The United States Energy Association

The United States Energy Association helps expand energy infrastructure in developing countries with the U.S. Agency for International Development and supports policy and technical discussions with the U.S. Department of Energy to expand the use of clean energy technology globally.

USEA’s objective is to increase energy access globally and serve as a platform to share information about energy development and the realities of global energy issues in the 21st century.
Dear USEA Members & Friends,

Though this 2019 Annual Report is a reflection of the great work of USEA over the past year, I want to begin by sharing my sympathy with fellow Board members, and our greater USEA family, staff and global energy stakeholders for all we’ve faced since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. As we begin to rebuild, I think about the solid foundation our essential industry has laid, especially over the past year, to help us withstand the shocks of 2020.

Our industry has and will continue to adhere to sound principles of environmental protection, resource management, and efficient, reliable and affordable energy development and delivery. 2019 was an enormously successful year for the energy sector, for producers and consumers, from the renewable sector to the fossil fuel industry. We put ourselves on a trajectory as a country we celebrated emissions reductions, and the adoption of new technologies for emissions reduction for all types of energy production.

President Trump continued with policies that empowered the energy industry to produce and innovate. And the administration provided federal support to negotiate deals with our allies to export energy in unprecedented ways.

U.S. LNG thrived in 2019 as liquefied natural gas exports grew by about 60 percent and the country positioned itself as the third largest world supplier of LNG on a path to become number 1 by 2024. We witnessed our government partners clearing bureaucratic hurdles with a vision. Shortly thereafter, the Washington political machine was in high gear. Climate hearings began on Capitol Hill, and Barry Worthington was called twice to testify on energy, climate and national security before the House Energy and Commerce committee, and the House Foreign Affairs committee.

Being a congressional witness gave our executive director a chance to highlight USEA’s international work and our successes overseas with our partner agencies—USAID and DOE.

It was a year of growth, more visibility for USEA, a stronger brand, all which yielded more opportunities and partnerships with our federal government. We were chosen as a federal partner with the State Department on the coveted Asia EDGE initiative to help create sustainable energy markets in the Indo-Pacific.

As I share these great stories with you, I feel privileged to serve as the Chairman of USEA, and I am honored to succeed, Vicky Bailey, USEA’s longest-serving Chairman. Vicky is a friend, a trailblazer in our energy world and a role model to so many of us who look to her leadership and accomplishments to drive our own. Her impact on the energy industry, and the policy and regulation affecting it worldwide is unparalleled.

On behalf of our entire organization, I want to thank Vicky, and you, for your continued support. USEA is at the core of all relevant high-level discussions and energy developments worldwide.

I expect 2020 will be a year of resilience, cooperation, restoration and yes, growth.

Sincerely,
Sheila Slocum Hollis
Chairman, United States Energy Association
EXECUTIVES from across the sector, from fossil fuels to renewable energy, discussed the energy landscape from their unique vantage point. The good news is that all expected and planned for growth for their segment of the industry.

USEA structured the Forum in three main segments: Challenges and Opportunities for the Energy Industry; Electric Issues 2019; and, 2019 Oil & Gas Outlook.

Abigail Ross Hopper, President & CEO, Solar Energy Industries Association, discussed the upcoming “Solar Energy Decade” that would begin in 2020. She told the audience that 76% of American energy consumers want their utility to invest more in solar power, both large and small-scale solar. USEA-member SEIA revealed by the end of 2019, that consumer demand was being met.

According to its fourth quarter report, more than 1.4 gigawatts of utility-scale installations came online by the end of the third quarter. And across all market segments, solar photovoltaics represented 39% of all new electricity-generating capacity additions.

The second session of the Forum, Electric Issues 2019, focused on the state of electricity generation, transmission, and distribution. Executives from the geothermal, coal, utility, and wind organizations delivered remarks.

Betsy Monseu, CEO, American Coal Council, highlighted the plight of coal plants in the United States in recent years. Coal’s share of national electric generation decreased from 45% in 2010, to 28% in 2018. However, she emphasized that coal is a sturdy source of electric generation, characterized by low cost and cost stability over time.

Fossil fuels took center stage at the final session of the day, 2019 Oil & Gas Outlook. Leaders from gas and petroleum associations discussed the state of U.S. exports, innovation in the fossil fuel industry, advanced technology, and the need to protect the process of hydraulic fracturing that led the country to the shale revolution and positioned the U.S. as the largest oil and gas exporter.

Charlie Riedl, Executive Director, Center for Liquidified Natural Gas, talked U.S. LNG. At the beginning of 2019 during the Forum, Riedl predicted it would be one of the best years for U.S. LNG. Between expedited approvals for applications at the U.S. Energy Department to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission streamlining the siting and construction permitting process for LNG terminals, the industry is optimistic about its growth.

Reidl looked forward at global energy demand and how U.S. LNG could and would help meet that. He also focused on the rapidly growing nature of LNG infrastructure and exports. The United States exported LNG to 28 countries in 2018, and three new LNG export facilities would begin construction during in 2019.

USEA Executive Director Barry Worthington said:

“Hearing the presentations and discussions among our members, executives, policymakers and others, I’m increasingly confident that 2019 will be a prosperous year for the energy sector. I’m also encouraged by the positive impact the Trump administration policies have had on the energy sector and our members overall.

“It’s clear that President Trump’s policies have encouraged American energy production and removed unnecessary and redundant barriers to development, delivery, technological innovation and exports. Policies that secure and expand U.S. energy supplies position our country as a world supplier which advances U.S. energy security and protects our allies.”

