North American Energy Roundtable program

Mar 27th, 7:45 AM - 11:30 AM

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Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the first North American Energy Roundtable. This event is designed to bring together government, business, and academic leaders from Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. to discuss a variety of energy issues affecting the North American continent.

This half-day event will focus on innovative energy policy and technology, geopolitical influences on energy issues, and public and private investment approaches needed to effectively address the continent’s most pressing energy challenges. Discussion will focus on the key infrastructure and policy developments needed to produce sustainable energy supplies and address critical environmental concerns by the year 2025.

We are pleased to welcome leaders from government, business, and academe from Canada, Mexico, and the U.S., each of whom will make opening presentations, which will be followed by moderated panel discussions. We believe their presentations will spark greater dialogue on many important topics.

Dr. Ron Smith  
Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College  
Executive Director of the Urban Sustainability Institute
7:45-8:15 a.m.  Registration Check-In
Continental Breakfast

8:15-8:30 a.m.  Welcome
Neal Smatresk, UNLV Executive Vice President and Provost
Marc LePage, Consul General of Canada
Mariano Lemus, Consul General of Mexico

8:30-8:45 a.m.  Opening Remarks
Dina Titus, U.S. Congresswoman

8:45-10:00 a.m.  PANEL ONE
North American Energy Security and Supply
Moderator: Dennis Pirages, Dean’s Professor of Government, UNLV Department of Political Science

This panel will explore current issues associated with the security and supply of energy at a continental scale and the key roles of each of three represented countries. In addition, the panel will discuss the policy and environmental challenges of maintaining good oil and energy supply and security.

Panelists:
  o Angela Colarusso, U.S. Department of Energy
  o Ricardo Samaniego, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México
  o Jeff Rush, Vice President, TransCanada U.S. Pipelines West
  o Len Webber, Legislative Assembly of Alberta & Parliamentary Assistant for Energy

10:00 a.m.  Networking Break

10:15-11:30 a.m.  PANEL TWO
Looking ahead to 2025 – Policy and Technological Alternatives
Moderator: Oliver Hemmers, Director, UNLV Office of Strategic Energy Programs

The panel will discuss the road ahead, with a particular emphasis on what innovations and developments will be necessary in order to secure energy supply and reduce greenhouse gases by the year 2025. Renewable energy sources – including hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal, and carbon capture – will be discussed along with policy prescriptions.

Panelists:
  o Erick R. Bandala, La Universidad de las Américas-Puebla
  o Jean-Thomas Bernard, Université Laval, Quebec
  o Bob Boehm, UNLV Center for Energy Research
  o Michael Yackira, NV Energy

11:30 a.m.  Luncheon Reception
Participant Biographies

Neal J. Smatresk  
Executive Vice President and Provost  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Neal J. Smatresk was appointed in June 2007 as UNLV’s executive vice president and provost. He most recently served as vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Dr. Smatresk received his Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1980. Following post-doctoral training at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, he joined the University of Texas-Arlington (UTA) department of biology in 1982. In his 22 years at UTA, he served as chair of biology and later dean of science, until his appointment as the chief academic officer at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2004. During his tenure there, the university entered the ranks of the top 25 federally funded institutions, gained three National Academy of Science members, and received recognition from the Chinese Ministry of Education as a Confucius Institute, an honor shared by only 11 other U.S. institutions. He has received a number of teaching awards, and his research in cardiorespiratory physiology has resulted in over 50 papers and book chapters, as well as grants from the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health.

Dina Titus  
U.S. Congresswoman, Nevada District Three

After teaching political science for 30 years at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and serving the people of Nevada in the State Senate for 20 years, Dina Titus is now representing Nevada’s Third District in her first term in the United States House of Representatives. As a Member of Congress, Dina Titus is fighting for the same priorities she worked so hard on at the state level. A lifelong public servant and educator, she has sought to protect Nevada’s most vulnerable citizens — children, seniors, and the disabled. A leader on renewable energy, Dr. Titus pushed Nevada out front, spearheading efforts to establish a renewable portfolio standard, requiring utility companies to acquire a certain percentage of their power from renewable sources; a net meeting program to allow individuals to generate their own power and sell the excess back to the utility companies; and tax incentives for companies that develop solar and wind energy. In Congress, Dr. Titus is continuing to focus on renewable energy that is critical to creating jobs in Southern Nevada and reducing the nation’s dependence on foreign oil. At the beginning of the 111th Congress, Dina was named to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. She also earned seats on the Education and Labor Committee and Homeland Security Committee. In addition, Dr. Titus was selected Regional Whip by her colleagues, a position that has her working closely with the Majority Whip to build consensus for the Democratic agenda and pass legislation that will take America in a new direction.

