

# ACEC/MA Utilities & Energy Conference

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Nando Gomez  
Vice President



# ACEC Energy Committee

- Jim Haynes- President & CEO POWER Engineers
- Bill Bradford- Sr. Vice President Hanson Professional Services
- Nando Gomez- Vice President ACEC
- Planning Committee- Core members helping to develop the foundation, strategy development
- 70 plus members serving power generation & delivery, building efficiency, petrochemical & oil/gas



# ACEC|Energy Committee Goals

- Proactive Legislative & Regulatory Advocacy
- Thought Leadership
- Communicate & Educate- Market and Technology Trends
- Develop Strategy- 3 to 5 years
- Engage ACEC Members Across Markets
- Collaborate- Externally and Internally

# ACEC|Energy Committee Goals

- Short Term
  - Grid Modernization Policy|Influence Policy
    - Data Center Industry Impact
  - FERC Engagement Strategy
    - Identify & Meet key FERC staff & Commissioners
  - Permitting Reform
    - E-NEPA
    - Legislation|Agency Initiatives



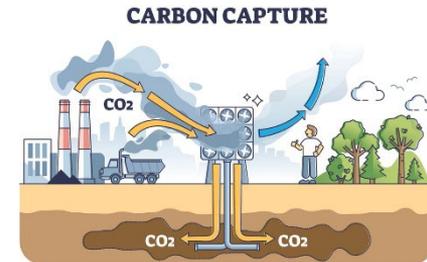
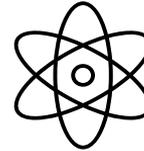
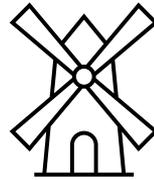
# ACEC|Energy Committee Goals

- Long Term

- Nuclear legislation| Policy

- Emerging Markets

- Hydrogen
- EV
- Off-Shore Wind
- Carbon Capture Sequestration
- Building Efficiency



# Regulatory Actions – 2024

## **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission(FERC) Actions**

- Rules to accelerate the planning and permitting of high-voltage transmission lines
  - The regulator will require grid planners to perform 20-year assessments and approve rules to permit high-voltage power lines in national corridors.
  - Set guidelines for divvying up billions of dollars of costs to overhaul grids.
  - Developers will be required for the first time to engage tribal and environmental justice communities early in the process.
  - Congressional Republicans & Edison Institute have expressed opposition
- Senate may confirm three nominees|Complement of 5 Commissioners
  - Democrats David Rosner & Judy Chang and Republican Lindsay See.

# Regulatory Actions – 2024

## Carbon Plant Rule

- EPA issued final regulations requiring coal plants to drastically reduce emissions, from cutting greenhouse gas pollution by 90% to restricting mercury and wastewater discharge.
- This rule has already steadfast opposition via a lawsuit from several state Attorney General Offices and some utilities

## China Tariffs

- Noting that China's exports of **electric vehicles** increased by 70% from 2022 to 2023, the 100% tariff rate aims to protect US markets from Chinese EVs
- China's **solar cells** production dominates global marketplaces, claiming over 80% of global supply chains....25% to 50%

# Regulatory Actions – 2024

## NEPA Phase 2

- White House issued a final rule that implements the statutory changes to NEPA made in last year's Fiscal Responsibility Act (the debt-limit deal)
- Includes deadlines and page limits for the environmental reviews that agencies conduct for all projects seeking permits, and modifications to the scope of review and required analysis.
- Requires one agency to lead the review of any permit, rather than giving veto power to multiple agencies.
- Some groups and Congressional Republicans have alleged that the rule gives preferential treatment to projects the Biden administration likes, threatens to prolong agency analyses by making them too complicated, increases the threat of litigation, and broadens the definition of projects subject to a NEPA review.

# Legislative Actions – 2024

## **Expand Nuclear Energy**

- Legislative bill calls for predictable licensing, and promotion of technologies like small reactors.
- Strong bipartisan support; likely attached to larger bill as an amendment

## • **Legislative Window Likely Closes After Memorial Day**

## • **Possible Actions After Elections|Lame Duck Session**

# *The Next Congress – Key Priorities*

## ■ **2017 Tax Law**

- The 20% tax deduction and other elements on the individual side of the tax code expire at the end of 2025.
- ACEC engaging this year and next on key priorities:
  - Protect the 21% corporate rate and the 20% passthrough deduction for balanced tax treatment of all business structures
  - R&D, employee ownership, workforce incentives

## ■ **The Next IIJA**

- IIJA expires at the end of 2026 -- IIJA Part II versus stand-alone surface, aviation, water and energy bills?
- Coordinating with industry stakeholders on common goal, message in 2024.

## Food For Thought Numbers



Campaign funds spent for each vote in the 1988 presidential election: **\$5.4**

Campaign funds spent for each vote in the 2020 presidential election: **\$23.93**

Number of times in the past six presidential elections that the three Great Lakes swing states (PA, MI, WI) voted **Democratic: 15 (out of 18)** – *all three losses to Donald Trump in 2016*

### Americans with unfavorable views of both parties:

2002: **7%**  
2023: **28%**



Percentage of US voters who would be **more likely to vote for a 2024 presidential candidate** if Taylor Swift endorsed them: **18%**



Provocative statistics to highlight important moments in government affairs, illuminate change in the political landscape, and enliven readers' cocktail party conversations

Total US Public debt as a percentage of GDP:  
1998: **60.4%**  
2015: **100.5%**  
2023: **121.7%**

US total health care expenditure per capita:  
2002: **\$5,680**  
2022: **\$13,493**

Percentage of Americans who said in 1999 that they would vote for **Donald Trump** for president over Al Gore or George Bush: **5%**

Percentage of Americans who said in 1999 that they would vote for **Heather Locklear** for president over Al Gore or George Bush: **6%**

# ACEC National



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