Other executives from USEA-members who spoke at the Forum include:

- **Mike Sommers**, President & CEO – American Petroleum Institute
- **Thomas Kuhn**, President – Edison Electric Institute
- **Dave McCurdy, President & CEO** – American Gas Association
- **Hal Quinn, President & CEO** – National Mining Association
- **Maria Korsnick, President & CEO** – Nuclear Energy Institute
- **Jim Matheson, Chief Executive Officer** – National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- **Will Pettitt, Executive Director** – Geothermal Resources Council
- **Delia Patterson, Sr. Vice President** – Advocacy & Communications and General Council – American Public Power Association
- **Joy Ditto, President & CEO** – Utilities Technology Council
- **Arshad Mansoor, Sr. Vice President, Research & Development** – Electric Power Research Institute
- **John Hensley, Senior Director of Research & Analytics** – American Wind Energy Association
- **Dena Wiggins, President & CEO** – Natural Gas Supply Association
- **Donald Santa, President & CEO** – Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
- **Derrick Morgan, Sr., Vice President, Federal & Regulatory Affairs** – American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers

“Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice.”

- William Shakespeare
On May 23rd USEA hosted its Annual Membership Meeting & Public Policy Forum. The mid-year meeting brought together USEA members and stakeholders to highlight industry achievements and international efforts, including success stories of improving global energy access.

USEA hosted a distinguished group of speakers from the Trump administration in 2019, which included Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Neil Chatterjee.

The star-studded line-up of influencers drew more than 100 participants from the public and private sectors, journalists, diplomats, and others.

West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin kicked off the event with the opening keynote address.

The Democratic senator spoke extensively about the value of fossil fuels to our energy mix and our international efforts to meet a growing energy demand, and he talked about his commitment to protecting the industry.

He mentioned the fears that were raised when he was first elected Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

“You’re not going to eliminate fossil fuels and if you think we’re going to eliminate fossil anytime soon, you’re mistaken,” he told USEA.

West Virginia suffered incredible losses during the last administration when former President Obama promised to shrink the coal industry. Senator Manchin emphasized that even if the U.S. were to close all coal plants, the impact would be minimal on global coal use.

FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee delivered the afternoon keynote remarks. He discussed FERC’s accomplishments in helping drive success in the energy sector, streamlining otherwise laborious bureaucratic processes, including the process to approve LNG terminal applications. The FERC Chairman said the U.S. was uniquely poised to help meet international demand for natural gas, and he stressed the need for new U.S. pipeline capacity. Chatterjee touted FERC’s work on energy storage, mentioning that a lot of foreign partners are reaching out to the agency to learn more about recent U.S. energy storage advancements.

Chairman said the U.S. was uniquely poised to help meet a growing energy demand, and he talked about his commitment to protecting the industry.

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Chairman Neil Chatterjee discusses the successful year for the U.S. energy industry, including the U.S. LNG revolution and energy storage advancements.

USEA Annual Membership Meeting, and passed it to then-Treasurer Sheila Slocum Hollis.

USEA's longest-serving Chairman, Vicky Bailey, brought her gavel down for the last time in May 2019, just before the USEA Annual Membership Meeting, and passed it to then-Treasurer Sheila Slocum Hollis.

At the time of her departure, USEA Executive Director Barry Worthington called Bailey a strong leader, one whose experience and expertise were instrumental in the success of our international programs.

We are deeply grateful for her leadership and her friendship,” Worthington said.

Speaking about her time on the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, to which she was appointed in 1986, Bailey said:

“I was the only female Commissioner on the Board at the time and the first African American female to be on the Commission. At times, this made me wonder how do I fit in and what do I say that has substance, meaning, and will make an impact.

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You are so busy trying to choose your words so carefully that sometimes you end up saying nothing at all and the last thing you want is to not have a voice. So for women, I would say that it is so important to find your voice and be comfortable in participating. So that may mean getting out of your comfort zone and give voice to your thoughts and ideas and know they are important because you are there for a reason.”

USEA THANKS FORMER BOARD CHAIRMAN VICKY BAILEY

Bailey has been at the epicenter of energy development for decades. Speaking about her time on the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, to which she was appointed in 1986, Bailey said:

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During the USEA Annual Membership Meeting & Public Policy Forum, USEA announced the recipients of the 2019 USEA Volunteer Awards. USEA applauds the spirit of volunteerism and recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations for their contributions to USEA activities that expand energy access globally. The International Volunteer Recognition Program highlights the extraordinary contributions of the U.S. energy industry to support U.S. government initiatives, demonstrate global corporate and social responsibilities, and contribute to worldwide sustainable development.

2019 USEA Corporate Volunteer Awards

Edison Electric Institute
USEA honored Edison Electric Institute (EEI) for its contribution to the Utility Cyber Security Initiative, a project of the USAID/USEA Energy Technology and Governance Program (ETAG) which was created in response to cyber-attacks directed at transmission and distribution networks in Europe and Eurasia. Scott Aaronson accepted the award on behalf of EEI.

EEI is dramatically improving the capacity of utilities in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine to: identify threats; exchange threat information; adopt technical, procedural and institutional cyber security standards; implement a risk-based methodology to evaluate and prioritize threats; and create new strategies and corporate responsibilities for cyber security.

Chelan Public Utility District (Chelan PUD)
USEA recognized Chelan Public Utility District (Chelan PUD) for its contribution to the Uganda Utility Partnership under the USEA/USAID Energy Utility Partnership Program. Janel Ulrich & Garry Arseneault accepted the award on behalf of Chelan PUD.

