

PROTECTING ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURES FROM CLIMATE PHYSICAL RISKS, SORTED BY CONSEQUENCE

THURSDAY: SESSION 2, TRACK 1

SESSION CHAIRS / PRESENTERS

- Andy Bochman, Idaho National Laboratory
- Gavin Hawkey, Idaho National Laboratory
- Ryan Cobey, Idaho National Laboratory

SESSION ABSTRACT

While much attention is being paid to the emissions mitigation side of the global climate crisis, climate resilience actions are being treated with less urgency. Unprecedented heat, drought, wildfires, flooding, breaks in the polar vortex, or storms of increasing frequency and ferocity, impacts are arriving earlier and accelerating faster than many climate scientists had anticipated. And depending on the geography in question, all of these are taking their toll on electricity generation, transmission and distribution, and driving changes in load as well. This panel discussion will explore the challenges and opportunities available for protecting and/or adapting critical energy and interdependent infrastructures from the physical risks already arising from the current level of climate change, with an eye on preparing for the even more destructive phenomena coming in the years ahead. In addition to helping devise better strategies for protecting highest-consequence built infrastructures from present and looming climate threats, we will discuss possible climate-informed strategies for siting and specifying requirements for future infrastructure assets.