Marc LePage  
Consul General of Canada

Marc LePage was appointed Consul General in July 2005 of the Consulate General of Canada, San Francisco/Silicon Valley with responsibility for northern California, Nevada, and Hawaii. Formerly with Genome Canada, Marc brings extensive experience in the pharmaceutical
industry, biotechnology, and venture capital. Mr. LePage joined the Trade Commissioner Service of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in 1980 and has served abroad in Stockholm, Havana and at San Diego, California. In 1994, Mr. LePage moved to the Medical Research Council of Canada (now the Canadian Institutes of Health Research) to serve as Director of Business Development. Upon its launch in July of 2000, he joined Genome Canada as Executive Vice-President of Corporate Development, the capacity in which he has served to date. He holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Moncton, New Brunswick.

**Mariano Lemus**  
**Consul General of Mexico**

Mariano Lemus was assigned Consul General of the Las Vegas Consulate Office in 2005. The office, which officially opened in February 2002, was the 47th to open in the United States. Before the Las Vegas Consulate opened, people in Clark County who sought Mexican consular services had to travel four hours to San Bernardino, California. The Consulate Office provides many services to the Mexican American community including information about requirements for traveling to Mexico, helping Mexican Nationals obtain consular identification cards, issuing passports to Mexican Nationals, and educating business people about travel and trade between the United States and Mexico. Prior to his Las Vegas appointment, Mr. Lemus served as Consul General of Mexico in Seattle, Washington (1997-2001). Other public service posts he has held include General Director of International Affairs in the Ministry of Tourism as well as in the Senate of Mexico, Assistant Director of Political and Social Investigations in the Secretary of the Interior, Particular Secretary of the Secretary of Foreign Relations, and Particular Secretary of the Governor of Queretaro. Mr. Lemus holds a bachelor’s degree in international relations from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and has taught courses as a member of the faculty in political and social sciences at UNAM.

**Oliver Hemmers**  
**Executive Director of the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies**  
**Director of the Office of Strategic Energy Programs**  
**Associate Research Professor, Department of Chemistry**  
**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

In 2006, Oliver Hemmers became the Director of the UNLV Office of Strategic Energy Programs in order to help coordinate renewable energy projects at UNLV. In 2008 he became the Executive Director of the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, the largest multi-program and interdisciplinary research unit at UNLV. Dr. Oliver Hemmers received his Ph.D. in atomic and molecular Physics from the Technical University in Berlin, Germany in 1993. Dr. Hemmers is the project manager on a DOE funded biodiesel project that focuses on new ways of producing a catalyst for biodiesel production. He has published approximately 90 articles and has given more than 200 presentations at national and international meetings and conferences, and has received numerous research and project grants.
Thomas Piechota
Director of Sustainability and Multidisciplinary Research
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Dr. Thomas C. Piechota is the Director of Sustainability and Multidisciplinary Research and Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UNLV. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Northern Arizona University, his M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from UCLA, and his Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from UCLA. In his current position, Dr. Piechota is helping move forward the Urban Sustainability Initiative, which is a campus-wide effort related to sustainability related research, education, and outreach. His teaching and research interests are in the fields of climate change, sustainability, surface water hydrology, hydroclimatology, droughts, water resources planning, and stormwater quality in urban environments. In 2003, Dr. Piechota received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award for the project “Improved Hydrologic Drought Forecasting Using Climate Information.” Currently, he is part of a state-wide team that has received $15 million in funding from the National Science Foundation to study climate change in the State of Nevada. Dr. Piechota is a licensed Professional Engineer in the States of Nevada and California and serves on various committees with the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Erick R. Bandala
Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering
La Universidad de las Américas Puebla