Chelan PUD sent volunteer experts to Kampala, Uganda to share best practices in asset management and operations, and maintenance of hydropower plants. Later that year, Chelan PUD hosted a delegation of high-level UEGCL executives at its headquarters in Wenatchee, Washington.

This tripartite partnership has been immensely successful in helping Uganda develop its asset management strategy, improve operations and maintenance procedures, and certify its employees in ISO 55000.

2019 USEA Individual Energy Volunteer Awards

Charles Bayless, Former CEO
Tucson Electric Power, Illinois Power
USEA is honored to recognize Charles Bayless for his contributions to the Electricity Market Initiative for Southeast Europe (EMI), a project of the USAID/USEA Energy Technology and Governance Program.

Bayless’ participation in the Electricity Market Initiative is changing the transmission planning and operation paradigm in Southeast Europe. He is helping electricity executives and regulators prepare for microgrids, electric vehicles, renewables on the transmission and distribution networks, and electricity storage, in a manner that few experts can.

Phillip Harris, Former CEO
PJM Interconnection
USEA recognized Phillip Harris for his contribution to the Electricity Market Initiative for Southeast Europe (EMI), a project of the USAID/USEA Energy Technology and Governance Program.

As an ETAG volunteer Harris applied his knowledge of electricity markets to Southeast Europe, where “Balkanized” national markets result in market seams and higher transaction costs for wholesale electricity trade.

Harris’ contributions to the Electricity Market Initiative are accelerating the development of the wholesale market, improving energy security and bringing reliable and affordable power to electricity consumers in the region.

Nelisiwe Magubane, Chairperson
Matleng Energy Solutions (Pty) Ltd.
USEA recognized Nelisiwe (Neli) Magubane for her contribution to the Energy Utility Partnership Program (EUPP). Magubane’s participation in EUPP activities was instrumental in the success of many USEA workshops and exchanges worldwide. Magubane is the Chairperson of Matleng Energy Solutions.

Matleng Energy Solutions is a South African black woman-owned company, led by Magubane, in association with Seleme Melato and Corrie van der Wath.

With Magubane’s vast expertise in all areas of the energy sector, USEA was grateful that she volunteered her expertise to assist in our partnership activities. Her contributions include participation in USEA workshops in several countries, including Tanzania, Ghana, and Thailand.

“In a gentle way, you can shake the world.” - Mahatma Gandhi
In the spring of 2019, USEA Executive Director Barry Worthington said there was an important policy discussion not happening in Washington, one that explores the nexus between energy policy and technology development.

By the summer of 2019, he had launched the inaugural Advanced Energy Technology Forum.

I n July, USEA hosted more than 100 energy and technology executives from the government and private industry to explore how one affects the other and innovation on both fronts.

Energy Secretary Rick Perry delivered the keynote address at the Forum where he praised U.S. universities and national laboratories for developing some of the most promising new technologies that will transform the energy industry and the U.S. electric sector.

Secretary of Energy Rick Perry. USEA Executive Director Barry Worthington hosts a “fireside chat” with Secretary of Energy Rick Perry.

Perry’s remarks at USEA came on the heels of President Trump’s remarks at the White House in July where the administration celebrated with the energy industry American energy innovation and environmental policies that have made U.S. air and water among the cleanest in the world.

Two special panels anchored the afternoon itinerary—one on national labs and another on universities.

White House Chronicle host Llewellyn King moderated the discussion.

The second panel, “What’s New With The National Labs,” delved into the energy degree programs of major universities, including new energy curricula, overview of degrees offered, and the institutional goals of the energy programs.

The panel featured speakers from the University of Florida, University of Minnesota Duluth, Pennsylvania State University, and Lehigh University. Steve Mimick, Public Utilities Fortnightly editor, moderated the discussion.

In accepting the U.S. Energy Award, Howard said, “I am honored to receive this USEA award in recognition of EPRI’s growing leadership in the global electric industry.

“Under President Trump’s leadership, we have put innovation, not regulation squarely in the drivers’ seat of our energy policy.” – U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry

United States Energy Award 2019

In 2019, Dr. Michael W. Howard, then-President and CEO of the Electric Power Research Institute, accepted the coveted United States Energy Award at the Advanced Energy Technology Forum in July.

Howard, arguably the country’s foremost expert in electrical engineering and power systems, has more than 35 years of leadership experience overseeing operations, which includes finance, sales and marketing, product development, and strategic planning. Howard has a long history of providing technical consulting services and products to domestic and international electric utility companies.

Prior to his role as CEO of EPRI, Howard served as Senior Vice President for research and development, and President and CEO of EPRI Solutions, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of EPRI that had been created by the merger of three companies, one of which was the EPRI Power Electronics Application Center Corporation, where he served as President and CEO.

Dr. Howard started his career in 1980 with Westinghouse Electric Corporation as an application engineer for the fossil and nuclear digital control systems group.

USEA Executive Director Barry Worthington said, “Mike Howard has demonstrated strong leadership in guiding EPRI to participate more fully in meeting the challenges of the global electric industry. This award recognizes EPRI’s role in facilitating the use of new technologies to enable more people to have cleaner and affordable electricity.”

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Energy Secretary Rick Perry delivered the keynote address at the Forum where he praised U.S. universities and national laboratories for developing some of the most promising new technologies that will transform the energy industry and the U.S. electric sector.

As U.S. Energy Secretary, I have a front row seat to the greatest incubators of innovation, our national laboratories. They are spearheading astonishing research on artificial intelligence and they’ve brought us breakthrough technologies that have unleashed multiple energy sources from renewables to fossil fuels and nuclear.

