The SPA Treatment
4/16/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Reliability + Aging Infrastructure
4/16/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Managing Emerging Customer Connections
Electric Substation			
4/15/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and Switchgear Cubicle Safety
4/15/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Substation Security: Cyber and Physical Security Threats
4/16/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Distributed Energy Resource Impacts on Substation Operations
4/16/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Cultivating the Growth of Substation Personnel
Electric Transmission			
4/15/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Innovative Tools
4/15/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	How Utilities Address Wildfires Proactively Through Transmission Line Design
4/16/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	What is EPC: A Panel on the Pros, the Cons, and Everything In-Between
4/16/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Mega-Projects Overview; Challenges and Lessons Learned
Evolving Grid Operations			
4/15/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	What to do with a DER?

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4/15/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	DER/DERMS – The Race to Manage DERs before they Create Operational Havoc
4/16/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Achieving Situational Awareness in the Electric Grid
4/16/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	System Operator of the Future
NG D&T Construction + Maintenance			
4/15/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Recruiting, Training, Developing and Retaining Great Employees in Construction
4/15/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Gas Capture, Cross Compression, Flaring and Blowdowns
4/16/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	To Permit or Not to Permit
4/16/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Don't Feel the Pressure
NG D&T Emergency Response + Restoration			
4/15/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Broken and Blowing
4/15/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	AC/DC Live: The Assault on Natural Gas
4/16/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Mutual Aid – The Merrimack Valley Incident
4/16/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Natural Disasters - Up the Creek without a Paddle
NG D&T Integrity Management			
4/15/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Mitigation Tactics for an Aging Pipeline Infrastructure
4/15/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Back to the Future of Non-destructive Examination
4/16/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	RNG - Public Perception, Policy and System Integrity
4/16/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Corrosion Integrity Management
NG Green Future			
4/15/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Renewable Natural Gas 101
4/15/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Hydrogen - The Key to Unlocking Methane's Renewable Potential
4/16/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Methane Emission Reductions: Goals, Commitments, and Strategies
4/16/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Design and Operation of RNG Interconnect Stations
NG Operational Excellence			
4/15/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	GPS Referencing – Assets Traceability and Tracking
4/15/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Your Playbook for Winning the Talent Game
4/16/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Innovative Gas Leak Investigation /Mitigation Approach
4/16/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Look forward technology : What is the next cutting-edge device?
Operational Leadership			
4/15/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Effective Leadership: Leadership Lessons for First-timers or Seasoned Veterans
4/15/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Swimming Lessons for Leadership: "Staying afloat, whether you've jumped off the
4/16/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Building Your Leadership Bench Strength, with Insight from the Coach's Corner
4/16/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Getting Rid of Them: Using Change Management to Work across Silos and get Buy-in
Safety + Health			
4/15/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Partnering to Grow Safety
4/15/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Hidden Hazards: Wildfire Smoke, Legionnaires, and Indoor Heat
4/16/2020	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	How to Apply Human Performance Best Practices to Your Business
4/16/2020	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	The Silent Near Miss
Safety Management Systems (SMS)			
4/15/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Managing by Influence
4/15/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Creating a Cultural Shift – Socializing SMS and Process Safety
4/16/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	MOC Case Studies
4/16/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Preventing Unplanned Events – Establishing Leading Performance Indicators
Wildfire			
4/15/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	The Burning Question – How to Quantify Wildfire Risk
4/15/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Take Action! – Best Practices for Wildfire Mitigation
4/16/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	PSPS – De-Energization of Electric Circuits for Fire Prevention
4/16/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Emergency Response – Utility Integration during Fire Events
Workforce Development			
4/15/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Digital Transformation
4/15/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Breaking the Sound Barrier to Competency
4/16/2020	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Workforce Development from Hire to Retire
4/16/2020	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	Flexibility for the Modern Workforce