WELCOME AND PLENARY
Howard Gruenspecht, Acting Administrator and Deputy Administrator, EIA
Greg Walden, Chairman of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee
Scott Sheffield, Executive Chairman of the Board, Pioneer Natural Resources

RENEWABLE PROJECT FINANCING: CURRENT AND FUTURE International Ballroom West
Innovations in financing renewable energy projects have developed in recent years. To realize available financial incentives such as federal tax credits and accelerated depreciation of assets, the wind and solar industries have developed their own approaches to project finance that set them apart from others in the electric power industry. Using corporate renewable power purchase agreements (PPAs)—in lieu of standard utility PPAs—to finance renewable energy projects is also on the rise. The new financial structures may bring advantages in terms of raising capital from tax equity partners or finding higher-value customers but may also impose additional transactional costs on the projects. This session will provide insights on how EIA is taking into account current issues in renewable energy project finance, discuss implications of changes to federal tax laws, and introduce corporate PPAs and their use.

Keith Martin, Partner, Chadbourne & Parke
Colin Murchie, Senior Director, Customer Energy Services, Sol Systems
James Saeger, Director, Power & Renewables, North America, IHS Markit
Moderator: Chris Namovicz, Team Lead, Renewable Electricity Analysis, EIA

LUNCH AND PLENARY
Alex Laskey, President and Founder, Opower

THE ENERGY-WATER NEXUS AND INDUCED SEISMICITY International Ballroom East
This session will provide an overview of issues related to induced seismicity associated with oil and natural gas production. Expanded domestic oil and natural gas development over the past decade led to increased seismicity in several areas of the country, including areas where it was previously uncommon. The primary cause of this is the disposal of produced-water (a by-product of the oil and natural gas extraction process) by large-scale wastewater injection. Topics discussed will include the evolution of this seismicity, the geology, economics, and regulatory frameworks associated with wastewater injection, and the challenges and opportunities related to managing wastewater produced from oil and natural gas production.

Jeremy Boak, Director, Oklahoma Geological Survey, University of Oklahoma
Linda Capuano, Fellow in Energy Technology, Center for Energy Studies, Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy
Kyle Murray, Hydrogeologist, Oklahoma Geological Survey, University of Oklahoma
Moderator: Meg Coleman, Team Lead, Exploration & Production, EIA

THE FUTURE OF U.S. NUCLEAR POWER International Ballroom West
Electric utilities have generally viewed nuclear power as a source of reliable, base-load generation with zero CO2 emissions. However, in the past few years, competition has increased between renewables and low-cost natural gas in an environment of low electricity demand growth and challenging capacity and carbon emission market-pricing conditions. These conditions have led several owners to either retire plants or seek relief to cover their operating and ongoing capital costs. The high costs for new nuclear plants, relative to natural gas and renewables, and the large investments required also pose a challenge to new nuclear development. This session will address the future of nuclear power in the United States by taking a closer look at the competitive challenges facing the existing fleet and the options available to plant owners and state/federal regulators as they examine the role of nuclear energy in their generation portfolios.

Edward Kee, CEO, Nuclear Economics Consulting Group
Chris Mudrick, Senior VP for Northeast Operations & COO CENG, Exelon
Bradley Williams, Senior Advisor, Office of Nuclear Energy, DOE
Moderator: Greg Adams, Team Lead, Coal & Uranium Analysis, EIA

GASOLINE FUEL QUALITY: THE LOOMING OCTANE SHORTAGE International Ballroom East
To comply with more stringent fuel economy standards, one of the major automotive industry strategies relies on engine designs that require higher compression ratios. Higher compression ratios, in turn, require gasoline with a higher octane rating. In the past five years, this design shift has resulted in increasing shares of premium gasoline sales and an almost doubling of the retail price difference between regular and premium gasoline. This session will explore future limitations on gasoline octane that stem from limited ethanol blending, low-quality refinery feedstocks, and new Tier 3 regulations and potential refinery investments.

Blake Eskew, Vice President, Global Consulting, IHS
Tom Kloza, Global Head of Energy Analysis, OPIS
Max Pyziur, Director, Downstream Projects, Energy Policy Research Foundation, Inc.
Moderator: Lynn Westfall, Director, Office of Energy Markets and Financial Analysis, EIA

HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND ENERGY USE IN BUILDINGS International Ballroom West
Researchers are studying the connection between human behavior and energy use and are developing technologies such as intelligent systems and devices that result in more efficient energy use. This panel will explore both the human and technological aspects of this relationship to provide insights into how current efforts may shape future energy use in buildings.

Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez, Associate Director, Navigant
Kurt Roth, Director, Building Energy Technologies, Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems
Marina Sofos, Technology Manager, Building Technologies Office, DOE
Moderator: Erin Boedecker, Team Lead, Buildings Energy Consumption & Efficiency Analysis, EIA
UNDERSTANDING THE NEW INPUT AND OUTPUT FILES IN THE INDUSTRIAL DEMAND MODULE
A years-long overhaul of some of the industry submodules of the Industrial Demand Module (IDM), a module of the National Energy Modeling System (NEMS), is complete. We use NEMS results to formulate our projections for the Annual Energy Outlook (AEO). Modeling for five industries—paper, glass, cement and lime, iron and steel, and aluminum—are now more detailed. Supplementary modeling system (NEMS) is complete. We use NEMS results to formulate our projections for the Annual Energy Outlook (AEO).