“Under President Trump’s leadership, we have put innovation, not regulation squarely in the drivers’ seat of our energy policy.” – U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry

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“The award selection committee is composed of national energy leaders who examine nominees for their contribution to the energy sector.
USEA’s 12th Annual Energy Supply Forum featured dynamic presentations from high-level industry experts and policy leaders on the state of energy exploration and production, electricity generation, and energy fuel supply.

 Speakers unearthed several great discussions among participants throughout the day about resource diversity, alternative energy, and cooperation between the public and private sector on meeting a growing energy demand.

 USEA kicked off the Forum with a focus on clean and renewable energy. Three officials from DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)—Dr. Susan Hamm, Director, Geothermal Technologies Office; Hoyt Battey, Strategy and Analysis Program Manager, Water Power Technologies Office; and, Dr. Becca Jones-Albertus, Solar Energy Technologies Office—shared years of collected geothermal data and analysis and described the immense opportunity for U.S. expansion of geothermal and solar energy. They said there is massive untapped renewable energy potential across the geothermal, water, and solar sectors. While the past two decades have witnessed unprecedented growth across these sectors, the technology to harvest this energy is becoming increasingly cheaper and more efficient.

 “Solar capacity has grown by 50 times over the last 10 years. It now generates 2% of the electricity in the United States.” —Becca Jones-Albertus, DOE Office of EERE

 Speakers highlighted EERE’s critical role in developing these technologies during early-stage research and development. They said EERE develops a foundation of knowledge upon which advanced techniques and technologies can be built.

 Just after USEA-member LNG Allies’ President and CEO, Fred Hutchison, painted a rosy picture of U.S. liquified natural gas and a thriving export market, the audience was jarred out of the reverie with the luncheon keynote speaker, Robert McNally, Founder and President of the Rapidan Energy Group who packed the National Press Club ballroom. On the heels of Iran’s attack on Saudi oil facilities, McNally described in-depth the geopolitical turbulence in the Persian Gulf and its immediate and sustained impact on oil markets using vivid historical references. McNally also announced that volatile price fluctuations would be “the new normal” with oil markers, since there is no longer a global swing producer that is able and willing to adjust oil supply quickly and legally in an effort to stabilize the global oil price.

 Other speakers included:

- Jason Seilh, CEO – Enchant Energy
- Donald Hoffman, President and CEO – Excel Services Corporation
- John Dabbar, Vice President Government Affairs – ConocoPhillips
- Marty Durbin, President – Global Energy Institute

 USEA Board Member Donald Hoffman, President & CEO of EXCEL Services Corporation, speaks about recent advancements in nuclear technology. Marty Durbin, President of the Global Energy Institute of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, delivers an update on the institute’s role in facilitating U.S. energy growth.
Throughout the year, USEA organizes informational briefings designed to inform our members and stakeholders of developments in energy technology, policy and market trends.
The U.S. is now the largest energy exporter in the world, supplying oil and gas domestically and internationally to U.S. allies.

With the advances in liquefied natural gas (LNG) technologies and commercial operations, this presents a unique opportunity to support global energy development and help meet U.S. goals of increasing exports and reducing trade deficits.

Increased Indian demand for natural gas can promote increased bilateral trade between the U.S. and India as U.S. LNG exports will help India meet its energy gas needs. In 2019, several GTF members signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for commercial and technical cooperation in LNG. The GTF produced white papers on policy and commercial frameworks for successful development of a natural gas-based economy. GTF members have also developed several pilot projects to be implemented in 2020-2021 to prove the economic viability of natural gas-fueled industry in India.

CONSENSUS 2019

Building International Consensus on Oil and Natural Gas

In 2019, USEA continued to work with the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Fossil Energy to increase support and education of the oil and natural gas sectors through the “Building International Consensus on Oil and Natural Gas” program.

Because of continuing U.S.-China trade negotiations in 2019, USEA and DOE postponed the hallmark U.S. China Oil and Gas Industry Forum until 2020. The U.S. and China continued sideline conversations about energy cooperation as China looked to the U.S. to help it meet its growing energy demand for oil and natural gas.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the U.S. became the world’s largest natural gas producer in 2015 and the world’s largest petroleum producer in 2017.

The U.S.-India Gas Task Force (GTF)

In 2019, India was a focal point as a critical U.S. energy partner and growth market for U.S. exports.

In 2018, the U.S. Department of Energy invited USEA to serve as Secretariat for the U.S.-India Gas Task Force (GTF) under the U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership.

Throughout 2019, USEA worked with DOE officials, U.S. industry, the Government of India and India’s state-owned energy companies to expand the use of natural gas on the subcontinent and increase U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports to India.

The GTF supports the U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership in three strategic areas where the U.S. industry has expertise:

1. Natural Gas Markets and Regulation
2. Natural Gas Grid Strengthening
3. Stimulating Natural Gas Demand Growth

Under the agreement, the Indian government will meet its objectives of growing its natural gas economy, while the U.S. will meet its goal of promoting exports of natural gas and other goods and services.

The Government of India meets six percent of its total energy consumption with natural gas; it seeks to increase that to 15 percent by 2030. Increasing natural gas use in power generation will help diversify fuel sources, improve air quality, and improve electricity system performance. As India moves to meet its renewable energy generation targets, flexible natural gas-fired power plants can provide critical balancing services to enhance grid stability. Making natural gas available in other sectors of the economy – industry, agriculture, transportation, and residential – can reduce hazardous emissions, with positive health benefits, and potentially lower energy costs for users.