Dr. Erick Bandala is a chemical engineer who holds a Ms.D. in organic chemistry and a Ph.D. in Engineering. His main research interests are in the fundamental aspects and application of environmental science and environmental engineering, specifically application of advanced oxidation processes (AOPs) for water treatment using alternative energy sources. Professor Bandala is currently an associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Universidad de las Américas, Puebla (México). He worked as a titular researcher at the Mexican Institute of Water Technology from 1993-2007, belongs to the Ministry of Environment of Mexico, and has served as adjunct professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (1998-2007). Additionally, he served as chair of the graduate program in engineering at UNAM during 2000-2001. Dr. Bandala performs research on AOPs application on water treatment, water decontamination and disinfection using solar driven AOPs, biological toxins removal in water by AOPs, site restoration, and water quality indexes determination. He has been awarded the 2008-2009 Rice University’s International Visiting Fellow in Environment, Energy and Sustainability, and was deemed national researcher (2004 to date) from the national research system of Mexico. Professor Bandala also is a visiting professor and researcher at different institutions in Chile, Spain, and Canada.

Jean-Thomas Bernard
Professor of Economics
Distinguished Chair of Electric Energy Economics
Université Laval, Quebec

Professor Jean-Thomas Bernard is a noted economist and currently holds the Chair of Electricity Economics at the Université Laval, where he has been on the faculty since 1976. He also currently serves as Visiting Scholar at the University of Ottawa. Professor Bernard is a leading
expert on Quebec’s significant hydro-electric and alternative energy industries. He has published more than 60 papers in leading economic journals, and his areas of research interest are the economics of natural resources and energy economics. He previously taught at Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario (1973-1976) and has served as a Research Fellow at Harvard University (1987-1988), a Fulbright Foundation Fellow at Cornell University (1995-1995), and Gilbert White Fellow at Resources for the Future in Washington, D.C. (2001-2002). Dr. Bernard earned a B.A. from Collège Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, a B.A. in economics from Université d’Ottawa, and the Ph.D. from University of Pennsylvania.

Robert F. Boehm
Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering
Director of the Center for Energy Research
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Dr. Robert F. Boehm is Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Energy Research Center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). The latter is an externally funded center that works in all forms of renewable energy with a large group of student researchers and industry collaborators. His professional work has been primarily in the area of renewable and conventional energy conversion. A member of the faculty at UNLV since 1990, he has served as Department Chair here. Dr. Boehm was on the faculty of the University of Utah Department of Mechanical Engineering prior to coming to UNLV. He holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Boehm is a registered professional engineer, a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and has received several awards, including the Harry Reid Silver State Research Award, the UNLV Distinguished Teaching Award, and the Rudolf W. Gunnerman Silver State Award for Excellence in Science and Technology from DRI. He also holds awards from the American Solar Energy Society and the US Green Buildings Council. Dr. Boehm has been an invited lecturer at many institutions here and abroad, and he has published over 400 papers in solar energy, geothermal energy, and hydrogen utilization, as well more basic topics in heat transfer. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America. He is an associate editor of Energy—The International Journal. Dr. Boehm is the author or co-author of the ten books.

Angela Colarusso
Assistant Manager for Site Operations
National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office
U.S. Department of Energy

Angela P. Colarusso is the Assistant Manager for Site Operations for the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office. In this position, she is responsible for the site planning, development, and operational coordination of the 1,375-square-mile Nevada Test Site; the Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program; capital construction; maintenance of Nevada Test Site facilities, infrastructure, and equipment; and energy management and alternative energy. Prior to assuming this role, Ms. Colarusso served as the Deputy Assistant Manager. Before returning to the Department of Energy in 1990, she worked for Los Alamos National Laboratory and Science Applications International Corporation. Ms. Colarusso has more than 24 years experience with the Department of Energy, National Laboratory, and Department of Energy contractor organizations in the areas of program/project
management, safety, construction, site operations, energy management, oversight, weapons
testing, waste management, emergency management, community relations, project control,
nuclear facilities, and authorization basis. Ms. Colarusso holds a B.S. in Health Physics from
UNLV and is a Certified Project Management Professional.

