



**AEIC NEWSLETTER** | Monthly Edition  
May 2026



*AEIC brings utility leaders together in a trusted, non-competitive forum to solve real operational challenges and modernize the grid. Through shared field experience and practical collaboration, strategy becomes execution.*

## Upcoming Events

Check out our events calendars to stay up to date on upcoming workshops and committee meetings. For meeting access or committee support, contact [aeic@aeic.org](mailto:aeic@aeic.org).

[View Our Calendar](#)



## Join us for AEIC's 142nd Annual Meeting

For 142 years, AEIC's Annual Meeting has brought together the electric utility industry's top operational leaders. This exclusive gathering convenes over 270 executives and senior decision-makers, not for traditional presentations, but for meaningful peer-to-peer dialogue and collaboration around the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing today's grid.

What sets this event apart is the insight shared in the room: candid perspectives, strategic leadership, and forward-thinking approaches from those actively leading change across the industry. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the one event where influential voices come together to help shape what's next.

**COMING SOON: Registration and Hotel Book open May 15th**

# AEIC Center for Operational Excellence

This is the utility industry's one-stop shop for authoritative information. Our repository of industry resources will help you overcome operational challenges and drive more holistic decisions.

## Data Framework Working Group

*From Concept to Practical Tool*



Twenty utilities came to the table for this work because each had felt the same pain, data they cannot trust, systems that do not talk to each other, analytics that cannot be acted on. Over the past four months, the Data Framework Charter Working Group has been quietly building the foundation to address it, anchored by a simple sequencing principle: foundation first, scale second; AI enablement only when the foundation is real.

Four core artifacts now sit at the center of that foundation, a governance and decision rights model, a data quality scorecard, a shared language and definitions sheet, and a common integration pain points map. At Meeting 3 on April 23, members connected those pieces into a single working framework and heard a member spotlight from Hagen Haentsch (Oncor) that grounded the conversation in real operations.

Since then, the group has introduced the Adoption Playbook, a five-step, business-friendly path that turns framework insights into a 90-day action plan teams can actually run inside their own organizations. Meeting 4 on May 21 will feature a member spotlight from Shane Powell (Southern Company), bringing another utility lens to help members pressure-test and refine the work. The artifacts are designed to be used, not admired. Members are invited to keep stress-testing them so they deliver real value across the industry.

## AEIC Grid Advancement Collaborative Program

*Challenge 003: Flexible Capacity — Overcoming Capacity Bottlenecks*



The latest session in the AEIC Grid Advancement Playbook Series is now available. Challenge 003 takes on one of the most urgent issues utilities are facing: distribution load growing faster, and in less predictable places, than

traditional planning cycles were built to handle. Data center growth, electrification, and DER adoption are stacking new demand onto feeders and substations at the same time and the steel-in-the-ground answer alone can no longer keep pace.

This playbook walks through a different question: where can flexible capacity defer, right-size, or avoid a traditional upgrade while preserving reliability and affordability? Members will see how virtual power plants, managed EV charging, thermal load flexibility, DERMS-enabled forecasting, and dynamic line rating fit alongside selective capital upgrades in a portfolio approach and they will get a step-by-step workflow for turning that thinking into a pilot-ready use case inside InnovationWorks.

Download the playbook, watch the walkthrough with Dr. Elizabeth Cook and Kim Getgen, log in to InnovationWorks, and bring your Big Idea for Challenge 003 to the next community call.

[View Challenge 003](#)

## AEIC AI Readiness Pulse Check

AEIC is asking the people who operate the grid to weigh in on where the industry really is with AI, familiarity, readiness, the barriers that are slowing adoption, and where additional support would actually help. This is not a market survey. It is the input that will directly shape AEIC's upcoming AI Fluency Program, which is being built specifically for utility practitioners and the executives who lead them.

Responses are anonymous. Participants will receive aggregated peer benchmarks so they can see how their organization compares across the industry on the questions that matter most. It takes only a few minutes and the more utility voices in the data, the more useful the program will be for everyone who participates.

Add your perspective and help shape what comes next.

[Take our 5 minute survey](#)

## The Grid Mod Pod

In this episode, we're joined by **AJ Hester of Southern Company** and **Chris Stockton of Veriforce** as they break down a powerful innovation in workforce readiness.

Together, their teams developed WorkerPass, a centralized digital solution that allows contractors to be



fully pre-compliant before arriving on-site during generation outages, leading to reduced downtime, improved visibility, and stronger safety and consistency. The impact of this work earned Southern Company one of AEIC's 2025 Annual Achievement Awards.



[Watch Now](#)

## 2026 Achievement Awards Now Open



**AEIC is pleased to announce that we are now accepting nominations for our 2026 AEIC Achievement Awards.**

The AEIC Annual Achievement Awards recognize teams and/or individuals from member companies, AEIC committees, subcommittees, and councils who have made significant contributions to advancing operational excellence and leading grid transformation initiatives in the electric utility industry. Submissions are due by July 1st.

[Click here to complete an award submission form](#)

## Member Spotlight Webinar

### ComEd's Power Up Academy Initiative

Friday, May 15th | 2:00–3:00 PM Eastern  
Laticia Holbert, ComEd

Laticia will discuss how ComEd's programs are designed to equip individuals with the technical skills needed to break into the utility industry while eliminating barriers to entry, such as college degree requirements, to build a more diverse talent pipeline for roles like designers, technicians, and project coordinators.



[Register Now](#)

We appreciate your continued engagement with AEIC and look forward to your participation in our upcoming events.



**Steve Hauser**  
AEIC  
*Chief Executive Officer*



**Dr. Elizabeth Cook**  
AEIC  
*VP of Technical Strategy*



**Jim Heilbron**  
Southern Company  
*2026 AEIC President*



**Jacob Tetlow**  
Arizona Public Service  
*Ops Center Chair*



Association of Edison Illuminating Companies | 607 14th Street NW, Suite 560 | Washington, DC 20005  
US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!