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Coal Consensus

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and USEA Promoting Domestic and International Consensus on Fossil Energy Technologies Program (CONSENSUS) conducts workshops, training programs, informational briefings and performs analyses to communicate the technical, environmental and societal benefits of fossil energy and clean coal technologies.

Workshops

USEA hosted five workshops under DOE CONSENSUS

- Rare Earth Elements and Critical Mineral Production from Domestic Coal-Based Resources
- Direct Air Capture Technology Needs
- Future Paths of Emissions Reduction Technologies/Systems in the U.S.
- Intersection of Advanced Manufacturing and Clean Coal and Carbon Capture Technologies
- CCUS Deployment Training with a focus on 45Q for Western State Governor’s Offices and congressional delegations

Briefings

USEA & DOE hosts a series of monthly briefings to improve the public’s understanding of Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage technology.

Other briefings of 2019:

- Social and Economic Impacts of the San Juan CCUS Project
- Dry Forks Power Station Integrated Test Center, Model Research in Modern CCUS and the future of Coal-Fired Power
- Research Experience in Carbon Sequestration: Application of Brine Fluids for CO2 Geologic Storage
- Opportunities in Carbon Utilization: A Vital Pathway for Decarbonization
- An Update on the Status of 45Q and How to Prepare for its Usage
- Providing the Economic Viability of CCUS
- Significant Low-Cost Opportunities for CCUS Deployment
- Economic Impacts of Carbon Capture and Sequestration
- CO2 mineralization: An Approach for Gigaton Scale Utilization of CO2 by the Construction Sector

USEA hosted the first Western States Coal Strategies Forum in Manti, Utah, with DOE FE and Utah Governor Gary Herbert’s Office of Energy Development to bring together industry, government, tribal leaders, trade and market partners to explore opportunities for coal deployment, CCS technology, advanced research in coal technologies, and discuss opportunities to export coal through western ports.
KenGen engineers discuss the current reservoir model for Olkaria with a consultant.

Kenya Geothermal Partnership

The Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) plans to add an additional 652 MW of geothermal energy by 2023 as part of Kenya’s national “Good to Great” strategy. While preparing this rapid increase in production, proper management of their resource is critical. USEA’s EAGP team supported KenGen in assessing and validating their current reservoir model for the Olkaria Geothermal Power Station. The accuracy of the model is central to ensuring KenGen can continue to develop and operate the country’s premier power resource.

Over several years, EAGP developed a partnership between KenGen, Maasai community leaders, New Zealand’s Contact Energy, and Maori partners from Ngati Tahu to share best practices for environmental and social engagement in geothermal power plant development. In 2019, this partnership led to the launch of a corporate-wide KenGen Community Engagement Strategy. The Community Engagement Strategy will now be enacted in all future generation projects across the country.

EUPP conducts partnership activities with utilities of developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. These partnerships teach the staffs of the overseas utilities U.S. and international best practices and benchmarking. In 2019, partnership activities emphasized transmission topics such as system modeling, cross border energy exchange, and renewable energy integration. EUPP also continued to exchange information and conduct training on substation maintenance, competitive procurement, data management for geothermal, project/contract management, and system flexibility.

Ethiopia Geothermal Partnership

The East Africa Geothermal Partnership (EAGP) team worked with Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) to finalize and deliver a Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) grant proposal to the African Union Commission. This was the final stage in the application process in which EEP is seeking $7.7 million in drilling support and infrastructure costs. With the application submitted, EEP is able to enter negotiation stages with the African Union Commission for an exploratory drilling grant for the Alalobeda geothermal site. The grant will be critical to developing a utility-scale geothermal plant that would add 70 MW of clean, reliable, baseload electricity.

The EAGP team continued supporting the development of a geothermal relational database for the country. Working with Geological Survey of Ethiopia (GSE), Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) and Ethiopian Energy Authority (EEA), the EAGP team strengthened data management principles to build a reliable, accessible geothermal database. Reliable, accessible data on Ethiopia’s geothermal prospects will provide both public and private developers the ability to analyze a resource and seek accurate data, decreasing the cost and time spent on the resource evaluation stage.

EAGP encouraged EEA’s geothermal directorate staff to attend technical geothermal training at the African Geothermal Center of Excellence in Kenya. EEA is charged with granting exploration and development licenses in the power sector. For the new geothermal directorate, training staff on the development process of geothermal energy is critical to instilling the skillsets necessary to establish and maintain a positive enabling environment that will allow public and private geothermal developments to thrive.

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EAST AFRICA REGIONAL GEOThermal PARTNERSHIP

EAGP convened geothermal leaders from across East Africa to attend the Geothermal Resource Conference and participate in a roundtable on geothermal industrial parks in East Africa. The event promoted strategies for the accelerated development of geothermal industrial parks in East Africa. Building long-distance transmission infrastructure from power plants to electricity load centers is a challenge in many East African countries. By promoting the development of industrial load centers near power generation centers, these countries will foster economic development while mitigating environmental impacts of projects.

