4th Annual
North American Environment, Energy, & Natural Resources Conference

Energy and Climate: Opportunities, Challenges, and Innovations

Sponsored by Blank Rome, LLP, the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources (EENR) Center of the University of Houston Law Center, UH Energy, the University of Calgary Faculty of Law, and the Greater Houston Partnership

April 16, 2020, Greater Houston Partnership, Partnership Tower, 701 Avenida de las Americas, Suite 900 (Houston Light Rail Green Line, Purple Line, Convention Center Stop)

As the Climate Crisis continues to grow, North American companies and governments are making new policies, looking at their risks and exploring new opportunities and business models. The 4th North American Conference on Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources will examine the changing business and legal environment surrounding climate change mitigation and adaptation. The conference will feature presentations about the new United States Mexico and Canada trade agreement (USMCA), policies to protect energy infrastructure, as well as a first look at potential technological innovations and legal responses with negative emissions technology.

AGENDA

Thursday, April 16, 2020

8:30 A.M. Registration and light breakfast
9:00 A.M.  Welcome – EENR and Blank Rome representatives

9:15 A.M.  Climate Constraints and Technological Innovation
            Ramanan Krishnamoorti, moderator and speaker, UH Energy

            Energy Investment in Direct Air Capture and Other technologies
            Steve Oldham, CEO, Carbon Engineering
            Jeremy Friesen, Senior R&D Engineer, NET Power

            Innovations in low carbon emissions and IP innovation
            Joshua Sarnoff, DePaul University, IP issues and negative emissions technology
            (by video link)
            Sean McDermott, Blank Rome

10:45 A.M.  Break

            Victor Flatt, UHLC EENR Center (moderator and speaker)

            Mexico, Canada, US overview
            Bret Wells, UHLC EENR Center

            Q45, Tax policy and carbon management
            Fred Lowther, Blank Rome

            Tax policy and renewable energy
            Tracy Hester, UHLC EENR Center

            Federal policy on negative emissions technologies

11:50 A.M.  What can we expect from the new USMCA
            Elizabeth Trujillo, UHLC

12:15 P.M.  Lunch with Dean’s Panel for Corporate General Counsel

            Legal Issues and the Growth of Renewables

            Praveen Kumar, UH Bauer GEMI
            Luis Sera, Tec de Monterey

            Mexico’s energy forecast
            Julian Cardenas, UHLC EENR Center

Gina Warren, UHLC EENR Center (moderator)
James Bradbury, Georgetown Climate Center (remotely)

New state initiatives in climate; The Transportation and Climate Initiative

Alfonso Lopez de la Osa Escribano, UHLC US-Mexican Law Center

Mexico’s current energy scenario under AMLO, now and in 5 years

Chantal Carriere, White & Case

The changing Canadian political and legal landscape for climate and energy

Clayton Forswall, Trans West Pipelines

Litigation over midstream pipelines and coal

3:10 P.M.  Break

3:20 P.M.  Energy Infrastructure and Climate Risk

Margaret Hill, Blank Rome (moderator and speaker)

Legal Responses to Physical Risk

Kristin Van De Biezenbos, U. Calgary Faculty of Law

Physical infrastructure risk Canada

Maury Hudson, Vice President of Operations and Maintenance, Magnolia LNG (a subsidiary of Liquefied Natural Gas Limited)

Physical risk of Gulf Coast Energy infrastructure

Michael Gerrard, Columbia Law School

Addressing electricity grid climate vulnerability (by video link)

4:20 P.M.  Emerging Risks from Climate Related Policy and Litigation for Energy Companies

Tracy Hester (moderator and speaker), UHLC EENR Center

Update on climate change cases

Victor Flatt, UHLC EENR Center
ESG. CSR, Financial risk disclosure, investment and lending

Rafael Leal-Arcas, Queen Mary University London – commenter, the European View

James May, Delaware Law School

Attorneys ethical risks and GHG

Shalanda H. Baker, Northeastern Law School

Impacts on energy justice

5:30 P.M.     Closing
5:45 P.M.     Networking reception