Jeff Rush
Vice President & General Manager
TransCanada U.S. Pipelines West

Jeff Rush is the General Manager of U.S. Pipelines West, located in Portland, Oregon. He was
named to this position as of February 2005. Mr. Rush comes from the role of Vice President,
Gas Development, where he was responsible for business development of natural gas pipeline
opportunities for TransCanada in western North America. His role included responsibility for
TransCanada’s investment in the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Project. Mr. Rush was also
President of TransCanada Pipeline Ventures Ltd., which owns several unregulated gas
transmission pipeline systems in Alberta. He has worked in leadership roles in customer service
for many years, including roles in Sales, Gas Control and Account Management. He joined NOVA
Gas Transmission in 1981. He also spent several years working on international assignments.
Mr. Rush graduated from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario in 1980 with a B.A degree.
He also earned a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Strathclyde
in Glasgow, Scotland.

Ricardo Samaniego
Director of the Center for Applied Economics and Public Policy
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

Since 2002 Mr. Samaniego has been the Director of the Center for Applied Economics and Public
Policy at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), where he is full time professor
and researcher. He has also been director of the master’s program in economics and the
master’s program in public policy at ITAM. Mr. Samaniego holds an economics degree from
ITAM and a master’s degree and a Ph.D. candidacy in economics from the University of Chicago.
He has been a visiting scholar at the Energy Laboratory of MIT and in the Economics Department
of UCLA. In government, he has been Under Secretary of Energy Policy and Chief of Staff of the
Secretary in the Ministry of Energy of Mexico, Director of Modernization of the Federal
Electricity Commission, and at present is member of the Audit Committee of the board of
Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX). He has been an economist at the International Monetary Fund
and consultant in the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the United
Nations Development Program. Mr. Samaniego has taught courses in Price Theory, Public
Finance, Econometrics, Energy Markets and International Trade at ITAM and has participated in
seminars and congresses in Mexico and abroad. He has published in the fields of energy, labor,
urban and international economics.

Len Webber
Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, Canada
Parliamentary Assistant for Energy

Len Webber was elected to his second term as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta
for the constituency of Calgary-Foothills on March 3, 2008, and was appointed as the
Parliamentary Assistant for Energy on March 12, 2008. Mr. Webber currently serves as a member of the Legislative Offices Committee and the Standing Committee on Resources and Environment. During his service on the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Webber has also served as deputy government whip and as member or chair on 14 Canadian boards and committees. Prior to his election to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Webber was the vice-president and director of Webber Academy, a nonprofit university preparatory private school in Calgary. Mr. Webber received his bachelor of commerce degree from the University of Calgary and his journeyman communications electrician certificate from SAIT. He worked as an apprentice electrician out of high school and ran his own contracting business for 10 years before starting with Webber Academy. Mr. Webber has a history of involvement and volunteerism with community groups, including Hospice Calgary, The Calgary Foundation, MS Society and as a board member of the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. He is a loyal volunteer at many fundraising events promoting breast cancer awareness, research, and development and is recipient of the Alberta Centennial Medal for his contributions to the province of Alberta.

**Michael W. Yackira**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**NV Energy**

Michael Yackira joined Sierra Pacific Resources (now NV Energy) in January 2003. He was elected Chief Executive Officer of Sierra Pacific Resources effective August 1, 2007. In February 2007, he was elected President and Chief Operating Officer of Sierra Pacific Resources, and also to the Board of Directors. Prior to that Michael was Corporate Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (December 2003 to February 2007) and Executive Vice President, Strategy and Policy (January 2003 to December 2003). Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Yackira spent more than a decade as an executive with FPL Group, where he served in several positions, including President of FPL Energy; Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer of FPL Group; and Senior Vice President of Market and Regulatory Services for Florida Power & Light. His work experience includes extensive roles in operations, finance and regulatory matters in other industries, including telecommunications, and oil and gas. Mr. Yackira holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Lehman College, City University of New York, and is a Certified Public Accountant. He is a board member of United Way of Southern Nevada, the Nevada Development Authority, UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees, and the Council for a Better Nevada. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Edison Electric Institute.

**Sponsors**

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