Kenya

EUPP is assisting Kenya’s power sector to improve its planning and grid operations through the implementation of a fully functional network simulation model that utilities can use to plan for future expansion of the transmission system. In 2019, the group completed the advanced power system modelling and contingency analysis, steady state security analysis, and network planning and analysis training. Upon completion of USEA’s 18-month training and modeling project coordinated with Tractebel Enge, the Kenyans will be prepared to carry out power system planning and operational studies including analysis of requests for connection/integration to the high-voltage network of selected new power generation plant, renewable energy projects and other power system equipment.
Kenya: Leadership Training on Distribution Business Strategies & Operations
USEA organized week-long executive exchanges to Spain and Brazil for members of the Board of Directors and senior management of Kenya Power & Lighting Company (KPLC). The visits served as benchmarking trips to discuss a range of issues critical to a distribution utility’s modern management, including corporate governance, power/capacity acquisition best practices, loss reduction and efficiency methods, demand side management, integrated resource planning & cost/benefit analysis, emergency response, and the future role of battery storage for distribution utilities.

Tanzania
USEA continues to provide capacity building support to the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO), the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), and other in-country energy stakeholders through our information exchange programs. Tanzania has moved forward in developing a competitive procurement platform to optimize the submission of bids received for the fairest price. To assist in making this platform attractive to international bidders, USEA conducted two workshops in Tanzania on the development of this bidding framework for energy industry stakeholders and for senior-level policy makers from TANESCO and the Ministry of Energy.

At the request of the Members of Parliament, USEA conducted an “Energy 101” workshop designed to introduce Members of Parliament to energy policy, planning and governance to allow them to gain a better understanding of the energy sector.

Rwanda
In Rwanda, USEA provided capacity building assistance on long-term planning and advanced network modeling. This work will allow for expanded renewable generation to meet Rwanda’s growing energy needs and allow greater regional interconnection to facilitate cross-border power trading, while improving reliability of the national grid. Based on assistance provided by USEA, Rwanda’s utility introduced a new under-frequency load-shedding protection scheme that will prevent collapse of the system and minimize load shedding in case of large system disturbances. The utility has also implemented a measure that resolved a persistent high-voltage issue in Rwanda’s grid during nightly low-load conditions. Over-voltage contributes to rapid aging of network equipment and outages to consumers.

Uganda
Only 22% of Uganda’s population has access to electricity with nearly 6.9 million households without power. The Government of Uganda has an ambitious goal of achieving 80% electricity access by 2040. In 2019, USEA helped the generation and distribution sectors of Uganda in minimizing technical and non-technical losses, installing smart meter solutions, improving asset management capacity, and implementing international best practices in dam safety and hydropower operations. As a result of EUPP capacity building, the Uganda Electricity Generation Company Ltd. had 15 employees certified by the Institute of Asset Management and developed company-wide asset management policies. Later that year, UEGCL met with various U.S. utilities, government agencies, and energy companies to learn best practices in modernizing their grid system.

USEA, in collaboration with USEA’s Substation Operation & Maintenance Excellence Training Center, provided capacity building support to the utility’s leadership in project management and portfolio management. Because of this training, seven Senelec employees were certified as Project Management Professionals (PMP) and installed a new portfolio management information system by Oracle. USEA also trained Senelec and the electricity regulator, CRSE, in smart meter and smart grid technology to provide best practices in modernizing their grid system.

Uganda: Leadership Training on Smart Grid Systems & Loss Reduction
USEA organized a week-long executive exchange to Spain for members of the Board of Directors and senior management of Endesa S.A. (the leading company in the Spanish electricity sector and the second largest operator in the Portuguese electricity market) to provide a tour of their control center to the Kenya Power & Lighting Company Board of Directors and senior management.

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Ethiopia
The Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU) identified substation maintenance and leadership development as key capacity building areas necessary for improving the company’s overall management practices, reducing losses and expanding access and reliability. Thanks to USEA’s Substation Operation & Maintenance “Train-the-Trainers” Series for EEU, the utility’s senior substation personnel have already trained 534 substation supervisors, technicians, and engineers from various distribution substations across Ethiopia on issues of electrical safety. EEU is also establishing an Excellence Training Center to further expand their internal human resource capacity. A series of leadership development training, including visits to two leading American utilities — Duke Energy and Dominion Energy — led EEU executives to develop new safety policies to be introduced later this year.

Senegal
Senegal is one of the fastest growing economies in sub-Saharan Africa. Senelec, the national electricity company of Senegal, aims to meet this growing demand by fast-tracking generation, transmission, and distribution projects and hiring over 800 additional employees in just two years. While much of the hired staff are technical experts, there is a lack in project management experience.
USEA completed an Afghanistan Electricity Sector Governance and Management Assessment to identify, analyze, and provide actionable recommendations for future USAID programming in the country. This report will assist USAID as they determine how best to help Afghanistan improve utility operations, management, and business processes resulting in reduced losses, improved capital planning and management, and increased profitability.

Colombia

USEA's work helped the Colombian Government achieve notable successes this year. The Colombian Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) collaborated with USEA to adopt measures that ensured Colombia's first successful renewable energy auction. The 2,250 MW of renewable energy awarded far exceeded the original goal of 1,500 MW. MME expects that by January 2022, at least 10% of power distributed by companies in the wholesale market will come from renewable sources.

In addition, CREG, Colombia's regulatory body for the electricity sector, released regulations for using battery storage to relieve transmission congestion after attending USEA activities focused on the subject. Workshops and trainings during the year focused on distributed energy resources, microgrids for off-grid uses, and battery storage systems.

South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI)

USEA has been an implementing partner of USAID's SARI/EI program since 2000. SARI/EI, which covers Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, promotes energy security in South Asia through three focus areas: 1) cross border energy trade, 2) energy market formation and 3) regional clean energy development. In 2019, USEA conducted a three-day workshop for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka on steps to improve reliability and permit the pooling of resources through a regional synchronous network. A synchronized grid reduces required generating capacity, allows more environmentally-friendly power to be employed, allows more diverse power generation schemes and permits economies of scale. Economic interchange is considered the main driver for a synchronous connection in the region and most of the workshop participants believe that the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) subregion will become completely synchronous in 10 years or less.

