

Legislative Energy Horizon Institute



INSTITUTE PARTNERS:

Pacific NorthWest Economic Region
University of Idaho
U.S. Department of Energy
National Conference of State Legislatures
Government of Canada

August 23-26, 2014, Richland, WA
November 13-15, 2014, Washington, DC

Media Release

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LEGISLATIVE ENERGY HORIZON INSTITUTE CONCLUDES FIRST SESSION IN RICHLAND, WA

Richland, WA -- The Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI) brought together 34 state and provincial legislative energy leaders in its 2014 class for the first thirty hours of the acclaimed certificate program August 23 – 26 in Richland, Wash.

In its sixth year, the Institute offers policymakers the chance to dramatically improve their knowledge of the energy infrastructure and delivery system, enhancing their ability to make the complex policy decisions that will be necessary to ensure the region has a stable, secure and affordable energy supply and delivery system. The three-and-a-half day session in Richland focuses its in-depth curriculum on how energy infrastructure operates, and the complex issues associated with electricity, natural gas and petroleum infrastructures, regulations and interdependencies.

"It is critical that citizen legislators get this basic boot camp of how our energy infrastructure works, is built and operated so they make informed policy decisions about our energy future," said Jeff Morris, Institute Director.

Outside of thirty hours of class time on electricity, oil and gas, integrating renewables, alternative fuels for transportation and the smart grid, most of the class toured the Columbia Nuclear Generating station and the Nine Canyon Wind Farm, both operated by Energy Northwest.

Over 100 policymakers have attended the Institute. Those completing the 60 hour executive course get a Certificate from the University of Idaho in Energy Policy Planning. These Alumni have gone on to become leaders in their respective state and provincial governments in energy, chairing energy or environment committees. Two out the three Western Canadian Energy Ministers have graduated from the program.

The next in-person session will take place in Washington, D.C. November 13 – 15, 2014.

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ABOUT LEHI

The Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI) educates legislators on the North American energy infrastructure and delivery system. The Institute was created through a partnership between the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) and the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) along with the University of Idaho and the Department of Energy. High turnover in legislatures decreases the institutional knowledge of complex energy issues. Legislators who develop energy policy often lack a comprehensive understanding of how energy infrastructure operates. The complex issues associated with electricity, natural gas and petroleum infrastructure; regulation governing this infrastructure; and interdependencies are just some of the areas that legislators must understand to make responsible and informed policy decision.

Class of 2014

Alaska

Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Doug Isaacson
Representative Bryce Edgmon

Alberta

MLA Alana DeLong
MLA David Dorward

Arkansas

Representative Lane Jean

British Columbia

MLA Mike Bernier

California

MLA Sebastian Ridley-Thomas

Colorado

Representative Dominick Moreno
Senator Matt Jones

Florida

Representative Jose Felix Diaz

Idaho

Representative Kelley Packer
Representative Phylis King
Representative Janet Trujillo

Illinois

Senator Dave Koehler

Minnesota

Senator John Hoffman

Montana

Representative Patricia Peppers

New York

MLA Angelo Santabarbara

Oregon

Representative Jeff Reardon
Representative Mark Johnson
Senator Arnie Roblan
Representative Caddy McKeown
Senator Alan Olsen
Senator Bill Hansell

Quebec

MNA Guy Bourgeois

Ohio

Senator Joe Uecker

Texas

Representative Ken King

Washington

Representative Cindy Ryu
Representative Chad Magendanz
Representative Zack Hudgins
Staff Debbie Driver
Staff Clay Hill

Western Governors Association

Policy Staff Christopher Scolari

Finishing Course in 2013 DC session

Alberta Minister Cal Dallas
Washington Senator Andy Billig
Northwest Territory Min. David Ramsay