Greening the Grid (GTG) India

Under GTG, USEA focused its 2019 work on improving India's coal generation flexibility to support the variability of wind and solar generation on the grid. India plans to deploy an unprecedented 175 GW of renewable energy onto its power grid by 2022 to greatly reduce the economy's carbon intensity and strengthen energy security. However, this means a drastic change in how India's main power supply operates. Luckily, U.S. utilities are going through a similar transition where traditional baseload coal plants have to transform their operations. USEA's American partners are collaborating with their Indian counterparts to learn approaches to reach minimum loads that have not been seen since the 1950s – a necessity to accommodate peak solar and wind generation. Through the GTG partnership, Indian utilities are identifying a number of operational modifications they can make at no added cost and are building a case for market changes that can be made to incentivize flexible operation to traditional baseload suppliers.

System Flexibility for Asia

USEA launched the regional System Flexibility for Asia (SFA) Partnership in 2019. The partnership draws best practices from India to improve grid flexibility. These lessons, which include policies, regulations, technical interventions, methods, and processes, are shared with other South Asia and Southeast Asia countries in hopes that they can be replicated regionally.

SFA's first activity was a two-day workshop held in New Delhi, India on utilizing coal-powered generation as a flexible resource to balance variable renewable energy generation.

USEA also supported the participation of Asian utility executives to attend the Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF), a majority of which were women.

Afghanistan

USEA consultants meet with Afghan stakeholders to discuss energy sector needs in the country.

Participants at the “Transition to a Synchronous Grid Workshop” in New Delhi.
ETAG

Energy Technology and Governance Program

USEA’s Energy Technology and Governance Program (ETAG) enables the countries of Europe and Eurasia to enhance their energy security and integrate energy markets on a regional basis.

In partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), ETAG programs serve to: support the maturing energy industry across southeast Europe on its journey to self-reliance; prevent malign geopolitical influence by reducing the region’s dependence on Russia for energy supply; strengthen relationships across Europe to create a regional energy network; and establish markets across the region that benefit from price transparency and price stability.

ETAG programs lean on U.S. industry expertise and technology to provide capacity building for utilities and energy professionals in the regions of development. These programs offer training and professional development, teach technical modeling and engineering best practices, and provide software and tools necessary for mature utility operation.

“Energy independence is vital to securing democracy. Nations should be able to choose where their energy comes from and how much they are willing to pay for it.”

- Brock Bierman, USAID Assistant Administrator

ETAG Delivers for Moldova

Underwritten by the generosity of the American people, USAID and USEA through ETAG delivered state-of-the-art network planning software to Moldova’s state-owned electric power transmission system operator, Moldelectrica in Chisinau, Moldova. USEA staff and its consultants will use the software to accelerate Moldova’s electrical interconnection with Europe as part of an ongoing effort to enhance the country’s energy and national security.

Ukraine European Synchronization Model Development Project

Ukrenergo, the national transmission system operator of Ukraine, signed a connection agreement with the European Network of Transmission System Operators of Electricity (ENTSO-E) in 2017. The agreement requires Ukrenergo to meet legal, regulatory, market and technical requirements before it connects to the European synchronous grid.

Among the technical requirements is proof that Ukraine will not export instability to the ENTSO-E network in the event of a disturbance on the Ukrainian grid. Ukrenergo and ENTSO-E will conduct a series of stability studies to make this determination using mathematical network simulation models being developed under the Energy Technology and Governance Program (ETAG).

In partnership with Ukrenergo and the Ukrainian generation companies, USEA travelled to generation stations in Kiev, Krivy Rog, Zaporshye, Trypilkska, Lviv, and Kharkiv to collect data needed to assemble the models.


Dave Batz, Senior Director for Cyber and Infrastructure Security at EEI, was among US utility volunteers to share best practices with their Eastern European counterparts at USEA’s Cybersecurity Summit in London.


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The USAID/USEA Utility Cyber Security Initiative (UCSI) conducted its sixth working group meeting in Chisinau, Moldova from November 11-14 to advance development of its Utility Cyber Risk Assessment Template. Scott Hocklander, USAID Mission Director for Moldova, emphasized the importance of cyber security to energy security in Europe and Eurasia as regional electricity networks become increasingly connected to each other and with Europe.

Southeast Europe Distribution System Operator Security of Supply Working Group (DSO)

Building resilience in the regional distribution network

The DSO working group provided distribution system operators in Southeast Europe with training and powerful network planning software. They will use it in cooperation with ETAG to improve network resilience and to plan for the integration of distributed generation.

Eastern Europe Natural Gas Partnership (EE-NGP)

Diversifying natural gas supply in Southeast Europe

Using the region’s first multinational planning model (MAX 2040), the EE-NGP completed a hydraulic and economic analysis identifying the most cost effective configuration of pipeline infrastructure, LNG import terminals and natural storage facilities needed to maximize the diversity of the region’s natural gas supply.

Electricity Market Initiative (EMI)

Accelerating regional electricity market integration

EMI conducted a multi-scenario study market simulation identifying the benefits of integrating national electricity markets on a regional basis. The results were shared with policy makers, regulators and electricity traders and other stakeholders in an effort to build support for wholesale electricity market integration.

Through its market simulations and regional analyses, the EMI working group quantitatively makes a case to policy makers, regulators, Transmission System Operator executives and potential investors who could benefit from regional integration. It identifies infrastructure investments and recommends policy changes required to do so. By providing training to its working group members, the EMI is building a regional planning capacity to sustain market integration over the next decade.
In May, USEA hosted a dozen German journalists through the U.S. State Department’s Foreign Press Center for the German Diversity & Security Tour. In early 2019 USEA Communications helped coordinate the effort to connect the journalists with U.S. energy sources. USEA Executive Director was a key resource and appeared in dozens of published stories on energy policy and industry development.

Visibility creates opportunity and access for the greater good. For USEA in 2019 that meant building on previous years’ brand development, expanding our reach on social platforms, becoming a stronger source for the media, integrating members into new projects, events and weaving their perspective into the press. It meant continued outreach and engagement with lawmakers and the Executive Branch.

Visibility has helped USEA expand international programs, develop new partnerships, attract new members, diversify voices at our forums and events and elevate the brand among domestic and international audiences. In 2020, USEA expects to grow its staff to support the new programs and projects, and USEA communications efforts expect to support that growth. All of this rests on the strong leadership and support of our executive director, Barry Worthington, an energy stalwart.

Sometimes it’s subtle. For example, in 2019, USEA was asked to pen a letter to Trump administration cabinet members and the White House that highlights the value of the Navajo Generating Station. This was a contentious issue where USEA would otherwise not be involved. We are not lobbyists, and we are not advocates, which makes USEA very attractive to those who are.

Barry Worthington sent a persuasive letter that spoke of energy access for thousands of Arizona residents, the Navajo and Hopi tribes. USEA provided value to our long-time member, Peabody, through those efforts.

In the same way, The White House asked USEA if we might support the nomination of Deputy Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette to become Secretary of Energy with a letter that would appear in a packet the administration would send to Capitol Hill for Brouillette’s Senate confirmation. Barry Worthington wrote a fair, supportive letter on behalf of Secretary Brouillette.

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As we look to the future, success of our communications strategy requires diverse tactics and an artful approach as we face changes to our industry—new global alliances, an evolving new world order, a thriving global LNG trade, decarbonization initiatives, growth of a carbon capture sequestration technology market, and a new Congress armed with its own ideas and thoughts on developing our industry.

We continue to be part of those conversations in traditional forums and on digital ones. USEA is present and engaged. As we continue to find creative ways to share our international development success stories, USEA communications is sharing the news digitally through our social platforms @USEnergyAssn.

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Our Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn followers continue to grow. Our Twitter following has increased more than 11,000% since 2016. These platforms allow us to share the amazing impact the United States is making around world in bringing reliable, affordable energy to developing countries.

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USEA was founded almost 100 years ago.

But it was 30 years ago when its Executive Director Barry Worthington took the helm with his vision—bringing energy access to the world. To that end, he built partnerships with the federal government, energy stakeholders, and the press. He built USEA.

USEA kicked off 2019 with a celebration.

USEA Board members, staff and stakeholders joined Barry Worthington to ring the Opening Bell at the New York Stock Exchange. It was more than a marker of tenure, Worthington said it was a milestone in American energy development.

It was the second year the U.S. was the world’s largest oil and gas producer. Worthington assured that continuing on this trajectory would portend energy and national security for our citizens and our allies around the world.

“We are thrilled that NYSE executives invited us to be part of this historic event. And I’m personally grateful to be honored for leading such a great team of energy professionals who work tirelessly to help improve energy access around the world with our federal agency partners,” –Barry Worthington, January 2019

When Worthington joined USEA in 1988, the organization was floundering. It had expenses of $250,000 and revenues of $200,000. Last year, USEA revenues were nearly $10 million.

Barry Worthington told Public Utilities Fortnightly that his team’s first trip to Europe with USAID was in 1992 with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)

“There were no cell phones, much less smart phones, and we were all at the train station in Bratislava, Slovakia, where no one spoke English. It was interesting.”

Worthington said one of his proudest moments was when CEZ, the electric company in the Czech Republic, received its bond rating, “CEZ was the first utility from the region to earn a bond rating. They were partners with Houston Lighting & Power (HL&P), a partnership he was personally very involved with structuring.

“The HL&P Treasurer took the CEZ chief financial officer to New York City and introduced him to his Wall Street contacts,” Worthington said.

There were three big issues utilities in that region had to contend with – cost-based prices, frequency stabilization, and environmental emissions from coal-fired power generation.

While these issues were settled fifteen years ago, today utilities all around the world are trying to figure out how to integrate wind and solar and other intermittent sources into their power grids. Worthington said building energy infrastructure with our allies is critical to our national security.

Worthington said this has been a successful partnership, and the scope of work has expanded. USAID and USEA work together to build energy infrastructure in more than thirty countries. And there are two developing trends intertwined.

Deploying advanced technologies is one. Using these technologies to further reduce emissions is the other.

“The rate of change in technology development and deployment is unprecedented,” he said.

“Electricity generation, advanced sensors, carbon capture and storage, renewables, and technologies still to be discovered will change every aspect of the electricity business, and the energy business more broadly, very rapidly,” Worthington said.

From lawmakers to administration officials, global stakeholders and the press, Barry Worthington has been seen as a reliable source, someone who represents consistency and sound judgement on energy policy for 30 years and counting.

Executive Director Barry Worthington testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in April. The hearing, “How Climate Change Threatens U.S. National Security,” was one of the most critical hearings that congressional committees took up on climate change in the new 116th Congress.

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